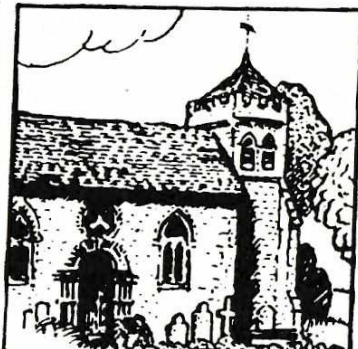
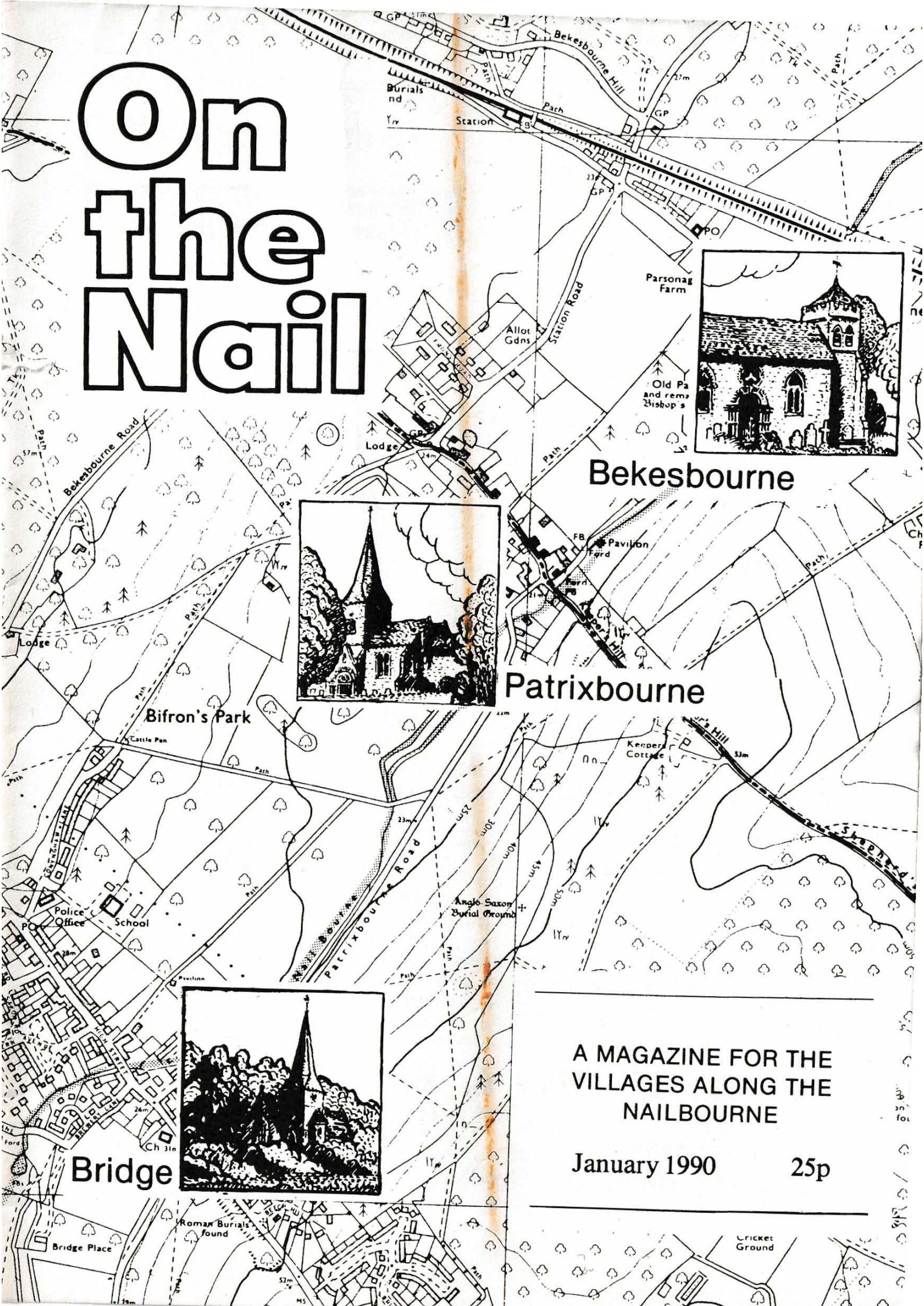


On the Nail



Bekebourne



Patrixbourne



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NAILBOURNE

January 1990

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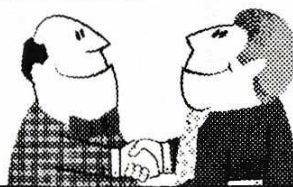
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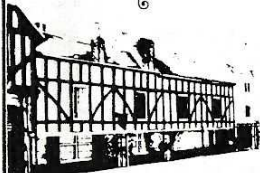
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Sunday Worship in January

Bridge:	Patricxbourne	Bekesbourne
7th: 11am Family Service <i>(Mrs Patricia Pollard, The Children's Society)</i> 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion
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 Matins
28th: 8am Holy Communion 6.30pm Evensong	9am Holy Communion	11am Matins
4th February: 11am Family Service 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion

● *Following the 9.30am Eucharist at Bridge on the second Sunday of each month coffee and biscuits are served at the back of the church. Donations will be gratefully received for the Church Urban Fund.*

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *7th*, Mr Alistair Barwick *14th*, *Covenant Service*, The Revd Sheila Foreman *21st*, *Family Service*, The Revd Sheila Foreman *28th*, Mrs Rita Maxwell

Junior Church meets every Sunday morning from 9.30 to 10.30 in Bridge Village Hall, except the first Sunday when the Family Service is held.

Weekdays Celebrations of Holy Communion are held in St Peter's Church, Bridge each Friday (*ASB Rite A*) at 7.30am. There will be no Wednesday morning Communion Services until Ash Wednesday. 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 most welcome to share in this short informal act of worship.

For your diary and prayer list

- 1st *Naming of Jesus* or Circumcision of Christ
- 6th *Epiphany of our Lord*
- 7th *First Sunday after Epiphany*
We welcome Mrs Patricia Pollard of the Church of England Children's Society to officiate at the Family Service.
- 8th *St Lucian, Priest and Martyr*
- 10th Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15 - 11.45am
- 11th Bridge Parish Council, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
Patricxbourne with Bridge PCC meeting, Methodist Church, 7.30pm

- 13th *St Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, Teacher of the Faith, 367*
 14th *Second Sunday after Epiphany*
 16th Bekesbourne PCC meets in School House, School Lane at 8pm.
 17th *St Anthony of Egypt, Abbot, 356*
 Nailbourne Horticultural Society, Bridge Methodist Church, 8pm
 18th Week of Prayer for Christian Unity until 25th
 United Service, St Peter's, Bridge, 7pm (*Preacher: Fr Christopher Keen, St Thomas' Church, Canterbury*) followed by an opportunity to meet informally and enjoy special refreshments in the Methodist Church. This is a new venture; please support!
 21st *Third Sunday after Epiphany*
 22nd *St Vincent, Deacon and Martyr*
 24th *St Francis de Sales, Bishop, Teacher of the Faith, 1662*
 25th *Conversion of St Paul*
 Fish Scheme Tea Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 2.15 - 3.45pm
 26th *Timothy and Titus, Companions of St Paul*
 27th *St John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, Teacher of the Faith, 407*
 28th *Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*

MEMBERS of Patrixbourne with Bridge PCC please note that the meeting of 7th December that was postponed will now take place on Thursday, 11th January in the Methodist Church at 7.30pm.

VICARAGE THANKS

We would like to thank everyone who sent us greetings at Christmas. Thank you also for so much prayer and support at other times.

Rosemary and Raymond Gilbert

The Year Ahead

Ever since he became our Rural Dean Clive Barlow, Vicar of Ash, has sent us a special new year's greeting, which has been much appreciated. This year he has asked Miss Mary Ambrose, Lay Chairman of the Deanery Synod, to write instead, and we read her message with great pleasure and thanks. What she says is of importance to all members of the Church in our three villages.

A YOUNG MAN stands in Tianamen Square in front of a tank challenging it to move ahead—thousands of people walk along the top of the Berlin Wall—Pope John Paul and President Gorbachev, two powerful leaders believing in opposite creeds, smile happily after their talks—three vivid pictures which encapsulate the excitement of 1989. At long last freedom seems to be breaking through repression and Christians are beginning to walk tall again in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The Church is alive against tremendous odds. Many of us have been amazed at the speed of events—every news bulletin brings some new excitement—but should we really be surprised? The Jews of the Old Testament were deeply conscious of the God being sovereign over all nations and being capable of working his purpose out among them whether they acknowledged Him or not. Recent events seem to me to give fresh meaning to God's sovereignty and a new sense of hope as we enter the 1990s.

At home we have much to be thankful for—stability, relative security, and the freedom longed for by so many in the world—but there is also a growing sense of unease. Christians are viewing with concern the widening gap between rich and poor, the increasing poverty not only in the inner city but also in the

rural areas, the growing cardboard box community of the homeless. In *Hearing the Cry of the Poor*, a declaration from churchmen of all denominations, we are told that we now have a class of 'have-nots' in our country. "Mind your own business!" the politicians tell us and so we must because the wronged and the poor *are* our business, for Christ identified with them. He did not hesitate to speak out and neither must we, for only if we do so will His voice be heard. But Christ spent much more of His time with individuals, meeting their needs by talking to them, or healing them. We do not need to travel far to find the lonely, the depressed, the anxious, the overburdened, the stressed, for we shall find them among our neighbours. In trying to meet their needs, we offer them the love of God for each of His children.

One major concern as we go into the 1990s is the plight of the handicapped as they try to adjust to living in society after being sheltered in institutions. We can do a great deal to help and already in our Deanery, congregations are extending a warm welcome to the handicapped attending services. Visits, parties, outings—a work party of all ages helping a new home for the handicapped to get started—all this is happening already.

The 1988 Education Act has also given us much food for thought. All of us have a special responsibility for our Church Schools whether we are parents or friends, and indeed for Christian education in State schools. It may be that we can give some help to relieve the pressures or speak out to safeguard Christian Education. Much thought in 1989 was given in the Deanery to the report from General Synod *Children in the Way*. As we tried to think of ourselves as a Pilgrim Church, so a number of joint endeavours were tried out—more active participation by all age groups in the Eucharist, more Family Services, joint Bible Studies, family social events, and so on. There was a real willingness to recognise the needs of all age groups and to curb some of our own preferences so that those needs might be met. I am sure that this work will go from strength to strength in the 1990s.

1990 is a year of decision—the electoral roll has to be renewed for example. These days the electoral roll is becoming more and more a register of those who are prepared to take their share of responsibility not only by financial giving but also by using their gifts and talents for God's work in the local parish church. That is as it should be. Perhaps we could pause for a moment as we complete the form and review our giving of money and talents in the light of the needs of the church. We shall also be electing representatives to the Deanery Synod—people who express your views on what is happening and what ought to be happening in our Church, and people who will bring back to you ideas and information from the Diocese and Deanery. The Deanery Synod is there to serve you—please make use of it.

During 1989 there was much discussion on *This is our Diocese* and it was often felt that there was a great gulf fixed between them (the Diocese) and us (the Parish). I have been greatly impressed recently by the increasing links between the Diocese and the Parish. Churchwardens training days have been much appreciated and meetings between patrons or their representatives and PCCs to discuss parish needs in relation to the appointment of a new incumbent have provided an invaluable link. In 1990 the Bishop and the Archdeacon will be visiting every parish. The Diocese is ready to listen—we must be ready to speak.

Finally 1990 is a year of preparation for the Decade of Evangelism called for

by the Lambeth Conference. Time spent in prayer and study on this matter will be time well spent. The 1990s then are 'rich in promise' and full of exciting opportunities. May God bless each one of you as you serve Him in the new decade. Happy New Year!

Mary P Ambrose

Archbishop to visit Bridge

A short while ago and quite out of the blue came the very welcome news from his Diocesan Chaplain and our erstwhile organist, David Maple, that the Archbishop would like to pay us a visit on Sunday morning, 25th February, subject to no last minute national or international happenings.

This is a great privilege, since time permits him only very rare parish visits. This visit is not solely for the congregation at Bridge but is meant to include Patricxbourne and Bekesbourne as well. The Archbishop will celebrate and preach at a special 11am Eucharist, details of which will appear in the next issue of *On The Nail*. There will just be the one service for the three congregations that morning.

Family joys . . .

A full Bridge Church on the morning of 3rd December witnessed the baptism of **Abbie Louise**, daughter of Caroline and Gordon Blackwell, 10 Brewery Lane and gave her a warm welcome into the family of the Church. Abbie's baptism had been delayed because she was in hospital, but we are glad she was sufficiently recovered to be brought to church this time. The service was also the Family Gift Service, when a goodly pile of Christmas presents was brought for the residents of The New Close. They were received during the service by Mr Pearson, Officer in Charge, very ably assisted by Mrs Williams, one of the more active residents.

. . . and Sorrows

On 1st December at Barham Crematorium the vicar officiated at the funeral of Mrs **May Ellen McDermott**, at the behest of her daughter Mrs Sheila Boyle, 66 Riverside Close. Mrs McDermott died on 23rd November at the remarkable age of 107 years. She had remained in perfect physical and mental health right up until the moment she died, dozing peacefully in her chair at the Retirement Home, Foots Cray, where she lived. Neither the vicar nor the undertakers had ever attended the funeral of one so old.

The funeral of Mrs **Sheila Winifred Gallienne**, 2 The Street, Patricxbourne took place in Bekesbourne Church on 5th December and was followed by interment in the churchyard. For a while Mrs Gallienne, aged 47 years, ran the needlework business in Bridge, where the dental surgery now stands.

Past neighbours and friends gathered in Bridge Church for the funeral of Mrs **Edith Mary Herbert**, formerly of 8 Dering Close but latterly of Randolph Close, Canterbury, where she lived with her son John, daughter-in-law Barbara and grandson William. The service was followed by cremation at Barham. Mrs Herbert had been an active member of the Women's Institute and also attended Bridge Church, until it became difficult for her to get along the road. Latterly she kept up her church 'attendance' by a monthly communion at home.

Mrs **Emily Mary Clapp**, 9 Riverside Close, wife of William, passed away on 13th December. The Vicar officiated at a service at Barham Crematorium on 21st December.

We record also the passing of Mrs **Nora Jeffrey** who lived for many years at 10 Brewery Lane, and of **Bill Jordan**, formerly of Union Road, to whom Joan Warren pays a brief tribute at the end of this magazine.

At the time of going to press we heard of the death shortly after her 96th birthday of Mrs **Constance (Connie) Berry**, who spent her closing Bridge years in Union Road but was better known when she and her family lived in Bourne Lodge. In her heyday Mrs Berry was a most prominent member of the local community, having been an ardent member of the long defunct Bridge Mothers' Union branch, of the Women's Institute and of the church. She attended the Wednesday morning Communion Service with great regularity, walking trimly along the High Street, clutching her shopping basket. Eventually, the frailty of old age rendered this weekly visit impossible, but she kept in touch with her church and periodically received the Holy Communion at home.

Others can testify to Mrs Berry's big contribution to local life in her active days but few probably realize that until quite late on she remained a surprisingly accomplished pianist. Her brother Cyril, of whom she was inordinately proud, rose to the rank of Archbishop in the Roman Catholic Church.

A funeral service prior to interment in her husband's grave in the churchyard is to take place at Bridge on Friday, 22nd December.

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

Put them in their place

The habit beloved of writers of nativity plays and Christmas card manufacturers of bringing the three kings into Christmas does them and us a disservice.

For one thing it takes the shine off their feast, the Epiphany of our Lord, because by the 6th January we've been through all that and have reached the dregs of the Christmas period. For another, and assuming the story is true, there is no way the wise men, magi, astrologers—call them what you will—could have trekked to Bethlehem in time to join the shepherds in the stable. Jesus would have been several weeks old by the time they found him.

Aware that I'm probably fighting a losing battle, I would like to see the Epiphany accorded the status it rightly deserves, and instead of stripping bare our homes and churches of all signs of Christmas the night of 5th January, leave them in situ while we celebrate the revelation of the holy child of Bethlehem to the non-jewish world. Since most if not all who read this will be Gentiles, it seems a pity not to celebrate the one feast of all the year expressly aimed at us; for the uniqueness of the Christ is that he is the Saviour of *all* the world, Gentile as well as Jew.

On The Nail Noticeboard

Nailbourne Horticultural Society

At the meeting on 17th January there will be a talk on *Dried Flowers & Pot Pourri* by Maureen Ochiltree in Bridge Methodist Church at 8pm. There will be a 20p charge for refreshments to cover costs.

Articles continue on page 13

Hospital League of Friends—Bridge Branch

The Annual General Meeting of the League of Friends will be held in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall on Monday, 5th February at 7.30pm. We would welcome new committee members, and anyone who is interested in joining us please ring either Elizabeth Stewart (830344) or me (830224). We look forward to hearing from you.

Please support our AGM and find out more about how the League of Friends supports the local hospitals.

Maggie Field

Royal British Legion

The Bridge branch held its AGM at the *Plough and Harrow* on 29th November. The Chairman, Col R F Hearn, in his welcoming address, thanked the committee for all their hard work and support during the past year. He said the branch now had thirty-two members, was in good heart, and had continued to play an active role in the welfare of the local community, giving direct help to a number of deserving cases, involving ex-service families.

He said he was again very encouraged by the excellent response to the Poppy Day Appeal, raising a record sum of £512. He thanked all the poppy collectors, the school, shops and pubs, who had made this year's collection so successful. Col Hearn was invited to become Branch President and Mr K Greenaway was elected Chairman. The committee was elected as follows: Secretary, Mr B Morsley; Treasurer, Mrs M Evans; Chairman Services Committee, Mr K Greenaway.

The branch meets on the last Wednesday of every month at the *Plough and Harrow* at 8pm. All ex-service men and women are always most welcome.

R F H

Junior Church latest

Many thanks to all those who collected aluminium cans, and to Jean Hopkins who dealt with all the paper work and sold the cans for recycling. We raised £10 towards the Bridge and Patrixbourne target for the *Church Urban Fund*.

Well done everyone, especially Mrs Fairlie's class at Bridge school, who collected more cans than any other class and won the school competition.

* * *

Thank you too to the fifty-three carol singers who braved the elements on 12th December to sing carols to the residents of Saxon Lodge and to the various houses of Bridge. As usual everyone was very generous—thank you—and we raised £66.45 for the *Save the Children fund*.

Hilary Pike

Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute

Bridge with Patrixbourne WI meet in Bridge Village Hall on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. New and old members very warmly welcomed; be sure and join us for 1990! If you need any information please telephone the president, Mrs Elizabeth Stewart (830344) or the secretary, Mrs Wendy Durell (830003). The officers and committee wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year!

This month's meeting is on 16th and is a talk by Valerie Elvidge entitled *In Chaucer's Time*.

Joan Monk

Tineke and Alan Jackson wish to thank all their friends in Bridge and elsewhere for their thoughts and prayers during Tineke's recent surgery and

stay in hospital, and are happy and thankful to say that she is at home and improving daily and hopes to be back in circulation soon.

Cleopatra's Needles

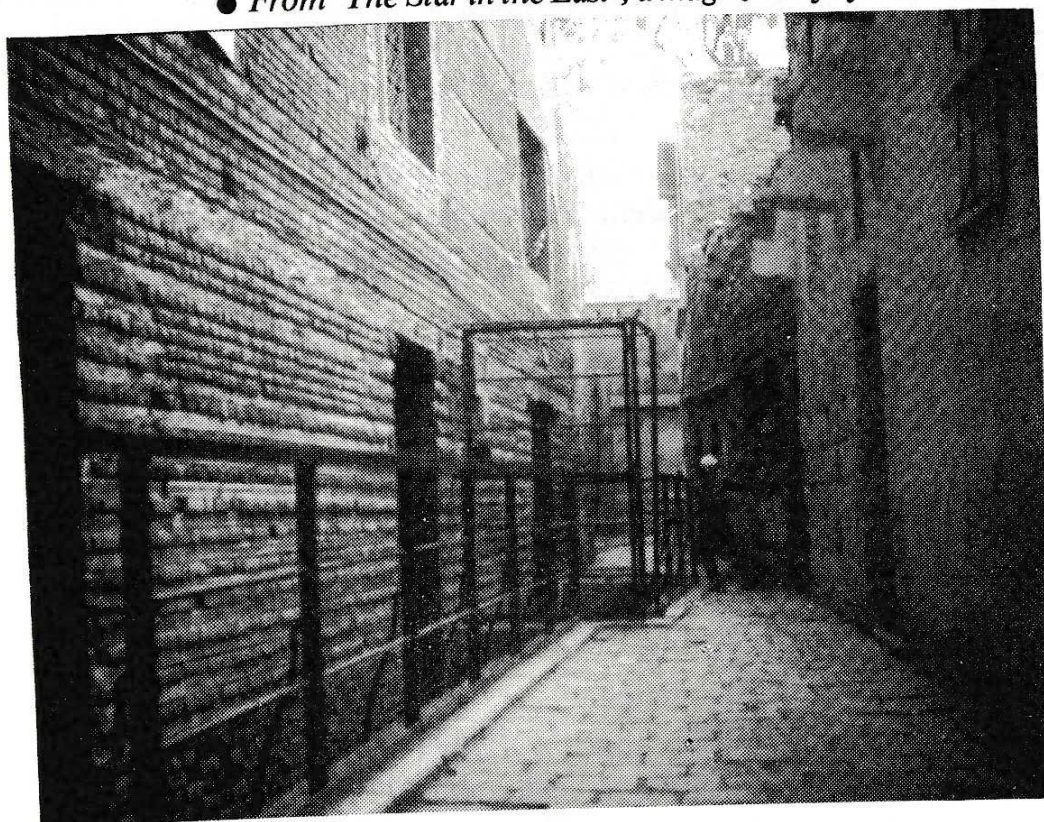
Over the centuries, in time of persecution, Jews fled to Egypt, and by New Testament times most cities had a Jewish colony. So it was natural for Joseph and Mary to take the child Jesus there for safety and turn to members of the Jewish community for assistance when they arrived.

There is no Biblical record of where in Egypt they sought refuge, but according to tradition among Egyptian Christians, the family sheltered in a cave, now part of the Abou Serga Church in Old Cairo, which is next to the ancient Ben Ezra synagogue. Others believe that the family came to Egypt by sea, entering through the great seaport of Alexandria, whose Pharos or lighthouse was one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Alexandria at that time had more than a million Jews and it was probably there that the Hebrew Old Testament was first translated into Greek.

When the writer H V Morton visited Egypt in the late 1930s he saw a lonely obelisk, the last of many which had stood in front of the Temple of the Sun in Heliopolis, north of present day Cairo. In 13 - 12BC Augustus Caesar had two of the obelisks removed to Alexandria, and hundreds of years later one of them was sent to New York and the other to London where, known as Cleopatra's Needle, it stands on the Thames Embankment.

If Jesus and His family settled in Old Cairo, they may well have passed by the obelisks which stood in Heliopolis on their journey there. If they entered Egypt by Alexandria they would have seen Cleopatra's Needles. As Mr Morton wrote, "How gladly would we sacrifice the history written on such stones for a glimpse of that unrecorded moment in the year 4 BC when a Mother and her Child may have passed in and out of their shadows".

● From 'The Star in the East', a magazine of life and work in Bible lands.



The approach to the Abou Serga church in old Cairo is down this narrow street. The entrance is through the wire cage. Inside it is a heavy dark building in the Eastern Orthodox style, but with an atmosphere of silent intensity which gives credence to the story of exile in Egypt. J P

Confirmation 1990

Thanks in many cases to a firm grounding in the faith from Junior Church a record crop of potential confirmees is currently undergoing preparation, with an eye to the Confirmation Service on 1st July.

It is important that between now and then all members of the Church give candidates the maximum support, chiefly by remembering them in our public and private prayers. To help you pray for them individually here is an alphabetical list of their names.

*Claire Brasier
Louisa Fagg
Susan Foster (adult)
Andrew Legge
Sarah Mummery
Kathryn Reece*

*Melanie Swannell
Elizabeth Walder
Edward Weatherall
Lucy Wilmshurst
Matthew Wood
Emma Young*

A January Saint—John Chrysostom

Celebrated by the Church each 27th January, St John Chrysostom (347-407) is honoured as one of the four great Greek doctors, i.e., teachers of the Church, and above all as a preacher with 'golden speech'. His sermons, which we can still read, are direct and straightforward, and full of practical application and teaching. Because of his attacks on the rich and powerful, he was banished and eventually died in exile. The following is an extract from one of his homilies.

The waters have risen and severe storms are upon us, but we do not fear drowning, for we stand firmly upon a rock. Let the sea rage, it cannot break the rock. Let the waves rise, they cannot sink the boat of Jesus. What are we to fear? Death? 'Life to me means Christ, and death is gain.' Exile? 'The earth and its fullness belong to the Lord.' The confiscation of our goods? 'We brought nothing into this world, and we shall surely take nothing from it.' I have only contempt for the world's threats, I find its blessings laughable. I have no fear of poverty, no desire for wealth. I am not afraid of death nor do I long to live, except for your good.

Do you not hear the Lord saying: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst"? Will he be absent, then, when so many people united in love are gathered together? Let the world be in upheaval. I hold to his promise and read his message; that is my protecting wall and garrison. What message? "Know that I am with you always, until the end of the world!"



Bridge Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Thursday, 14th December when one of the main

items discussed was the Council's budget for the next financial year. It was decided to include in the estimates a sum for the provision of safety surfacing around some of the playground equipment and for a replacement timber-framed bus shelter by the newsagent in the High Street to enhance that small area of the village.

Councillors at work Cllr Mrs Meriel

Connor has updated her survey of the rights of way in the Parish and the Council is to press the City Council again for action in maintaining them in good condition. Cllr Reg Franklin has repaired and refurbished a further two seats, both in the Recreation Ground, and now has designs on the one by the Post Office! A group of Councillors, which included Mrs Margaret Jones, Mrs Billie Anderson, Reg Franklin and the Chairman, John Hill, were spotted planting bulbs on the corner of Conyngham lane one Saturday last month.

Clean Bridge Campaign The Council have revised their decision for the siting of the new litterbin won in the *Best Kept Village* competition and thought it would be more suitable on the paving in front of LoCost in the High Street, subject, of course, to their approval. Because of popular demand, the Council are looking into the possibility of providing a bottlebank either sited permanently or on a once-a-month basis in the village.

Union Road The Council are concerned at the poor condition of the surface of Union Road and are to press the County Council for action.

Affordable Homes for Village People To all those interested persons, matters

are actively proceeding, but very slowly, which is not unexpected at this stage.

Too late for this year There has been a suggestion from the Nailbourne Youth Club for a Christmas Tree in the Village. Regrettably it came too late for this year, but will be considered in time for next year.

Few designs on Bridge Planning applications are still few and far between. The Council had no objections to an application for a first floor addition to part of existing motorcycle repair workshops in Brewery Lane. An application for the demolition of three garages and the erection of a two-bedroom cottage at the rear of Kent House, High Street has been refused by the City Council, while an appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against the City Council's decision to refuse planning permission for the conversion of the basement to a self-contained flat at Bridge Hill House, Higham lane.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 11th January back at the usual time of 7.30pm in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall. Parishioners are most welcome to attend these meetings and take an interest in the running of the Parish.

K A Walder, Clerk

Fish News

Because of the influenza epidemic, meetings of the Luncheon Club were temporarily suspended, and the Christmas Dinner has been postponed until 8th January.

* * *

We were all saddened to hear of the death of Bill Jordan, one of our first Luncheon Club members. Bill looked after his severely handicapped wife with devoted care for many years, as well as finding time to help friends and neighbours with their decorating and household repairs. His front door was always open and many people visited him, including the postmen, for whom it was a regular 'tea-stop'. He found it hard to give up his home but was grateful that he was able to stay in the village at Saxon Lodge, accompanied by his precious cat and surrounded by friends.

* * *

The next Coffee Pop-In will be in Bridge Village Hall on Wednesday, 10th from 10.15 to 11.45am. The Tea Pop-In will be on Thursday, 25th from 2.15 to 3.45pm.

Joan Warren, 830233

Bekesbourne Church Cleaning & Flower arranging
6th, Clear Christmas decoration 20th, Mrs Fry

Vicar: The Revd Raymond Gilbert, A.K.C., 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:

Hon Treasurer: Mr K. Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patricxbourne CT4 5BU (830947)

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

Organist (Bridge):

Organist (Patricxbourne): Mrs R.M. Stacey, Joclet, Keepers Hill, Patricxbourne CT4 5BT (830205)

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. Grey, 63 High Street, Bridge CT5 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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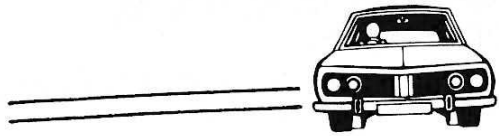
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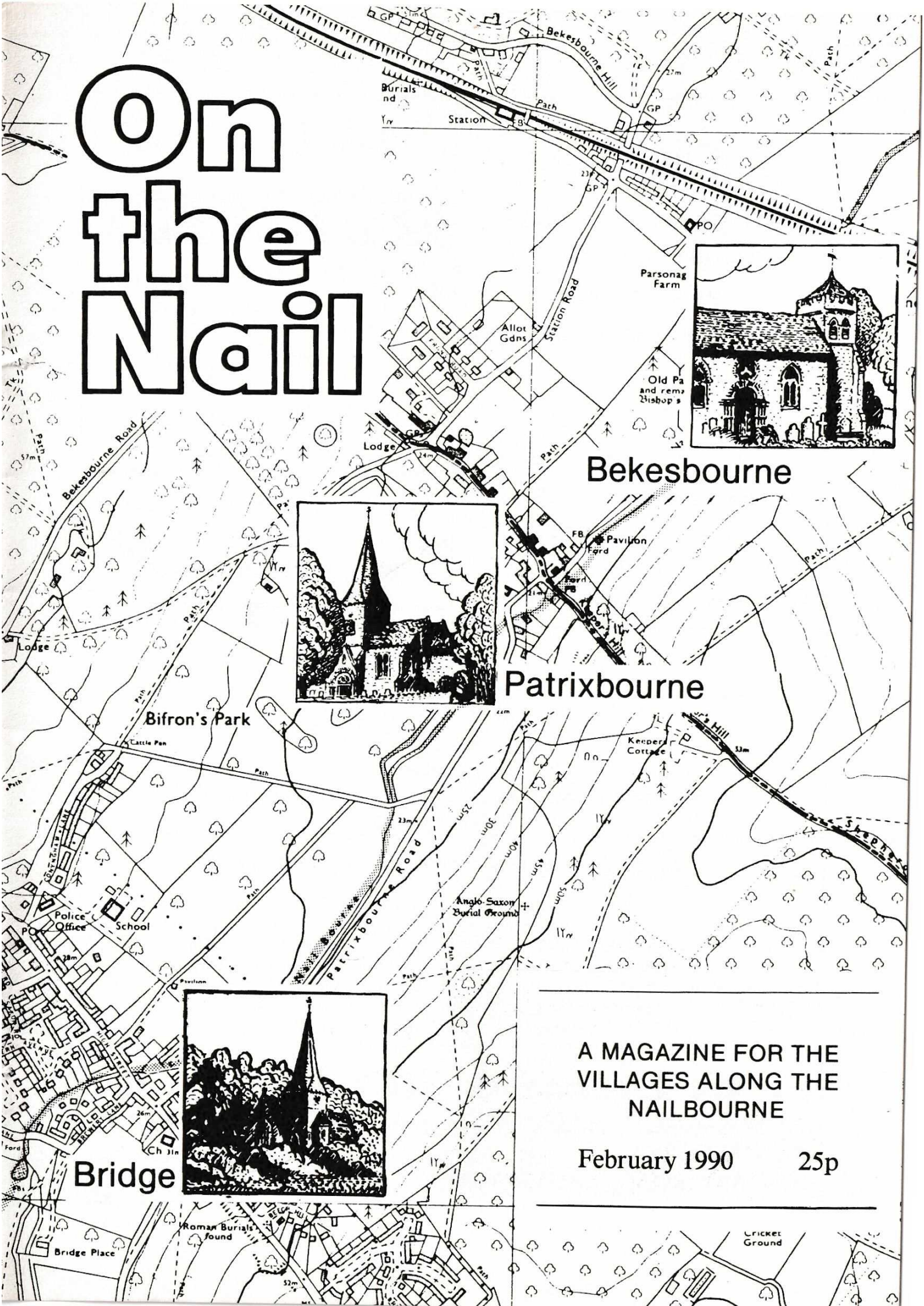
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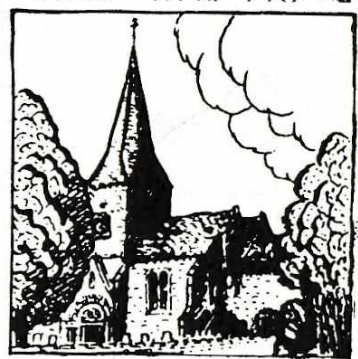
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On the Nail



Bekesbourne



Patricbourne



Bridge

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February 1990 25p

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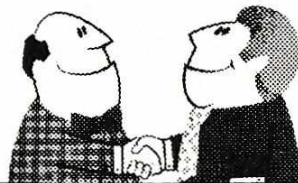
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Sunday Worship in February

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

4th:

11am Family Service
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion 9.30 Parish Communion

11th:

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

11am Matins

8am Holy Communion

18th:

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

8am Holy Communion 11am Matins

25th:

11am Holy Eucharist (*Celebrant and Preacher: the Archbishop*)
6.30pm Evensong

4th March:

11am Family Service
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion 9.30 Parish Communion

● *Following the 9.30am Eucharist at Bridge on the second Sunday of each month coffee and biscuits are served at the back of the church. Donations will be gratefully received on behalf of the Church Urban Fund.*

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *4th*, Mr Hugh Sheehan *11th*, Holy Communion, The Revd Sheila Foreman *18th*, Mr Ron Chadwick *25th*, Mr Ian Hart

Junior Church meets every Sunday from 9.30 to 10.30 in Bridge Village Hall, except the first Sunday when the Family Service is held.

Weekdays Celebrations of Holy Communion are held in St Peter's Church, Bridge each 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 most 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

2nd *Presentation of Christ in the Temple*

4th *Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany*

6th HM the Queen's Accession, 1952

8th Bridge Parish Council, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm

11th *Septuagesima Sunday : 9 before Easter*

13th Whist Drive, Churchill House, 7pm

14th Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15 - 11.45am

Deanery Healing Service, Littlebourne, 7.30pm (*Preacher: Revd Patrick Jones, Rector of Charlton near Dover and Chairman of the Canterbury Council for Health and Healing*).

- 15th Prayers for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm
 16th Patricxbourne with Bridge PCC meeting
 18th *Sexagesima Sunday : 8 before Easter*
 22nd Fish Scheme Tea Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 2.15 - 3.45pm
 23rd *St Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, Martyr, c155*
 25th *Quinquagesima Sunday : 7 before Easter*

We welcome our Archbishop, who will celebrate the Eucharist (*ASB Rite A*) and preach in St Peter's, Bridge at 11am. As there is likely to be a capacity congregation regular members of Bridge, Patricxbourne or Bekesbourne Churches wishing to attend are advised to tell either churchwardens Stephen Pike or John Williamson, or the vicar by Sunday 18th.

27th *George Herbert, Priest, Pastor, Poet, 1633*

28th *Ash Wednesday*

Holy Communion (*BCP*) will be celebrated in St Peter's Church, Bridge at 9.30am.

Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy, Churchill House, 10.30 - 12 noon.

Locked—but not barred!

A favourite summer country pastime until comparatively recently was going on a church crawl: getting on the bike or into the car and, armed with a packet of sandwiches and a map, visiting village churches.

If the custom has died down of late I suspect it is in no small measure due to the fact that, with very rare exceptions, country churches are now kept locked by day as well as at night. After all, having maybe laboured to your destination it can be very frustrating to be greeted with a locked door. Occasionally there is a weather-beaten notice on or near the door, stating where a key is kept. Actually running it to ground is another matter, unless amongst the higgledy-piggledy lay out of many English villages, you manage to locate 'Honeysuckle Cottage', which is probably nowhere near the church.

* * *

Until a week or so ago it was Bridge's proud boast that its church was always open to visitors. Sadly that is no longer the case, for which we have to thank some unknown and unwelcomed 'visitors' with warped minds and vicious streaks who felt St Peter's Church was fair game for a spot of vandalism. Now well-intentioned callers at the church (rather more for prayer than tourist purposes, which makes the closure all the more regrettable) have to collect the key and return same after use, signing for it both times. We are very grateful to one of *On The Nail's* valued advertizers, *Priors*, for holding the key: it is their idea to get people to sign for it, an added security touch that is much appreciated.

Quite clearly a number of parishioners are going to be inconvenienced by all this, but, to use a phrase beloved of industrial disputants, enough is enough. St Peter's Church has been tampered with so many times, almost always with highly unpleasant consequences for the clearer-up, and lately the damage has taken a sacrilegious turn, with a broken crucifix, upended crosses, and this last time, the Easter Candle completely shattered. Finding books strewn all over the place and collecting boxes prised open is bad enough, but wilful damage to

religious artefacts causes deep distress on account of their association with the spiritual side of life.

* * *

It doesn't seem long since I last had cause to write in these terms, but I felt I owed it to parishioners to know why their church is kept locked when previously it has always been open. The churchwardens and vicar, as the church's custodians, must see to its maintenance and upkeep for the benefit of future as well as present generations. That means we have a duty to protect it from physical assault and misuse. That is why most of the churches of our land are secured against unwanted intruders by keeping them locked. The alternative is seldom practical, *i.e.* trying to assemble a rota of people who will make sure a church is constantly under observation. Yet again it's the few who spoil it for the majority! If it's any consolation, St Peter's Church, Bridge is at least as safe as can be from further interference and still accessible to any who want to use it for justifiable reasons.

The Archbishop's visit

As indicated in last month's *On The Nail*, the Archbishop is to visit St Peter's Church, Bridge on Sunday morning 25th to celebrate and preach at a special 11am Eucharist.

This is a visit to the Church (*i.e.* People of God) in all three villages, so a large congregation is anticipated. It would greatly help us with the planning of the Archbishop's visit to have some indication of the likely size of the congregation. To that end the churchwardens and I would much appreciate it if those intending to come will let us know beforehand. An opportunity to do this will be provided at services in all three churches in the previous weeks.

The Archbishop has expressly asked for the chance to meet fellow-worshippers, so there will be a reception in the School Hall after the service to which all members of the congregation are invited.

Canon Leonard Appleton

Many of the older residents of Bekesbourne still remember with affection the Reverend Leonard Appleton, who was Vicar (officially Curate-in-charge) of Bekesbourne from 1950 to 1956, during which time he endeared himself to churchgoer and non-churchgoer alike. In conjunction with the pastoral oversight of Bekesbourne Canon Appleton also held the post of Diocesan Director of Education.

About two years ago Canon Appleton, who had long since retired, lost his wife Joyce, and having witnessed the interment of her ashes in Bekesbourne churchyard, went soon afterwards to live with his daughter in Australia. Early in January word reached me that Leonard had also died at Sydney, bringing to an end a long life of devoted service as a priest in the Church of God. In due course his ashes will join those of his wife at Bekesbourne, the village he served so diligently and which never ceased to command pride of place in his affections.

* * *

It is Canon Appleton that we have to thank for Bekesbourne Church's copy of *Life of Many Colours* by E M Almedingen, the story of her grandmother Ellen Southee, whose long and colourful life spanned most of the last century and began at Cobham Court. The copy bears Canon Appleton's signature and is available from the vicarage to any in Bekesbourne who would like to borrow it. It was published in 1958 and at the time cost 21/- (£1.05). Both Canon and Mrs Appleton feature in the acknowledgements.

Junior Church News *from Hilary Pike*

The donations at the **Christingle Service** on Christmas Eve, which were for the Church of England *Children's Society*, amounted to £109. Many thanks! Those who came to hear Mrs Pat Pollard on the work of *The Children's Society* when she conducted the January Family Service and spoke at the Nailbourne Ladies Group, will know how much needed and well used all our donations are.

* * *

DON'T STOP collecting cans! We sold the previous collection and raised £10 for the *Church Urban Fund*. Junior Church members are continuing collecting —this time for the charity *MacMillan Cancer Relief*, which provides nurses for those who are terminally ill. So please help us! As before cans can be left at the back of the church, given to Junior Church members or taken to Bridge School. This time we can collect both aluminium and non-aluminium cans, but please, please sort them before crushing.

Youth News *by Andrea Nicholson*

Membership of the church's Hearsay Group continues to expand and all young people from eleven to sixteen years are welcome to join. Meetings take place every fortnight on a Sunday evening, usually from 6.15 to 7.15pm, details of which can be obtained by 'phoning 830947. At the moment members are making a banner which they will carry in the Cathedral during the annual Easter Monday Youth Pilgrimage.

* * *

The **Nailbourne Youth Club** continues to flourish, holding meetings on a Thursday evening in Bishopsbourne Village Hall. At a recent management committee meeting a request was made for more adult helpers. If any person feels they can help in any way, even on an occasional basis, please contact Kirsty Cooper (830529).

Giving of thanks

1st Bridge Guides

A big thank you to all the parents and friends who supported us at our open evening, which we held at the school on 1st December. A total of £41 was raised from the raffle, sale of dried fruit and tombola. Congratulations to the girls who gained their Hostess and Entertainers badges. An enjoyable evening was had by all.

Melanie Bevan, Guider

Bekesbourne Carollers

Every Christmas a band of carol singers is formed from the residents of the Aerodrome at Bekesbourne, and monies raised donated to a charity chosen by the Carollers. On Friday, 22nd December the band set out carolling in the area and raised the sum of £42 for the benefit of *The Samaritans* organization. The carollers wish to thank those residents who donated most generously.

Ian Gillanders

Deeds of Covenant

Changes in Procedure for Reclaiming Tax

Permission has been given by the Inland Revenue that all future claims may be given under a relaxed method of collection by Diocesan House, who act as our agents in these procedures. This means that only covenants **in the first year of covenanting** and covenants which **exceed £175** per annum will require the completion of the present *Certificate of Deduction of Income Tax*. This will, of course, greatly assist the flow of claims made for parishes by Diocesan House, and at the same time relieve many covenanters of the onerous task of completing these certificates subsequent to the first covenant year. This arrangement will apply, provided that the parish Covenant Officer has given previous certification to Diocesan House that the full amounts have been received under the individual covenants within each tax year concerned.

Independent Taxation Arrangements from 6th April, 1990

In view of the impending introduction of *Independent Taxation* for married couples with effect from 6th April, 1990, I have written to all married women (irrespective of their personal tax position) who have entered into a Deed of Covenant with this PCC, to explain how these new tax arrangements are likely to affect the tax position in relation to their present covenants. From that date husbands and their wives become two separate tax payers, and any covenants executed by married women will no longer automatically link to their husband's tax.

D R Hill, Patrixbourne with Bridge Covenant Officer

Church Urban Fund good news

At the January meeting of Patrixbourne with Bridge PCC I was pleased to be able to report that the sum of **£1,186** has now been raised for the *Church Urban Fund* in Bridge and Patrixbourne. Congratulations to all those, especially members of Junior Church, who have helped us reach our parish target of £1,100 so soon. Belated thanks are due to Hilary and Stephen Pike, and Anne and Clive Medhurst, who arranged a splendid Cheese and Wine Party at 12 High Street on 2nd December, which raised over £36 for the *Church Urban Fund*.

The PCC, after receiving the above news, decided that as part of the three year span in which to raise our target sum has still to run, we would continue our efforts, though at a more gentle pace. *The Children in the Way* report in December's *On The Nail* suggested that we try to do more things together as a parish across the generation gap. Social events held in the last year have been enjoyed by young and old alike. Perhaps this is the way we should continue our fund-raising during this final period. Watch out in future issues for details of

Continued on page 13

this year's Summer Barbecue: but if anybody has any suggestions for an event of this nature in the interim please let me know.

Andrea Nicholson, CUF Representative for Patrixbourne with Bridge

Happy Anniversary!

The customary sounds of 'Happy Christmas' on Christmas morning at Bekesbourne were, to anyone not in the know, oddly interspersed with the much more personal greeting 'Happy Anniversary'. The anniversary concerned was a diamond wedding anniversary, the happy couple being our very dear friends Ruth and Stanley Grey, who were married in Ramsgate on Christmas Day sixty years ago.

Despite the more universal celebration of the birth of Christ, the vicar made mention of the happy anniversary at the beginning of the Carol Service and a celebratory Christmas lunch took place in Bekesbourne Village Hall at which the entire Grey family of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren was joined by some of Ruth and Stan's local friends.

Amongst the many greetings they received was a surprise telegram from the Queen, expressing her delight at their anniversary and wishing them a Happy Christmas.

As a postscript comes the following simple but no less heart felt message:

We would like to thank all our friends for their good wishes to us on our anniversary of sixty years; from Stan and Ruth.



On The Nail Noticeboard

We are going to start a Whist Drive at Churchill House on the second Tuesday of each month. The first will be held on 13th February at 7pm. All are welcome. Also a Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy Stall on Wednesday, 28th February, 10.30 - 12 noon.

J A Scarth

* * *

On Thursday, 15th February the *Nailbourne Horticultural Society* has a talk on 'Ways of Featuring Water in the Garden' given by Mrs E Thomas at 8pm in the Methodist Church, Bridge. There will be a 20p charge for refreshments to cover costs.

* * *

Mr and Mrs Guy Broadwater of Bekesbourne were very proud to hear news that their son Lieutenant-Commander Mike Broadwater has been awarded the Air Force Cross in the New Year's Honours List for special flying duties. He is now an instructor at the Fleet Air Arm base at Yeovilton, Somerset. During the Falklands War he was a Harrier pilot.

* * *

Hospital League of Friends—Bridge Branch

The Annual General Meeting of the League of Friends will be held in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall on Monday, 5th February at 7.30pm. We would welcome new committee members, and anyone who is interested in joining us please ring either Elizabeth Stewart (830344) or me (830224). We look forward to hearing from you.

Please support our AGM and find out more about how the League of Friends supports the local hospitals.

Maggie Field

Bridge Church Lady Chapel

In November a Safari Supper was held to raise money for the Bridge Lady Chapel Fund. The amazing sum of £325 was made and everyone enjoyed the evening. Also the splendid contribution of £30 was donated by Elizabeth Walder, Catherine Pike, Lucy Ochs and Iona MacMillan, who played their brass instruments outside *Lo Cost* on the Saturday before Christmas. These two amounts will cover the cost of a new carpet for the Lady Chapel.

Now that the south aisle is beginning to look much better it shows how badly the Church is in need of a coat of paint. The estimated cost is in the region of £2,000 and there are no funds to meet such an expense. However, there is a way the people of Bridge could help to find this money and also benefit themselves.

The idea is to advertize in a Dutch newspaper for any Dutch people who would like to spend their holidays in Bridge next summer, at a cost of £150 per person per week. The host family would keep half of that amount and be asked to donate the other half to the church, *i.e.* one week = £150 = £75 to church and £75 to host. Or, one week 2 persons = £300 = £150 to church and £150 to host family.

If anyone has a room to spare and would like to join the scheme they should contact either Ailsa Williamson (830399) or me (830278 or 470004).

Alicia Pentin

PARISH PUMP

Parish Council
News



Bridge Parish Council

Bridge Parish Council held their first meeting of the New Year on Thursday 11th January.

Caring for Trees Now that planning permission has been granted to carry out certain tree surgery work to two of the group of four sycamores in the Recreation Ground covered by a Preservation Order, the Council are to arrange for light pruning to one of the sycamores to lift its crown clear of the roof of the flats and for the removal of branches, including any dead ones from a second one overhanging the house next to the Ground. The Council are also to arrange for the planting of a further four trees to include a beech, copper beech and two limes to extend the line of sycamores bordering the Recreation Ground. Cllr Mrs Anderson is to investigate whether one of the young willows planted a couple of years ago near the bridge is still in need of support.

The Council in action The Council are to request the extension of the 30 mph speed limits further along Patricbourne Road. Following enquiries, they are now awaiting news from two sources on the provision of a bottlebank for the village. The Chairman, Cllr John Hill and Vice-Chairman, Cllr Mervyn Gulvin along with Mr Vernon David who chaired the Village Appraisal Sub-Committee are still making every effort to locate a suitable available site for the building of 'Affordable Homes for Village People'.

New for Old The Council are to arrange for a replacement noticeboard on the wall outside the Village Hall which will be funded from the £200 won in the *Best Kept Village* Competition last year. They are also to press ahead as soon as possible with a timber-framed bus shelter to replace the concrete one in the High Street which is now in poor condition.

Hope for Union Road It is understood that Union Road has been included in the County Council's proposed programme of works for 1990/91, subject to final approval.

Two Perennial Problems

1. **Dog Fouling** The Council expressed particular concern at the state of the village footpaths which are again badly fouled by dogs. The Council would point out that dog owners who allow their dogs to foul a pavement are liable to prosecution under a City Council Byelaw, and they would therefore ask these owners to show consideration and exercise their dogs where it does not inconvenience or present a health hazard to others.

2. **Car parking** The Council are very aware of the increasing problem caused by parked cars in the village. Prior to a long-term solution being found to the problem, they would ask drivers not to park in positions which cause a hazard to other road users *i.e.* immediately at a junction. The help of the Police is also to be sought in combatting this problem.

Presentation of Cheque by Eurotunnel On Wednesday, 14th February at 4.30pm in the Village Hall, there will be a formal presentation of the cheque received from Eurotunnel to purchase the new chairs for the Hall. Anyone interested in being present should come along to the Hall then.

Planning Aspects The Council objected to an application for an advertisement sign for Bourne Paddock Cricket Ground (made in retrospect) on the grounds of the unsuitability of the site chosen and the materials used. They had no objection in principle to a change of use for the former Telephone Exchange in the High Street from that of offices to a dwelling, but put forward some observations including the lack of details on

material to be used for new building work.

Water Shortage and Hosepipe Ban The Council are concerned that perhaps a considerable number of people in the area are not aware of the gravity of the water shortage, or of the existence still of the hosepipe ban because of a lack of publicity and are therefore going to take

the matter up initially with the Kent Association of Parish Councils. Meanwhile, they would ask all residents to be careful in their use of water.

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

K A Walder, Clerk

Fish News

Luncheon Club meetings started again on 8th January with the postponed Christmas Dinner. Our members said their thanks to the catering staff at The New Close and to the volunteers for their extra effort to make it a very special occasion. We were delighted to have amongst our guests our City Councillor David Pentin, the Chairman of Bridge Parish Council, John Hill and Laurence Shirley, who does so much to help and advise elderly people in this area.

* * *

Sadly two of our members have died during the Christmas break; Mrs Swan of Union Road, Bridge and Mrs Newman of School Lane, Bekesbourne. Although both had battled with ill health for many years, they were able to remain in their own homes almost to the last, thanks to the generous help and support from family, friends, neighbours, nurses and community care workers.

* * *

Age Concern have produced a helpful fact sheet, *The Community Charge and Older People*. Free copies of this and a list of other fact sheets and books can be obtained by sending a large stamped addressed envelope to: Age Concern England, Bernard Sunley House, 60 Pitcairn Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 3LL.

* * *

The next Coffee Pop-In will be in Bridge Village Hall on Wednesday, 14th February from 10.15 to 11.45am. The Tea Pop-In will be on Thursday, 22nd February from 2.15 to 3.45pm.

Joan Warren, 830233

St Peter's, Bekesbourne *Cleaning and Flower Rota*

3rd, Mrs Millyard 10th, Mrs Purchase 17th, Mrs Clifford 24th, Mrs Ash

Women's World Day of Prayer Friday, 2nd March

This is observed annually with an act of Worship drawn up by women of one nation for use all over the world and on the same day. Based on the theme, *A better tomorrow, justice for all*, this year's service was prepared in Czechoslovakia by the Czech Women's World Day of Prayer National Committee. Because it had to be distributed world-wide, the service was produced before the recent exciting events in that country took place, so they are not reflected in it. However, that does not mean it is lacking in hope and joy.

This Czech order of service will be used in St Peter's Church, Bridge on Friday, March 2nd at 2.30pm. The preacher will be the Revd Sheila Foreman, our local Methodist minister, who is of course no stranger to the Christians of Bridge.

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

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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 T. J. Flisher, 52 Riverside Close, Bridge CT4 5TN (830871)

Hon Treasurer: Mr K. Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patricbourne CT4 5BU (830947)

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

Organist (Bridge):

Organist (Patricbourne): Mrs R.M. Stacey, Joclet, Keepers Hill, Patricbourne CT4 5BT (830205)

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. Grey, 63 High Street, Bridge CT5 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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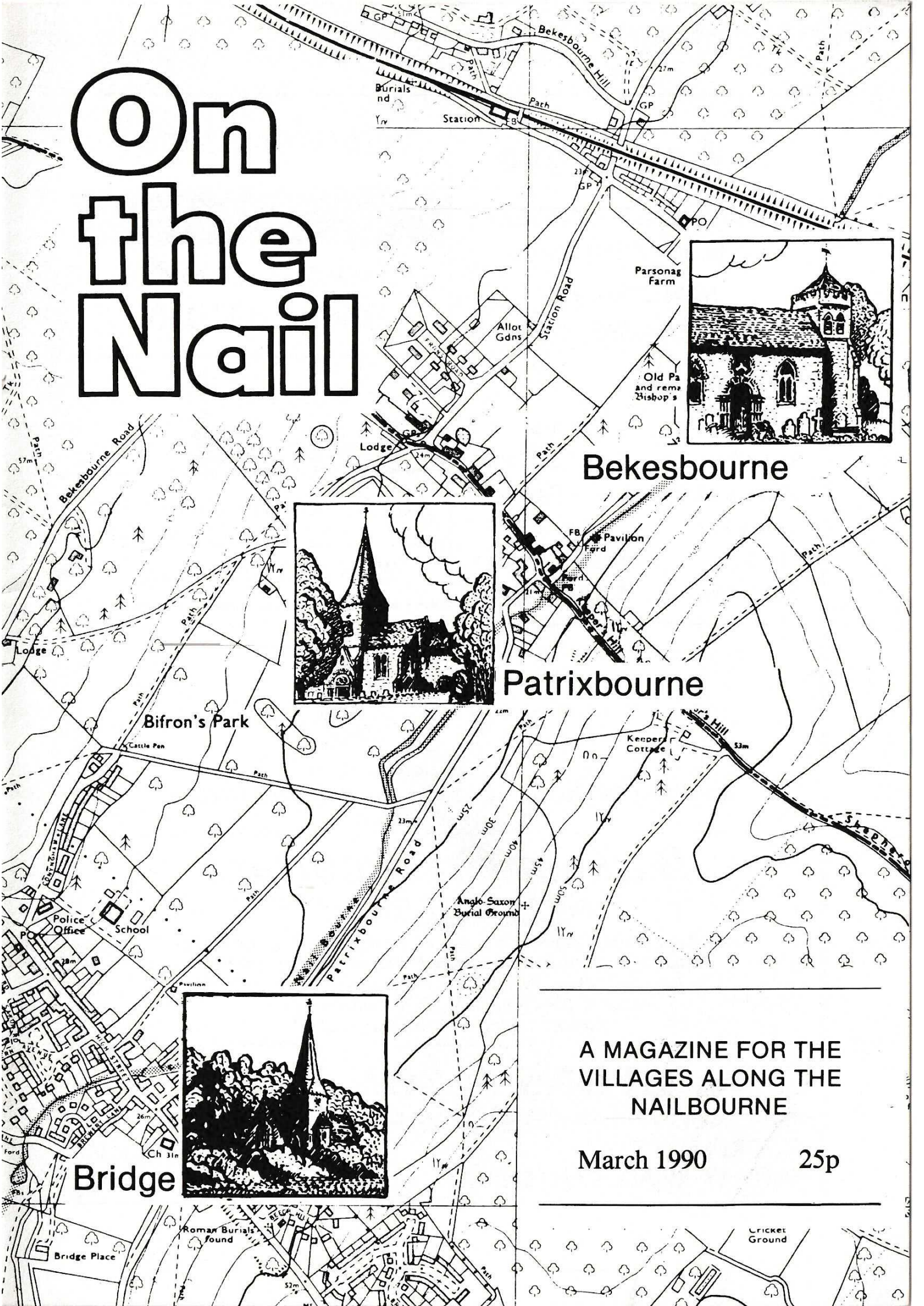
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March 1990

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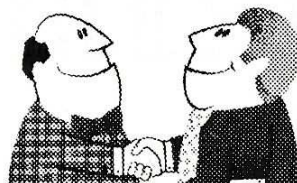
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Sunday Worship in March

Bridge	Patricbourne	Bekesbourne
4th: 11am Family Service 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion
11th: 9.30 The Eucharist (ASB Rite A) 6.30pm Evensong	11am Matins	8am Holy Communion
18th: 9.30 Parish Communion (ASB Rite A) 6.30pm Evensong (Canon F Bull)	8am Holy Communion	11am Matins
25th: 8am Holy Communion 6.30pm Evensong	9am Holy Communion	11am <i>Mothering Sunday Service</i>
1st April: 11am Family Service 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion

● *Following the 9.30am Eucharist at Bridge on the second Sunday of each month coffee and biscuits are served at the back of the church. Donations will be gratefully received on behalf of the Church Urban Fund.*

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *4th*, Dr Doreen Rosman *11th Holy Communion* The Revd Sheila Foreman *18th, Family Service*, Mr E R O'Mahony *25th*, Mr Stan Kentish

Junior Church meets every Sunday morning from 9.30 to 10.30 in Bridge Village Hall, except the first Sunday when the Family Service is held.

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, 7th at 10.15am. The New Close service is each Wednesday at 2.30pm, and non-residents are always most welcome to share in this short informal act of worship.

For your diary and prayer list

- 1st *St David, Bishop, Patron Saint of Wales, c.601*
Prayers for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm
BBC Radio Kent Lent Course, 8pm
Bridge Folk Dance Group, Bridge Village Hall, 8pm
- 2nd *St Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Missionary, 672*
Women's World Day of Prayer Service, St Peter's, Bridge, 2.30pm
(Preacher: The Revd Sheila Foreman)
- 4th *First Sunday in Lent*
- 7th *St Perpetua and her Companions, Carthaginian Martyrs, 203*
Bridge & Patricbourne CEP School Governors meet.

- 8th Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln, Teacher, Pastor, 1910
 Bridge Parish Council, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
BBC Radio Kent Lent Course, 8pm
- 11th *Second Sunday in Lent*
- 12th *St Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, Confessor*
- 13th Pray for the clergy of the deanery, who meet in chapter this morning.
 Nailbourne Horticultural Society meeting, Bridge Methodist Church,
 8pm
- 14th Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15 - 11.45am
- 15th Prayers for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm
BBC Radio Kent Lent Course, 8pm
 Bridge Folk Dance Group, Bridge Village Hall, 8pm
- 17th *St Patrick, Bishop, Patron Saint of Ireland, c.460*
 Junior Church with Bridge NSPCC Group Jumble Sale, Village Hall,
 2pm
- 18th *Third Sunday in Lent*
- 19th *St Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
- 20th *St Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, 687*
 Bridge with Patricbourne Women's Institute, Bridge Village Hall,
 7.30pm (For information contact Elizabeth Stewart, 830344)
- 21st *Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury*
- 22nd Fish Scheme Tea Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 2.15 - 3.45pm
 Bekesbourne Parochial Church Council meet, 8pm at School House,
 School Lane
BBC Radio Kent Lent Course, 8pm
- 25th *Fourth Sunday in Lent—Mothering Sunday*
- 29th Bridge Annual Parish Meeting, the Village Hall, 7.30pm
BBC Radio Kent Lent Course, 8pm
- 31st Pray for Rosalind Gilbert and Matthew Plenty who marry today at
 Bridge

“Life to the Full”

The title of this year's *Radio Kent* Lent Course may at first seem highly inappropriate for a season traditionally marked by abstinence. If it does, we are probably labouring under a misapprehension about living life to the full.

For some people it means getting as much as they can out of life. Note the subtle twist— *getting* the most *out* of it; not *putting* the most *into* it! Such will see living a full life as adopting a glamorous, spendthrift life style, the self-centred objective of which is personal satisfaction and fulfilment. They will say, “Life is to be enjoyed! This is the only life I've got and I'm going to live it to the full!” The sad consequence of this attitude is that if fulness of life can only be achieved at others' expense, then that's too bad about them!

* * *

Encountering people with this outlook on life is never a pleasant experience, for selfishness in any guise is hateful. Thank goodness it isn't too common! Most of us manage to lead a full life without spending money lavishly. Indeed, if the one were completely dependent on the other the majority of us would never be able to live a full life. Nor do living a full life and self-centredness go together, the most fulfilled being those who think first of others. It really is more better, *i.e.* rewarding, to give than to receive!

* * *

To find out how the Lent Course intends to approach *Living Life to the Full* why not tune in to *Radio Kent* at 8pm on the five Thursdays of this month? The frequencies for this part of Kent are 104.2 VHF-FM (stereo) or 774kHz/338m Medium Wave.

Individual themes for the evenings, together with speakers, are as follows: 1st *How can we find lasting happiness?* (ADRIAN PLASS, writer and broadcaster), 8th *How can we find a purpose for our lives?* (ERNEST REA, BBC's Head of Religious Broadcasting), 15th *How can we cope with life?* (MARY CRAIG, Author of a number of best-sellers including *Blessings*), 22nd *How can we find fulfilment?* (JOHN YOUNG, Director of the Churches' Council for Health and Healing), 29th, *How can we look forward with hope?* (Bishop TREVOR HUDDLESTON).

* * *

If you would like to join one of the groups that will be meeting in Bridge to listen in together and discuss the topics, please contact Kath Pierce (830844) who is kindly making all the necessary arrangements. She can also provide you with a copy of the programme notes for 15p a copy, or you can collect one from the Canterbury studios of *Radio Kent* at 20-22 Watling Street.

Church Electoral Rolls

Bearing in mind a church's Electoral Roll is not the same as the civic Electoral Register (so being on it won't affect your Community Charge either way) we are required before this year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting to draw up a completely new roll.

Every parish in England must have an Electoral Roll, which has to be revised prior to the APCM most years. It is a list of the committed, practising church members in the parish concerned, all of whom must be over sixteen years of age. Normally it is sufficient merely to update the roll, deleting where necessary or adding new names and addresses. This year every church member must complete the simple application form in order for their names to be included in the brand new list that will be presented at the APCM. Forms can be obtained from either the churches or the Electoral Roll Officers: Richard Whatley, 54 Bridge Down (*Patixbourne with Bridge*) and John Purchase, Mill Cottage (*Bekesbourne*). ER Officers concerned will want completed forms back before the end of the month, so that the new list can be assembled in good time and be displayed on the appropriate church noticeboards well before the APCM.

Electoral Rolls are meant to give as accurate an indication of church membership as possible—so will everyone who belongs to any of the three churches make sure their names appear on the new roll concerned. Returns have to be made annually to the diocese, so we must send in truly representative figures when the time comes. Please understand that by applying to be put on the Electoral Roll you are not committing yourself to do anything: it is in fact a sign that you are already committed!

On The Nail Noticeboard

Bridge Village Playgroup

Is your child clean and dry and ready for Playgroup? Then join us at our busy and happy playgroup sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays for 2½ to 5 year

olds between 9am and 12 noon, or for the pre-school session on Wednesdays between 9.15 and 11.45am for those getting ready for school. Please enquire at the Village Hall during any of the above sessions

Debra Blake

Churchill House at play

The whist drive held at Churchill House was a success and more will now behold the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

J A Scarth

Bridge Folk Dance Group

Meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays of each month. New dancers are always made very welcome, with or without a partner, so please join us on 1st and 15th March at 8 o'clock. Enquiries on 830285 or 830652.

J Hopkins

To all parents of pre-school children

The numbers are rising steadily at Bridge and Patricxbourne CEP School, with only a few vacancies left in the Infant Department.

If there are any children who have not been entered on the school's admission list for 1990/91, would parents please contact the Secretary as soon as possible.

Anna Newton, Headmistress

Jumble Sale

Junior Church and the Bridge NSPCC Group are to hold a Jumble Sale in Bridge Village Hall at 2pm on Saturday, 17th March. For collection of jumble please ring 830960 or 830708.

Nailbourne Horticultural Society

On Tuesday, 13th at 8pm in Bridge Methodist Church there will be a talk on *Arranging Flowers for Exhibitions* by Mrs M Payne. There will be a 20p charge for refreshments.

R Dasan, Secretary

Joys and Sorrows

On Sunday, 4th February at St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne the baptism took place of **Adam Kevin Churchward**, son of Helen and Kevin, 5 Howletts Oast.

* * *

A large congregation gathered in St Peter's Church, Bridge on Friday, 26th January, for the funeral service, prior to cremation at Barham, of Mrs **Ida Shorter**. Ida passed away on 16th January and will be much missed, not only by her husband, Sid and family, but also by her many local friends. A warm tribute to her appears in the *'Fish' News*.

The funeral took place on Monday, 19th February, in St Mary's Church, Patricxbourne of Mrs **Honor Johnston**, 2 St Mary's Road. Mrs Johnston was well known in the locality as a truly delightful, caring person, who had a charming sense of humour and a great concern for and affinity with people, particularly the young. In her more active days she worked tirelessly on behalf of others and managed at the same time to be a model parent and grandparent.

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

● Members of Bekesbourne Parochial Church Council will recall that we had to hold over our last meeting, due at the start of the year. The new date is THURSDAY MARCH 22nd at 8pm at School House, School Lane, Bekesbourne, by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs David Millyard.

Old and young in harmony

It used to be said that old and young don't mix. Actually, some people still say it—and believe it too! If you're one of them, then you'll probably think it was a ridiculous idea building Bridge Primary School and The New Close next door to each other.

Actually it was a very imaginative idea, aimed at bringing old and young together. In which case, weren't the planners guilty of an oversight in not providing a direct path between the buildings to make movement back and forth a whole lot easier? Never mind, contact is made, though mainly it has to be one-way, from school to home, since the residents of The New Close are not only elderly but confused as well.

* * *

It may surprise you to know, however, that a regular contact is made from the school to the home, showing in at least one instance that old and young do get on with one another. Purely voluntarily, and without any coercion from parents or teachers, though with their full knowledge and co-operation, a number of children at playtime pay occasional visits to residents at The New Close. It's amazing and rather wonderful how eagerly the residents look forward to their young visitors, and a real tonic to see confused faces suddenly wreathed in smiles of recognition. Some of them, you should realize, never otherwise get any visitors. It's also worth seeing the confident, charming, outgoing way in which quite young children greet their elderly friends.

* * *

If this sounds contrived let me assure you it is delightfully spontaneous. Ever since the home was built this custom of children visiting in their free time (some even call in during the school holidays) has continued without interruption. Once in a while visits can be reciprocated, e.g. for a party at Christmas or on fête days.

Two things stand out in all this! First, the way an unafraid, friendly open greeting often unlocks a mind that has got very confused and insular. Secondly the way the children are not put off either by a lack of response or at the sight of an elderly person whose condition is accompanied by a distressing loss of dignity. Old and young never mix? Rubbish!

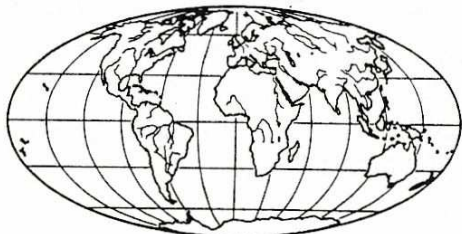
* * *

One of the oldest residents of The New Close and a favourite with children, Mrs **Elsie Clark**, died last month at the age of ninety-four, and it was my privilege as chaplain to officiate at her cremation service at Barham on 21st February. Before the service Mrs Clark's doctor son gave me a few notes on his mother's life, and I was interested to read that she who I had only known as a quietly-spoken, chair-bound, gentle old lady who had the sweetest of smiles was once very musical, in fact a quite accomplished pianist, and had served in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps in the first world war.

Those who regularly visit The New Close are in danger of forgetting that the residents weren't always as we see them now. All of them were once boisterous children, young men and women who fell in love, got married and reared a family. They had a position in society, people sought their advice and in some

Continued on page 13

instances they followed distinguished careers. Mrs Clark's death has alerted me at least to the fact that things and people are not always what they seem, that like Mrs Clark all the residents of The New Close once had a normal, independent quality of life and in younger, happier days made their mark in the world.



Women's World Day of Prayer Frid. 2nd March

As in previous years the special order of service produced for international use on the Women's World Day of Prayer will be used in St Peter's Church, Bridge, on the day itself, Friday, 2nd March at 2.30pm. The service traditionally draws a good congregation, made up of the several denominations represented in the village, and I'm sure this year's will be no exception. The preacher is our Methodist minister, the Revd Sheila Foreman, who is no stranger to St Peter's Church.

The order of service this year hails from Czechoslovakia, having been produced by the Czech WWDP National Committee before the revolution. Copies of the service booklet will, of course, be available for every member of the congregation.

Corrymeala . . .

is the Gaelic word which means 'The hill of Harmony'

Corrymeala is a community of about 160 men and women, mostly lay, of all Christian denominations who annually dedicate themselves to be *Instruments of God's Peace*. All the work undertaken by the Corrymeala Community is an attempt to work out their commitment in their society to heal the breaches—social, political and religious—in Northern Ireland today.

Corrymeala is common ground, a place where both sides of the sectarian divide feel at home and at ease. They ask for our prayers in their vital and valuable work, particularly on Sunday, 11th March.

Bekesbourne Brownies at the Marlowe

Elaine Ellis writes:

On Saturday, 20th January 1st Bekesbourne Brownies went to the Marlowe to see *Mother Goose*. Some people bought sweets on the way and some people bought them at the Marlowe. I sat next to Louise and during the interval I swapped places with Katy and we had a lovely ice cream. With it we had a spoon. It was a very funny shape. At the end it was very good because Mother Goose had a speech.

Over to Elizabeth Duplock:

On Saturday, 20th January 1st Bekesbourne Brownies went to the Marlowe to see *Mother Goose*. We went along with other Canterbury rural packs. First of all everyone was going to the loo and buying sweets, then we all met on the steps and when we were all there we went in. We were sitting in rows Y and Z. The little ones, who were sitting in row Z, could not see over the big bar in front of us. The first half was really good and one of the cast said 'Hello' to us. During the interval we all had ice cream. Yum, yum! At the end of *Mother Goose* these two people, Jack and Jill, got married. After the pantomime we all went to the loo. When we were all together again we walked down to St Thomas' Hall. We all had tea there. That was really nice. At the hall I saw some of my friends from Bridge. All in all it was a very good day.

Bridge Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held this year on Thursday, 29th March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. As part of the proceedings of the meeting, the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr John Hill, would like representatives of all the clubs, societies and organisations in the village to come along and give a brief outline of their activities.

The Chairman and members of the Parish Council look forward to seeing and meeting as many parishioners as possible on the 29th. *K A Walder, Clerk*

Deeds of Covenant

Compliance with Inland Revenue Requirements

With the approach of the end of the 1989/90 Tax Year (5th April, 1990) I would take this opportunity of gently reminding all covenanters of the Inland Revenue's rigid requirements concerning the **full receipt** of payments **within each tax year** in accordance with each Deed of Covenant. This is essential if we are to maximise our entitlements to 'tax reclaimable', and is particularly relevant to covenanters who make their payments in cash or by cheque (mainly within the Envelope Scheme).

To this end I am setting out the following guidance:

1. **Weekly payments up to and including Sunday, 1st April, 1990**
All weekly payments due up to and including Sunday, 1st April, 1990, should be presented, at the latest, by Thursday, 5th April, 1990.
2. **Calendar Monthly, Quarterly, etc. Covenant Payments**
Where such periodic payments fall due on a date *prior* to the 6th April, 1990 (first day of the new Tax Year 1990/91) will covenanters please ensure that their payments are presented by 5th April, 1990 at the latest, please.
3. **Payments by Bankers' Order**
No special action is envisaged in these cases, as payments are anticipated to be received automatically on their due dates.

D R Hill, Covenants Officer

The Archbishop's C. E. School

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The Archbishop's School in 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 eleven to eighteen, 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 Monday, 30th April.

The current school prospectus may be obtained from the Headteacher of Bridge primary school, or from The Archbishop's School, St Stephen's Hill, Canterbury CT2 7AP (Telephone: Canterbury 454051). *Contributed*

PARISH PUMP

Parish Council
News



Bridge Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Thursday 8th February.

Councillors in Action Cllr Reg Franklin, who represented the Council at the AGM of the Bridge Village Sports Trust, reported that the interior of the pavilion, including showers, was now complete. The Trust planned to improve the area immediately in front of the pavilion so that tables and chairs can be set out, and were going to clear the bank between the football and cricket pitches. This latter work had been postponed from the autumn.

Cllr Mrs Meriel Connor attended the Area Committee of the Kent Association of Parish Councils where she had obtained information on the time schedule for the much-awaited Canterbury City Council Local and Rural Plans. She had raised the question of the lack of buses serving Bridge in the evenings and had received advice as to whom the Council should approach. As a result, the Clerk will now contact both the bus company and the Highways & Transportation Department of the County Council.

Cllr Ken Greenaway went to the Kent Village Halls Committee Meeting in

January where he was given useful information relating to exemptions from payment of VAT on utilities *i.e.* gas and electricity, and rates relief available for Village Halls.

Major Maintenance on the A2 Bridge Bypass The Parish Council has received a letter from the County Council acquainting them with the traffic diversions necessary to enable major maintenance work to be carried out to the Bridge Bypass this Spring/early Summer. As the Parish Council are concerned that some of the implications for the village of Bridge have not been fully realised when planning the diversions, they are to ask for a site meeting with a representative of the County Council.

Protecting our Environment The Council would like to express their thanks and appreciation to the two residents who were seen picking up rubbish on Bridge Hill.

The Accountant's advertising sign on the corner of Bridge Hill and Bourne Park has been refused planning permission and should hopefully have disappeared by now. There is, however, no more news to

report yet on the provision of a bottlebank for the village.

Some they like, some they don't like! The Council had no observations to make on a planning application for a change of use of the former stables to a house for the Club Manager at Bridge Place Country Club, but objected strongly to a proposal for a hundred-bedroom hotel and all ancillary accommodation on land adjacent to the A2 at Bridge on traffic grounds and the unacceptability of a three-storey building in a rural setting.

They also decided, after lengthy discussion, to oppose an application for a change of use from Hardware Shop to Hot Food Take-Away/Fish and Chips at 6 Western Avenue on grounds which included disturbance to neighbouring residential properties, opening hours and litter.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday, 8th March at 7.30pm in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall which, as ever, residents are most welcome to attend.

KA Walder, Clerk

'Fish' News

Many people will remember Ida Shorter with affection and gratitude. Her years as a geriatric nurse, which gave her an understanding of the needs and problems of elderly people, combined with her generous and caring nature made her a wonderful neighbour and an invaluable member of our team of 'Fish' volunteers. When we set up the Fish Scheme ten years ago, she immediately offered her help and worked hard on behalf of the community in many ways, in addition to giving regular help at the Luncheon Club, until illness forced her to give up. Our volunteers, Luncheon Club members and the many other people she helped join me in sending our sympathy to her family in their very grievous loss.

* * *

The next Coffee Pop-In will be in Bridge Village Hall on Wednesday, 14th March from 10.15 to 11.45am. The Tea Pop-In will be on Thursday, 22nd from 2.15 to 3.45pm.

* * *

Dates for your diary:— The Blossom Tour, Wednesday 2nd May. Our Annual Coffee Morning, Saturday, 2nd June.

Joan Warren, 830233

Towards a floral Easter

If anyone would like to donate a lily for the Easter decorations in St Peter's Church, Bridge we shall be most grateful. They will cost £1.50 each this year and donations will be gratefully received by either Mrs Joyce Hunter, 24 High Street or Mrs Elsie Apps, 34 High Street.

Decorating for Easter will take place on Holy Saturday morning from 9.45am and I would like to correct the mistaken idea that a regular team of flower arrangers does this. At Christmas the turn-out was very poor, probably due to this apparent misunderstanding. For Easter can I appeal to *all* who are on the flower rota at Bridge to lend a hand on Holy Saturday morning. Not only will this make life easier all round, but it should ensure an even more plentiful and dazzling array of flowers on the Church's greatest of all festivals.

If you can tell Mrs Hunter beforehand that you will be helping it may help her plan the 'work-load' but I know you will be greeted with open arms if you just turn up on the day, especially if you are clutching a bunch of flowers.

Vicar: The Revd Raymond Gilbert, A.K.C., 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 T. J. Flisher, 52 Riverside Close, Bridge CT4 5TN (830871)

Hon Treasurer: Mr K. Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patricxbourne CT4 5BU (830947)

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

Organist (Bridge):

Organist (Patricxbourne): Mrs R.M. Stacey, Joclet, Keepers Hill, Patricxbourne CT4 5BT (830205)

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. Grey, 63 High Street, Bridge CT5 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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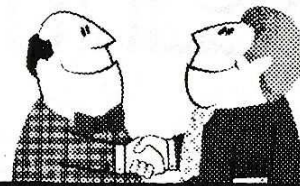
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Sunday Worship in April

Bridge	Patricxbourne	Bekesbourne
1st: 11am Family Service 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion
8th: 9.30 The Eucharist (<i>ASB Rite A</i>) with Distribution of Palms 6.30pm Evensong	11am Matins with Distribution of Palms	8am Holy Communion with Distribution of Palms
15th EASTER DAY: 11am Holy Eucharist (<i>ASB Rite A</i>) 6.30pm Evensong	9.30 Holy Communion	8am Holy Communion 11am Matins & Holy Communion (<i>Revd W Owen</i>)
22nd: 8am Holy Communion (<i>Revd J Packer, St Aidan's, Sheffield</i>) 6.30pm Evensong (<i>Canon F Bull</i>)	9am Holy Communion (<i>Revd C Verity</i>)	11am Matins (<i>Revd W Owen</i>)
29th: 9.30 The Eucharist with Laying on of Hands 6.30pm Evensong	11am Matins	8am Holy Communion
6th May: 11am Family Service with Holy Baptism 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion

● *Following the 9.30am Eucharist at Bridge on the second Sunday of each month coffee and biscuits are served at the back of the church. Donations will be gratefully received on behalf of the Church Urban Fund.*

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *1st*, Dr John Rogers *8th*, Family Service, The Revd Sheila Foreman *15th*, Holy Communion, The Revd Sheila Foreman *22nd*, Dr Eileen Tresidder *29th*, Mr Alistair Barwick.

Junior Church meets every Sunday morning from 9.30 to 10.30am in Bridge Village Hall, except the first Sunday when the Family Service is held.

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. These services will not be held during Easter Week. 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 most welcome to share in this short informal act of worship.

For your diary and prayer list

1st *Fifth Sunday in Lent* *Passion Sunday*
3rd *St Richard, Bishop of Chichester*

- 4th *St Ambrose, Bishop of Milan*
 5th Prayers for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm
 Bridge Folk Dance Group, Village Hall, 8pm
 8th *Palm Sunday*
 9th *Monday in Holy Week*
 10th *Tuesday in Holy Week* Holy Communion at Patrixbourne, 9.30am
 11th *Wednesday in Holy Week* Holy Communion at Bridge, 9.30am
 Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15 - 11.45am
 12th *Maundy Thursday*
 The Eucharist (*ASB Rite A*) commemorating the Last Supper will be
 celebrated in St Peter's Church at 7.30pm
 Bridge Parish Council, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
 13th *Good Friday*
 The Vicar will conduct an Hour's Devotion on the Cross in St Peter's
 Church, Bekesbourne at 11am
The Last Hour Service of Devotion, St Peter's Church, Bridge at 2pm,
 conducted by the Revd Clive Barlow, Vicar of Ash and Rural Dean.
 14th *Easter Eve*
 15th *EASTER DAY (Services details below)*
 16th *Monday in Easter Week*
 Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage at the Cathedral. Pilgrims please assemble at
 Bridge Church at 9.50am for the walk to Canterbury, and don't forget
 your picnic lunch.
 17th *Tuesday in Easter Week*
 18th *Wednesday in Easter Week*
 19th *Thursday in Easter Week*
 Prayers for Health and Healing, 'Orana', Brewery Lane, 7pm.
 Bridge Folk Dance Group, Village Hall, 8pm
 20th *Friday in Easter Week*
 21st *Saturday in Easter Week*
 22nd *First Sunday after Easter*
 23rd *St George, Patron Saint of England, Martyr, 4th cent.*
 25th *St Mark the Evangelist*
 26th Fish Scheme Tea Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 2.15 - 3.45pm
 Patrixbourne with Bridge Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Bridge
 Methodist Church, 7.30pm
 27th Bekesbourne Annual Parochial Church Meeting, School House, School
 Lane, Bekesbourne, 7.30pm
 29th *Second Sunday after Easter*

EASTER DAY SERVICES

St Peter's Church, Bridge

- 11am Easter Eucharist (*The Vicar*)
 6.30pm Evensong (*The Vicar*)

St Mary's Church, Patrixbourne

- 9.30am Holy Communion with Easter Hymns (*The Vicar*)

St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne

- 8am Holy Communion (*The Vicar*)
 11am Matins & Holy Communion (*The Revd W Owen*)

'Now is Christ risen from the dead'

Palm Crosses

The palm crosses that will be distributed at our morning services on Palm Sunday, were made in seven mud villages in the Diocese of Masasi in Tanzania, where the income for each mud hut is approximately £30 a YEAR! This must buy all the household necessities—clothes for the parents and their children, salt, soap and any money required to pay for travel to the nearest hospital for medical treatment.



Christ is risen!

Two Easters ago the Royal Mail carried a special franking mark that aroused considerable controversy. It proclaimed 'Jesus is alive'.

Where's the harm in that, you may be wondering? Quite a lot I should think if, for instance, you happen to be Jewish or a Muslim or an atheist or indeed anyone out of sympathy with Christianity; and there are a lot of them about. It may be a legal fact that in transit your mail belongs not to you, whether you are a sender or recipient, but to the Queen. Nevertheless what lands on your mat is yours and you have every right to object if it arrives bearing a legend that offends your beliefs.

* * *

Obviously those who successfully applied for this special franking did so from the best of motives, and considering the careful timing it's a fair assumption that they wished to give the Easter message the widest possible publicity. Sadly, however, they failed; partly because of the antagonism their slogan aroused, but mainly because the truth about Easter is not contained in the statement that Jesus is alive.

* * *

To outsiders, at whom the postmark was presumably aimed, the conclusion drawn from the declaration 'Jesus is alive' is very likely that those responsible for it want everyone to believe that somewhere in the world the form, familiar from Bible pictures, of Jesus of Nazareth—long white robe, sandals and all—still walks abroad. I'm sure that's not how the slogan was meant to be taken, but with such an unfortunate choice of phrase that's the impression it may well have conveyed to many of those who bothered to read it. The result may have been to draw attention to a strange idea rather than the Easter gospel.

The confusion is partly due to an over-emphasis on Jesus, an over-emphasis beloved of a certain school of thought, whereby Jesus rather than God is made the object of worship, thus leading adherents of that viewpoint to speak of 'Jesus' when 'God' or 'Christ' would be nearer the mark. Let us, after all, be thoroughly biblical! Jesus himself told his disciples to pray to God 'our Father' and he purposely turned their devotion away from himself towards God. We have got it wrong if we make Jesus the climax of belief.

* * *

The Easter gospel is not that Jesus is alive but that Christ lives, and 'Christ lives' would have been a much more accurate legend to have sent through the post. St Paul's epistles almost always refer to Christ or the Lord, rarely to Jesus, and the message they contain is not that Christians are merely to follow the teachings of an ex-carpenter of Nazareth but to continue Christ's work in

the world, with his risen presence aiding and abetting them. The epistles (letters, in other words) witness to the resurrection of Christ, not the resuscitation of Jesus, presenting the Christian vocation in terms of being Christ in the world, since his risen presence is constantly with and in us. The resurrection is not something that happened once upon a time but an event of present significance that makes life thrilling because we are not simply aping Jesus but living in the power of God in Christ.

Youth Pilgrimage

The highlight of Easter in Canterbury is the Youth Pilgrimage on Easter Monday, when processions of young people converge on the cathedral, having walked from various parts of the diocese. As in previous years young people from these parishes will be taking part and the *Hearsay* group has been making a banner, which they will take with them and carry into the cathedral.

The service is always exciting, with just the right tone for Easter, and although the nave is invariably packed everyone gets in and has a whale of a time. The Archbishop conducts the proceedings, assisted by the Bishops of Dover and Maidstone; and no doubt after his recent visit he will be keeping an eye open for Bridge pilgrims. Those wishing to join should be at St Peter's Church, Bridge on Easter Monday at 9.50am, well shod for the walk through the orchards to Canterbury, and with the all-important picnic lunch.

Easter collections

In bygone days the Easter collections in churches were given as a personal gift to the vicar. Nowadays, when all fees for weddings and funerals have to be assigned to the diocese, the Easter offering is no longer a viable proposition. Instead of that mark of esteem, our two parishes have in recent years donated the loose money in the Easter Day collections to St Luke's Hospital for the Clergy.

St Luke's exists to offer speedy medical treatment to the clergy, their wives and dependent relatives, monks, nuns and full-time church workers, and has at its disposal over a hundred of the top London consultants, all of whom offer their services entirely free as their Christian stewardship.

The aim of St Luke's is to care for the carers by getting them fit and well as quickly as possible, so that they can resume their duties with the minimum of delay. They do not offer private medical treatment, although they give their services entirely free. St Luke's is in fact totally dependent on contributions and legacies from churches and individuals.

Rosemary and I, having both spent some time in St Luke's, would both wish to assure readers of the excellent work that is done there, and the wonderful care they give their patients. I do hope you will give extra generously at Easter, and if you normally pass the plate by because you have a covenant, please make an additional donation for a very worthy cause.

Please tell the Vicar!

It's an old chestnut I know, but perhaps it will stand another telling! Father fell ill and mother asked if he would like the vicar to call. "I'm not dead yet!", came the swift reply.

Part of any vicar's duties is to minister to the sick within his parish. This doesn't mean him going to chivvy the patient along or to ply him with questions or to have a chat, but to be available and to pray with him and for him, should that be the patient's desire.

A necessary prerequisite is for the vicar to be told; how else will he find out? Until recently, hospital chaplains kindly informed the local clergy if they had anyone in hospital, but this can no longer be done, since one patient somewhere in the country took the chaplain to court for a breach of confidence because he had told the vicar without the patient's prior permission.

I trust we haven't got to that stage in the parishes yet, but I would plead to be told when any of my 'flock' are ill or hospitalized. I have been particularly distressed lately to discover parishioners having been in and out of hospital, the fact apparently being known to everyone but me. This ought not to be. Every clergyman has a ministry to the sick and should be given every encouragement by the faithful to exercise that ministry. The excuse, "She didn't want anyone to know!" is understandable if to know would lead to all and sundry calling and upsetting the recovery. But it should not apply to the vicar, who knows how to conduct himself in a sick room and is professionally well used to keeping confidences and not gossiping about people's ailments all round the district.

Having got that off my chest, can I please ask to be told who is ill? Then we won't get the situation where complaints are made that the vicar never called! A visit from the vicar when you are ill is quite different from any other visit, which is why hospital staff will admit clergymen when they won't admit others. Few people nowadays believe you only call in the vicar when the patient is at death's door.

Driving to church

One of the Fish Scheme's crowning glories is its volunteer drivers, taking people who are otherwise without transport to hospital, etc. I believe that service is widely used, and we can be grateful for it. The church would like to place a similar service at your disposal where church attendance is concerned.

If there is anyone who finds it difficult to walk to church and misses not going, would they please give Mrs Enid Wintle a ring on 830728, and she will be only too happy to arrange transport to church for you.

* * *

A funeral service in St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne for **Thomas Edward Oviden**, 6 Bifrons Gardens, Patrixbourne, took place on 2nd March and was followed by interment in the churchyard.

The Last Chord Stanley Grey retires

Easter morning at Bekesbourne will witness the end of an era, when Stanley Grey, who has occupied the organ seat at St Peter's Church for twenty years or more, plays his last service as organist.

He took over the job at the behest of my predecessor, Colin Perry, to help him out. At the time Stanley—a pianist only—had never so much as touched the instrument. It was a courageous thing to do, and true to the character of a man who would tackle anything if it would help someone out of a difficulty.

Continued on page 13

When I first came to Bekesbourne Stanley was at his peak; and his playing belied the fact that he was self-taught. He has a wonderful record, having served St Peter's Church in every capacity but PCC Secretary; and whereas he has loved every minute of it, as indeed he loves "our little church" (his words), his contribution to Bekesbourne has nevertheless been quite exceptional.

The decision to retire has not been an easy one for him to make, but he can relinquish the organist's job with pride and the satisfaction of a job well and truly done. The chance from now on to worship alongside his wife Ruth (something he has rarely done in years) is thoroughly deserved and a just reward for one of the church's good and faithful servants. Our love and deep gratitude go out to you, Stanley.

On The Nail Noticeboard

A marathon challenge

Maurice Smith, 18 The Close, Union Road, will attempt the London Marathon distance (26.2 miles) on 22nd April, to raise funds for the local branch of the *Royal British Legion*, of which he is vice-chairman. Maurice, who is sixty-three, has put in a lot of training for the event and hopes you will support generously if approached, or else contact him at his home to sponsor him. The Service Committee of the Legion actively seeks out needy ex-service personnel and relatives in order to assist them where possible.

How does your garden grow?

The Nailbourne Horticultural Society Spring Show will be held on Tuesday, 10th April in the Conrad Hall, Bishopsbourne. The hall will be opened at 6pm for members to have their exhibits in place by 7.15 for judging.

Refreshments will be available whilst judging takes place, for which there will be a small admission charge.

R Dasan, Secretary

Helping the Hospitals!

At the recent AGM of the Bridge Branch of the Hospitals' *League of Friends* the vice-chairman reported another successful fund-raising year through a barn dance, coffee morning, garage sale, whist drive and Mr Don Johnson's run in the London Marathon. The house-to-house collection had also increased this year.

The Chairman George Stewart, was retiring through ill-health and the new committee was elected as follows: Mrs Elizabeth Stewart (*Chairman*), Mrs Maureen Baker (*Vice Chairman*), Mrs Tweedie Hills (*Treasurer*), Mrs Maggie Field (*Secretary*), Mrs Ann King, Mr Eddie Lilford, Mrs Nicky Fry, Mrs Maggie Fairweather, Mrs Pat Wilmshurst and Mrs Joan Monk.

The branch is putting on a Ploughman's Lunch at Gorsley Lodge, Bishopsbourne on Thursday, 5th April from 12 noon to 2pm.

Maggie Field

Honour your partner!

Alf Matthews will as usual be teaching the Bridge Folk Dance Group 'nice easy little dances' at our meetings on 5th and 19th April at 8pm in Bridge Village Hall, and you are welcome to take part. For further enquiries dial 830285 or 830652.

J H

The following unsigned article is not by the vicar but by an anonymous contributor. It would have been more suitable for the last issue but is so good I couldn't resist it. I shall be glad to receive further contributions from him or her, if this is anything to go by.

ON LENT AND DISCIPLINE—IN A LIGHTER VEIN

As Ash Wednesday drew near, I got off on completely the wrong foot by forgetting to cook pancakes for my children on the previous day. After making some feeble excuses to them I decided I must be much more disciplined in my approach to the season of Lent.

Last year I decided to give up Polo-mints and crisps. I failed miserably. In retrospect I realize it was far too ambitious, and was soon caught out munching my way through a packet of 'cheese and onion' crisps, followed in a day or two by the odd surreptitious suck of my favourite mint.

However, I was much comforted to hear that a good friend of mine—also of Raymond's 'flock'—who had plumped like me for a crispless Lent, had succumbed in the first couple of days; and having consumed a packet of *Quavers* she convinced herself (but not me) that they didn't fall into the category of 'crisp'.

So this year I've decided to opt for just Polos, and being generally of a more serious frame of mind, I'm optimistic of success.

Aren't we all guilty, when deciding what to give up, of trying to take the easy option? Like my young daughter, for example, settling for cabbage; trying to convince ourselves that it really would be difficult to give it up for five weeks when, truth be known, we haven't consumed it more than once in the past five months.

But seriously, a good dose of 'discipline' never did anyone any harm, and I'm all for it. With the example of my Muslim sister-in-law to shame me, who during Ramadan between sunrise and sunset will eat and drink nothing, waiting till the twilight hours to prepare and absorb three square meals and umpteen litres of fluid while the rest of the family are presumably trying to sleep peacefully. How can I be seen to fail again this year?

Annual Church Meetings

Every year the ecclesiastical parishes of England are obliged by law to hold what is called an Annual Parochial Church Meeting. This is always preceded by a very much shorter meeting, called the Vestry Meeting, whose sole item of business is the election of churchwardens for the ensuing year.

The APCM (for short) includes reports on the workings of the Parochial Church Council, the parish's finances (including the formal presentation of accounts for the preceding calendar year), the church fabrics and ornaments and the Deanery Synod's activities. The meeting also elects lay representatives to the PCC, this year also to the Deanery Synod, and appoints sidesmen.

Attendance at these meetings is open to those on a particular parish's Electoral Roll (not Register of Electors, which is a different thing) and we have recently been preparing new rolls. The intention is that all on the Electoral Roll should make a point of attending that parish's APCM. Disappointingly in recent years our own meetings have been poorly attended. Dare we hope this year's will attract much keener support and so be more truly representative of the committed membership?

As we have two parishes that means a separate APCM for each, that for Patricxbourne with Bridge being on 26th April and Bekesbourne's on 27th,

both commencing at 7.30pm. Venues are Bridge Methodist Church and School House, School Lane respectively. Do make the effort and be better informed about and involved in the life of your church!

Fifth Sunday Extra

As is the custom on fifth Sundays at St Peter's, Bridge the healing ministry of the Laying on of Hands will be offered in the course of the 9.30am Eucharist. Worshippers have found this a real blessing, whether they have received the laying on of hands purely for themselves or for someone else as well. You are most welcome to come for this ministry, which will be offered immediately after the distribution of communion.

Easter lilies for St Peter's, Bekesbourne

Mrs Christine Ash will be most grateful to receive contributions towards the purchase of lilies for Bekesbourne Church at Easter. Could she please have donations several days before the decorators are likely to need the lilies?

**PARISH
PUMP**
Parish Council
News



Bridge Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Thursday, 8th March

Keeping Up Appearances Cllr Mrs Margaret Jones drew attention to the amount of silt and gravel which had built up in the gutters, particularly in the High Street in the stretch from the Plough and Harrow to Western Avenue, and the Kent County Council were to be asked to clear this. Cllr Mrs Jones has also been successful in her attempts to get at least one side of the footpath from the High Street to Riverside Close patched and safe to walk on. Thanks to Cllr Mervyn Gulvin, the new litterbin is now in place in the High Street in front of LoCost. Mr John Knight, as Chairman of the Bridge Village Sports Trust, has kindly agreed to clear the area around the pavilion prior to the Council arranging for bark to be spread to create a weed free area. The Council are to arrange for weed-spraying along the boundary of the Recreation Ground behind the play equipment and under the trees behind the tennis courts to try to kill off the suckers. The Clerk is to contact the

City Council's Environmental Health Department about dumping and litter in the parish, and Cllr Mrs Billie Anderson is to raise this same problem when she attends a meeting with the County Council's Highways Department at the end of the month.

Good News for Children The slide and cradle swing have at last been repaired and are now back in action. The Council have also agreed to put down safety surfacing around the slide, see-saw and rocking horse.

Contribution to Bridge Village Sports Trust The Council agreed to make a contribution of £1,000 to the Sports Trust to assist them in reducing the sum of money outstanding following the building of the pavilion.

Dog Fouling A dog, accompanied by its owner, was seen being allowed to foul a footpath in the village. The incident was subsequently reported to the City Council who have since taken appropriate action.

Bottlebank The Council regret that for the present residents will have to continue to take their 'empties' into

Canterbury as there is no immediate prospect of getting a bottlebank into the village. However, enquiries into procuring a bottlebank will continue.

Major Maintenance on Bridge Bypass
The Chairman, Cllr John Hill, reported on a site meeting he and the Clerk had attended recently to discuss with the County Council and the Police the diversion of traffic while the A2050 to A2 coastbound on/off slip roads on the north side of Bridge are closed for a period of three weeks commencing towards the end of May, during one phase of the above maintenance work. It is intended that the bridge on the north (Canterbury) side of Bridge will carry two-way light traffic, with heavier vehicles to and from Canterbury diverted through Wincheap. Light traffic from Dover destined for Canterbury will leave the Bypass at the Bishopsbourne/Bekesbourne slip road and the slip road off the London-bound carriageway on the north side of Bridge will also be closed for that period.

Planning Proposals The Council had no observations to make on applications for a double garage and alterations at Owletts, Beech Hill; a sitting-room exten-

sion at The Lodge, Brewery Lane or on amended plans relating to a first-floor extension to the workshop at David Clark Motorcycles, Brewery Lane. However they did object to an application for replacement UPVC double-glazed French doors to same pattern and kitchen window at 26 The Close, because of the unsuitability of the materials to be used in a listed building; and to change of use and extension to form old persons' retirement home with staff accommodation and car parking provisions (maximum twenty-one persons) at Field House, Station Road on grounds which included the unsuitability of the location for an old people's home, and the extension being so large as to alter the character of the original house. Planning permission had been granted by the City Council for the conversion of former stables to manager's dwelling at Bridge Place Country Club, while the planning appeals for a service area and other facilities adjacent to the A2 at Kingston had been dismissed.

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

Fish News

The annual **Blossom Tour** will be on Wednesday, 2nd May. The coach will leave Western Avenue (opposite Green Court) at 2.15pm, arriving back about 5.30pm. After a country tour there will be a stop at the Age Concern Centre in Hythe for a cream tea. As well as providing excellent teas, the centre has a shop for gifts, knitting wool, confectionery and nearly new clothes. The inclusive charge will be £3. Although priority will be given to people who have difficulty getting about there are usually enough seats to take everyone who would like to go. Transport to the coach pick-up point can be arranged. Please book your seat as soon as possible.

* * *

The Coffee Pop-In will be on Wednesday, 11th April from 10.15 - 11.45am, and the Tea Pop-In on Thursday, 26th from 2.15 - 3.45pm.

Joan Warren, 830233

ST PETER'S CHURCH, BEKESBOURNE **Cleaning and Flower Rota for April**

The church will be decorated for Easter on 14th and all hands are asked to be available from 10.30am. *21st, Mrs Clifford 28th, Mrs Gillanders*

ST PETER'S CHURCH, BRIDGE

Everyone on the flower rota is asked to lend a hand with the Easter decorations on the morning of 14th. We'd rather have too many than too few, as happened at Christmas.

Vicar: The Revd Raymond Gilbert, A.K.C., 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 T. J. Flisher, 52 Riverside Close, Bridge CT4 5TN (830871)

Hon Treasurer: Mr K. Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patricxbourne CT4 5BU (830947)

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

Organist (Bridge):

Organist (Patricxbourne): Mrs R.M. Stacey, Jodet, Keepers Hill, Patricxbourne CT4 5BT (830205)

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. Grey, 63 High Street, Bridge CT5 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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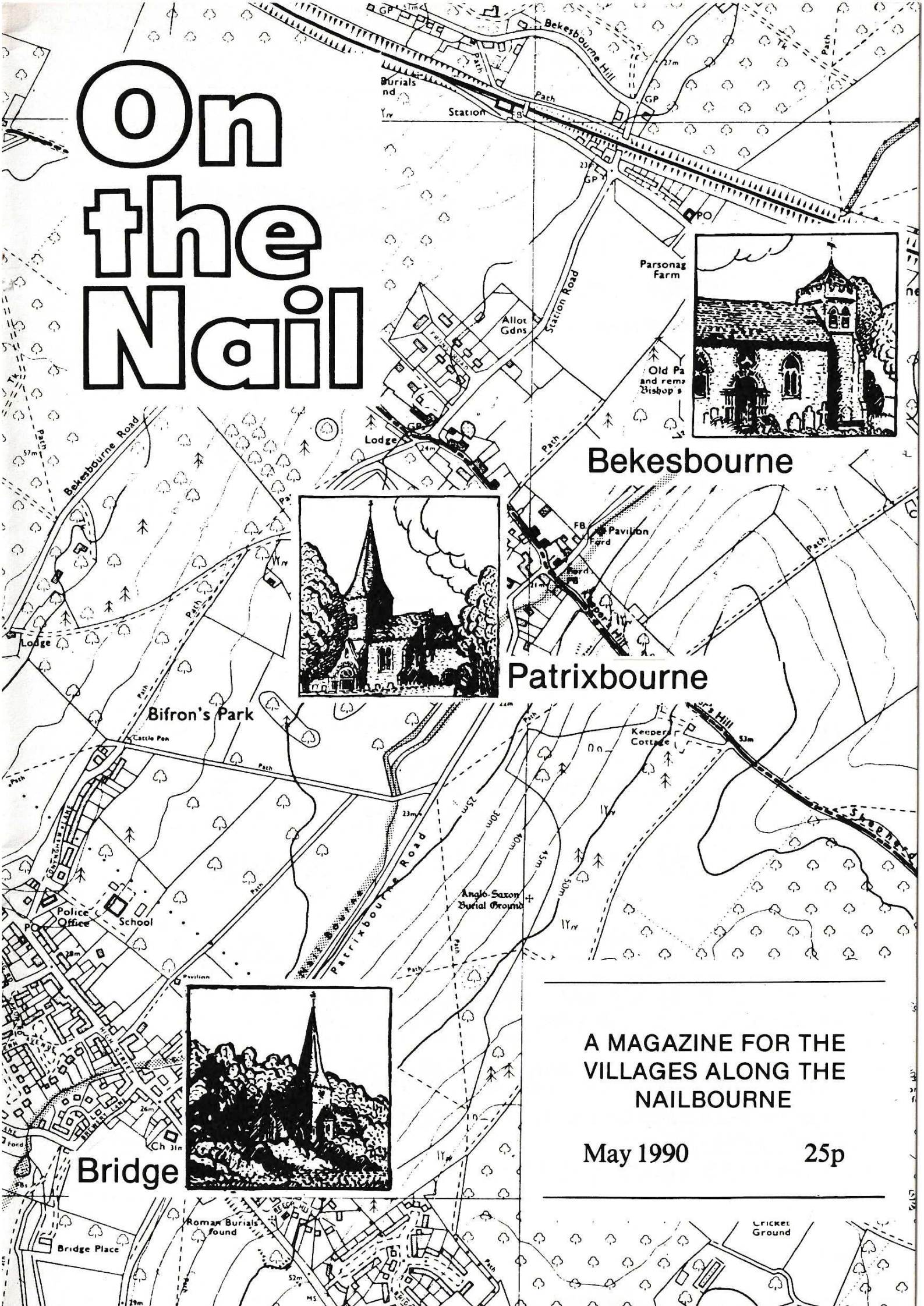
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Bekesbourne



Patricxbourne



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May 1990

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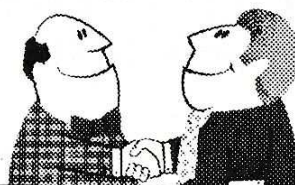
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Sunday Worship in May

Bridge

6th:

11am Family Service:
Eucharist with
Holy Baptism
6.30pm Evensong

13th:

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

20th:

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

27th:

8am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evensong

3rd June:

11am Family Service
6.30pm Evensong

Patricxbourne

8am Holy Communion

11am Matins

8am Holy Communion

9am Holy Communion

8am Holy Communion

Bekesbourne

9.30 Parish Communion

8am Holy Communion

11am Matins

11am Matins

9.30 Parish Communion

● *Following the 9.30am Eucharist at Bridge on the second Sunday of each month coffee and biscuits are served at the back of the church. Donations will be gratefully received on behalf of the Church Urban Fund.*

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: 6th, Mr Leslie Dron 13th, *Holy Communion*, The Revd Sheila Foreman 20th, *Chapel Anniversary*, Canon John Packer 27th, Mrs Hazel Colyer

The Chapel Anniversary weeknight service, conducted by the Revd Raymond Goodburn, is on Tuesday, 22nd at 7.15pm.

Junior Church meets every Sunday morning from 9.30 to 10.30 in Bridge Village Hall, except the first Sunday when the Family Service is held.

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, except 25th. 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 most welcome to share in this short informal act of worship.

For your diary and prayer list

1st *St Philip and St James, Apostles*

2nd *St Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, 373*

3rd Prayers for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm

5th Pray for Pauline Griffiths and Julian Randall, also for Paula Harris and Steven Prior who marry today at 11am and 3pm respectively in St Peter's Church, Bridge

Concert of Music, St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne, 7.30pm *The concert, given by the University's Chamber Choir and Ensembles, is in aid of Church Funds. Admission £2.*

- 6th *Third Sunday after Easter*
8th *Julian of Norwich, Mystic, c1417*
9th Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15 - 11.45am
Pray for the Bridge School governing body, which has a special meeting today.
13th *Fourth Sunday after Easter*
14th *St Matthias the Apostle*
Pray for a good response to *Christian Aid Week*, which starts today, and for the house-to-house collectors in our villages.
16th Pray for the newly-elected East Bridge Deanery Synod, which meets for the first time this evening.
Bridge School Book Sale, 2.30 - 4.30pm
Friends of The New Close AGM, The Home, 3.15pm
17th Prayers for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm
19th *St Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, 988*
The New Close Coffee Morning, 10.30 - 11.45am
20th *Fifth Sunday after Easter*
21st *Rogation Day*
22nd *Rogation Day*
Archdeacon's Visitation for Churchwardens and Sidesmen, Cathedral, 7.30pm
23rd *Rogation Day*
24th *Ascension Day*
The Eucharist (*ASB Rite A*), St Peter's Church, Bridge, 7.30pm
Fish Scheme Tea Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 2.15 - 3.45pm
25th *Venerable Bede, Priest, Monk of Jarrow, 735*
26th *St Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury, 605*
27th *Sunday after Ascension Day*
31st *Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth*

Family Service

Like all our services attendance at the monthly Family Service at Bridge tends to fluctuate: in fact I often think if all church members attended with greater regularity we should always have large congregations and as a spin-off more scintillating services.

For those who may be new to Bridge, or unfamiliar with what goes on in St Peter's Church on first Sundays at 11, most Family Services are what is technically called non-liturgical, *i.e.* neither the Eucharist (Holy Communion) nor Matins. Each one is specially planned and generally tailored to the stage of the Church's year at which the service takes place. The planning is carried out in my study by a tiny but enthusiastic group that incorporates my own knowledge of service construction acquired over thirteen years in cathedrals, together with the originality and inspired imagination of my 'assistants'; and they certainly come up with some good ideas.

Over the years we have had some highly imaginative services, prominent among them being the Palm Sunday Family Service when we had a real live

donkey to lead us in a palm procession from the Bishopsbourne Road round to the church door. We've also had an illustrated talk on the Jerusalem temple, a service on water complete with sound-effects and one on the saints that had the congregation bobbing up and down dependent on whether their Christian name was that of a Saint or not. We have also had visitors from outside the parish to conduct Family Services for us, and excellent they have been. The latest visitor was Patricia Pollard of *The Children's Society*, but we have welcomed Miss Mary Ambrose from Kingston and our own Canon Packer, the latter having enticed the congregation to some high jinks.

One of the most memorable Family Services was that held in the school hall on the theme of the *Church Urban Fund*. During it a video was shown and the Revd John Packer from St Aidan's, Sheffield showed slides of his parish as a prelude to setting up our *CUF* link with them.

A family affair

Throughout we have stressed that the Family Service *is* a family service and not a children's service. To that end we always try, generally I believe successfully, to pitch the services at a level appropriate to all ages. This is by no means an easy task, and we apologize now for those times when we have got it wrong. On the whole we manage it, judging by the wide age range represented at every Family Service.

Once in a while

Because the chief family service of the Christian Church is the Holy Communion or Eucharist, we believe it is right once in a while to make that the Family Service. There are two aims in this. First, the fact that the Christian family has a form of worship tailor made for, given to it by the Lord himself, which we therefore, in accordance with Christ's command, should use periodically. Secondly it helps the younger members present to get familiar with, accept and start to use the Church's principal act of worship.

On this understanding, therefore, this month's Family Service will be a eucharist, and we hope for a large congregation both to enjoy it for its own sake, but in addition to witness the baptism that is to take place during it. Two family occasions for the price of one can't be bad!

Joy and sorrow

It happens to most of sooner or later, and 31st March saw Rosemary and I become parents-in-law for the first time, when our elder daughter **Rosalind** married **Matthew Plenty**, a fellow-student who hails originally from the Bristol area. Since I am her father, not her vicar, the ceremony was conducted by a long-standing family friend, the Revd David Ratcliff, Diocesan Assistant Director of Education with responsibility for parish education. We couldn't have picked a better day for it: a warm, sunny day more worthy of July than March.

* * *

St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne was the setting for the funeral on 17th April of Mrs **Marion Anderson**, a former and well-liked resident of Bifrons Road, Bekesbourne. The vicar officiated in church and at the interment in Canterbury cemetery straight afterwards.

Christian Aid Week, 14th - 19th May

THE WORLD IS OUR COMMUNITY, THIS IS OUR CHARGE

by Muriel Packer

Once again our parishes will be asked to play as full a part as possible in this annual opportunity to share in the work of *Christian Aid*. This year I am delighted that the house-to-house collection is being organized by Wendy Durell of Shepherds Cottages, Shepherds Close Road, Patricxbourne. I am deeply grateful for the generous support given by both collectors and contributors during the seven years I have been the organizer and I look forward to being one of the team of volunteers helping Wendy to make this a record year. If you can help, please get in touch with Wendy (tel: 830003) — unless *she* has already been in touch with *you*!

The community charge or 'poll tax' has been the subject of argument for many months now, but there can surely be no argument about the *Christian Aid* use of the phrases, 'The World is our community. This is our charge'. The purpose of a community is working together and *Christian Aid Week* encourages us to give financial support to the less fortunate members of our world community to work together to improve their way of life for themselves and for future generations.

Will you accept *this* community charge, whatever your feelings may be about the other? 'The world charge is entirely fair. It asks those who can pay to stand by those who cannot.' (Michael Taylor, Director of Christian Aid in the April/June edition of *Christian Aid News*)

Concert at Bekesbourne

Once again a group of musicians from the University will be giving a concert in Bekesbourne Church. On Saturday, 5th May at 7.30pm the Chamber Choir and Ensembles will perform music by Handel, Purcell and Bruckner.

The conductor will be Emma Peers, whom those who came last year may remember was one of the solo singers. Tickets are £2 at the door or in advance from us at School House, Bekesbourne (830256).

Proceeds will go to the church funds, which are depleted this year as the PCC has had to pay for a new floor in the vestry, as well as improvements to the roof following the recent storms.

We shall be entertaining the musicians afterwards at School House and would welcome any of the audience who would like to join us. Just let us know by the Friday evening and bring some food or a bottle with you.

'On The Nail' Noticeboard

No more waste paper

Mrs Whittaker regrets that she is unable to accept any more waste paper, due to fall in demand for waste paper recycling.

Friends of The New Close

The AGM of the Friends of The New Close will be held on Wednesday, 16th at 3.15pm in The New Close, Conyngham Lane. People interested in the welfare of the residents of the home are invited to attend this meeting.

The Spring Coffee Morning will be on Saturday, 19th, 10.30 - 11.45am. There will be a Bring and Buy Stall and a Raffle.

O I Knight

Calling all Book Worms!

You are warmly invited to a Book Sale at Bridge and Patricbourne CEP School on Wednesday, 16th. Popular paperbacks will be on sale at a greatly reduced price. Tea will be served throughout the afternoon. Please come! Everyone will receive a warm welcome!

Anna Newton, Headmistress

Do good to the Samaritans!

A little earlier than usual this year, a fund-raising day in aid of the Samaritans will be held at 18 Conyngham Lane on Thursday, 17th. There will be coffee from 10am to 12 noon, and tea from 2 to 3.45pm. Bring and Buy and a Raffle. Please give me your support once again!

M.E.J.

Bridge Village Hall Charges

Charges for the use of the Village Hall to clubs and other organizations run by Bridge residents have remained unchanged since 1984. Charges for other users, e.g., for fund-raising events by Bridge residents, have remained unchanged since 1988. Your Village Hall Committee feels that, regrettably, the time has come to increase *all* charges for the use of the hall, so that funds can be generated to meet increased costs of heating and cleaning and for the cost of repairs to the fabric of the hall targeted for 1992. At the Village Hall Annual Meeting on 28th March, 1990 it was decided to increase all charges by 20% as from 1st May, 1990.

Vernon David, Hon Sec

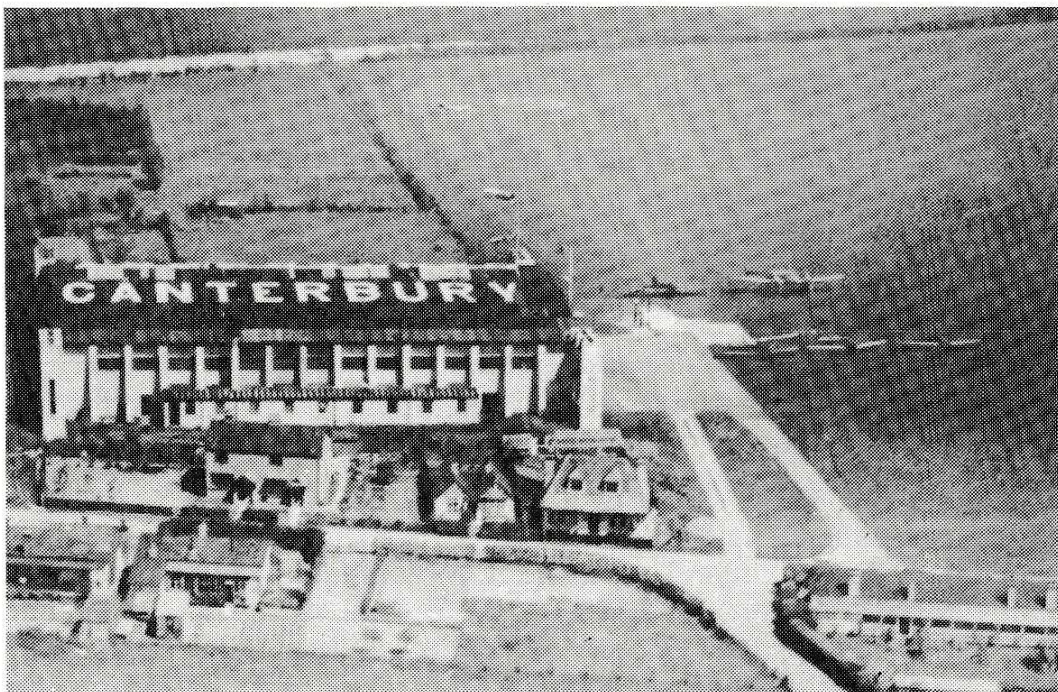
Bridge Cricket Club

The club is anxious to recruit any promising players, and would invite them to contact the Club Secretary, B. D. Bourn, 36 College Road, Canterbury on 458073. Here you are, lads! The chance you've been waiting for!

The Children's Society

Thank you to all those who contributed to the recent *Children's Society Week* envelope collection. The amount raised was £251.33.

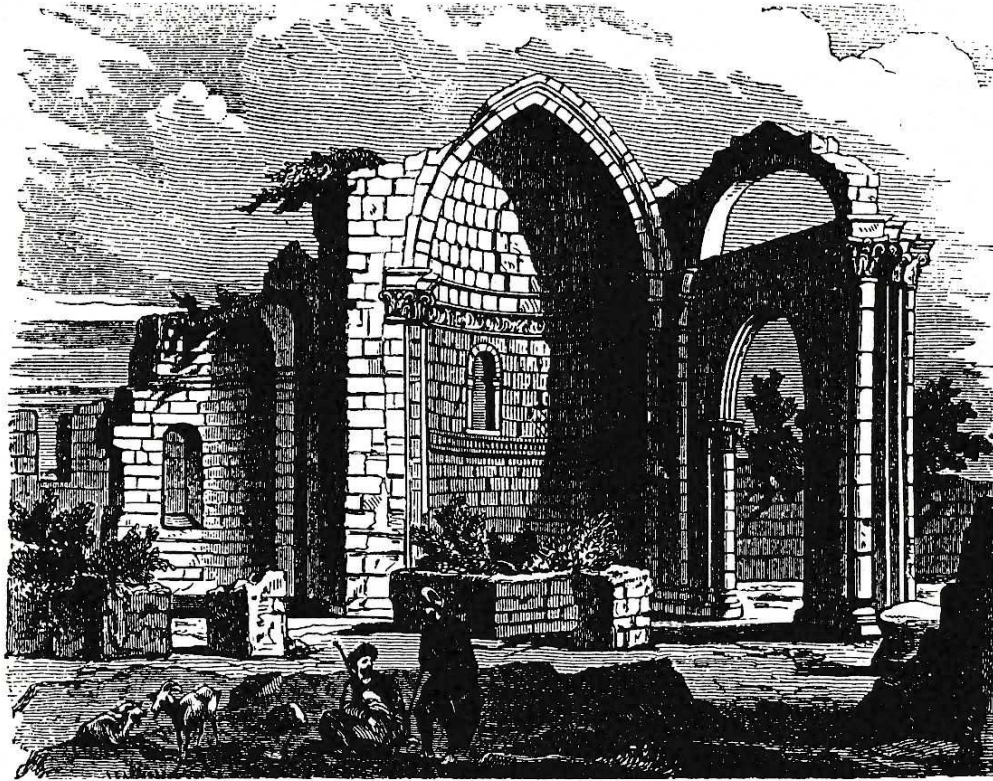
Anne Medhurst



Few now can remember the airfield at Bokesbourne when it was Canterbury Airodrome in the 1920s. Here you have the aircraft standing on the grass runway outside the hangar. The road up to the hangars is now lined with houses.

J.P.

George of Lydda



The Church of St. George, Lydda, near Jaffa

“Among men my name is George. But my name before all else is ‘Christian’.” So wrote a Syrian of the second Christian century, whose name, in so many different forms and languages, is favourite in many lands and who became the Patron Saint of England. The story of his sufferings has acquired a legendary quality, told as it is in all the tongues of the area, Syriac, Coptic, Greek, Amharic, Armenian and Arabic.

It seems that he was buried at Lydda where early in the third century there was a church with his name. It may be that his martyrdom occurred in the reign of Decius. The later Emperor Diocletian had a special malice against his memory.

His secretary, Pasocrates, is credited with the first narrating of his story, which finds George proceeding from Lydda to Tyre to claim his coming of age rights (his father having died when he was ten). He was confronted with a demand to sacrifice to the pagan gods and with the deadly array of instruments of torture should he refuse.

Refuse he did. The words above are part of his interrogation. His execution may have been immediate, or he was subjected to protracted threats, which would perhaps explain why the embroidery of legend has him ‘dying’ numerous times. Two servants, rather like those of David Livingstone, brought his body by ship from Tyre to Jaffa and buried him in Lydda. He was among the youngest of the famous saints. There are innumerable churches hallowed in his name including the Anglican Cathedral in Jerusalem.

Bishop Kenneth Cragg

** The above article is taken from the Bible Lands Society’s magazine.*

The three Cs

At a Parish Council meeting on the 12th April, it was decided to ask for the co-operation of all car users, in and around Bridge, in observing a voluntary code of good manners in the driving and parking of vehicles.

In practising Courtesy, Consideration for others, and Commonsense it is hoped that parking in bus-stop spaces, double parking, parking on double yellow lines, on or near corners, on pavements, and emptying ashtrays at the kerbside may be obviated. "I'll only be a minute," could be someone else's last!

Visit to Jordan

by Joy Monk

I have recently returned from a trip to Jordan, land of the Old Testament ancient civilisations and Roman conquests.

We started off in Amman, built on the old city of Rabbah of the Ammonites (Samuel II), now a modern, bustling, noisy city. But some things never change throughout the ages: we were staying in a modern hotel overlooking dual carriage-ways; on the other side were villas with sparse grass lawns. Looking out of my window I suddenly saw a herd of goats—black and silky—plus one old man, one donkey and one young boy, who without looking to right or left, all crossed the busy roads causing the traffic to come to a shrieking halt. I guess the grass was greener on the other side!

One day we went to the Dead Sea and all busily photographed the hazy outlines of Jericho and Jerusalem on the other side of the Sea. We also went to Mount Nebo where Moses was shown the Promised Land, and where there is now a lovely small church containing the most superb mosaics.

The highlight of our trip was to visit Petra, the rose-coloured stone city of the Nabatheans, and then expanded by the Romans. The vast complex can only be reached via a narrow gorge and on horseback. So I, who have never been on a horse in my life before—to put it delicately—was hauled like a sack of coal on to a docile horse with a quiet old Arab guide and with the rest of our group trundled down the dark gorge for nearly a mile until suddenly we came to a clearing and face to face with a huge carved monument, known as the Treasury, and truly of rose-pink coloured stone. There, we dismounted and continued on foot exploring other parts of the 'hidden' city, such as the amphitheatre, Royal tombs, sacrificial rooms, etc, etc.

We eventually regained our coach, all of us tired but exhilarated by the fabulous sights we had seen. We travelled on to Aqaba on the Red Sea and where Lawrence of Arabia fought against the Turks.

Bekesbourne Flowers at Easter

It was with particular pleasure that the flower arrangers at Bekesbourne decorated the church for Easter Sunday.

The family of the late Honor Johnston kindly donated the flowers in her memory which continued her strong family link with the village. Honor, then a Ramsey was born and raised together with her six brothers and sisters at Howletts, the then family home—and the beautiful oak pulpit in Bekesbourne was given to the church by her father in memory of a brother tragically killed as a young man in a flying accident.

Her memories of regularly walking sedately to Bekesbourne church as a child on Sunday mornings with all her family were often recalled.

Her marriage to her late husband Kenneth took place at Canterbury Cathedral and the following years were spent not many miles away at Boughton.

They retired to Patricbourne where Honor continued to live following Kenneth's death in 1987. Always a strong supporter of any charity event the family tribute was accepted in the same vein as Honor had always accepted any request of her time—with willingness, enthusiasm and pleasure. In latter years Honor's fortitude in life depicted her amazing strength of character, and as a village it is our privilege that her family links continue to flourish through to the next generation in her middle son, Ian.

A lovely gesture in memory of a lovely lady.

Christine Ash

Bridge Parish Council

At the meeting of the Parish Council on 12th April, the first items discussed were those arising from the Annual Parish meeting held on the 29th March. Following a suggestion for time-controlled car parking in the High Street area, the Clerk was asked to make enquiries about introducing such restrictions and at the same time, to find out whose responsibility it was to provide off-street car parking in the village, which would become necessary if time restrictions came into force. Also as a result of a suggestion put forward at the Parish meeting, it was decided to make an appeal to all residents to keep their frontages clean and tidy.

Tree Planting Four new trees have been planted in the Recreation Ground to continue the line along the footpath to the school. The Parish Council would like to convey their grateful thanks to the W.I. who have kindly gifted one of them, a copper beech, to commemorate their 70th Anniversary last year. The trees are now being looked after by Cllr Mrs Billie Anderson who has undertaken to water them regularly and to put a bark mulch around their base.

In the pipeline Safety surfacing is to be put around the most vulnerable pieces of playground equipment this summer.

Work on the new bus shelter on the bridge by the newsagents is to commence shortly. Cllr Mrs Meriel Connor, the Councillor responsible for footpaths, reported that the Chairman of the East Kent Ramblers Association had offered to put in order all the rights of way in the Parish, which includes cutting the surfaces

**PARISH
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Parish Council
News



—waymarking and signposting. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring up to the required standards all the footpaths in the area and the Parish Council are most appreciative of this gesture.

Achievements Once the Parish Council had brought to the County Council's attention that the mechanical road sweeper could not clean the Plough and Harrow/Post Office side of the High Street because of parked cars, the County Council arranged recently for the area to be coned off and the gutters swept by a two man team.

Cllr Mrs Margaret Jones has compiled, at the request of the City Council, a list of streets in the village requiring new name plates, or replacement ones.

The Chairman, Cllr John Hill, conveyed his thanks to Cllr Ken Greenaway for putting up outside the Village Hall the new village noticeboard. This has been paid for out of funds provided by the Kent County Council in the *Best Kept Village* competition last year and is for the use of villagers to display short-term notices of forthcoming events.

Planning Proposals The Council had no observations to make on applications for a two-storey side extension to 12 Bridge Down or for a garage and kitchen extension at 9 Windmill Close, but they had objected strongly to an application for a two-bedroom cottage (including the demolition of three garages) on land at the rear of Kent House, High Street. They were in favour of a Tree Preservation Order relating to Sidehill Wood. Recent decisions by the City Council included the

granting of permission for the erection of a double garage extension, Owletts, Beech Hill, a first floor extension to workshop, David Clark Motorcycles, Brewery Lane and a sittingroom extension at 'The Lodge', Brewery Lane. However, permission had been refused for the change of use from hardware shop to hot food takeaway at 6 Western Avenue and for the installation of replacement window and French Door at 26 The Close, Union Road.

Pleas to residents *Firstly:* please do not put household refuse in our village litterbins! They are designed for litter only and as they are only emptied once a week by the City Council, they just cannot cope with household waste as well. *Secondly:* The Parish Council have decided to hold another Litter Day, this year on Saturday 28th April. Assembly point is the rear of the Village Hall and the starting time is 9.30am. The Councillors are looking for

as many willing pairs of hands as possible so **please** spare a little of your time that day and come along to support your Council in this worthwhile project.

The next meeting of the Parish Council, when officers and Committees are appointed for the ensuing year, will be on Thursday, 10th May at 7.30pm in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall.

KA Walder, Clerk

PART-TIME STREET CLEANER REQUIRED

Bridge Parish Council require a **STREET CLEANER** on a part-time basis. Equipment provided. Hours and pay by negotiation. Would suit young or retired person. Contact Parish Clerk on 830057.

Fish News



Our annual **Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale** will be held on Saturday, June 2nd in Bridge Village Hall from 10.30 am to 12 noon. There will be stalls for cakes, groceries, gifts, plants, 'white elephants' and a raffle. 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 most people being cared for in the community our work increases every year. Please come and give us your support.

Orchard Tour As in previous years we have been invited to take a party of retired people for a car tour through the orchards of Highland Court Farm. In order to see the blossom at its peak the date has to be fixed at 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 Western Avenue, opposite Green Court, at 2.15pm on Wednesday, May 2nd. Although we are fully booked there may be a few seats available to last minute cancellations.

Chiropody The Mobile Clinic will be in the village from May 8th to 11th, to replace the session which was cancelled recently. New appointments are being sent out.

Coffee Pop-In will be in Bridge Village Hall from 10.15 to 11.45am on Wednesday, May 9th. **Tea Pop-In** will be on Thursday, May 24th from 2.15 to 3.45pm

Joan Warren, 830233

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

Hon Secretary: Mr T. J. Flisher, 52 Riverside Close, Bridge CT4 5TN (830871)

Hon Treasurer: Mr K. Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patricbourne CT4 5BU (830947)

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

Organist (Bridge):

Organist (Patricbourne): Mrs R.M. Stacey, Joclet, Keepers Hill, Patricbourne CT4 5BT (830205)

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:

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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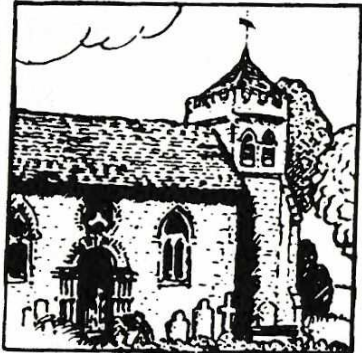
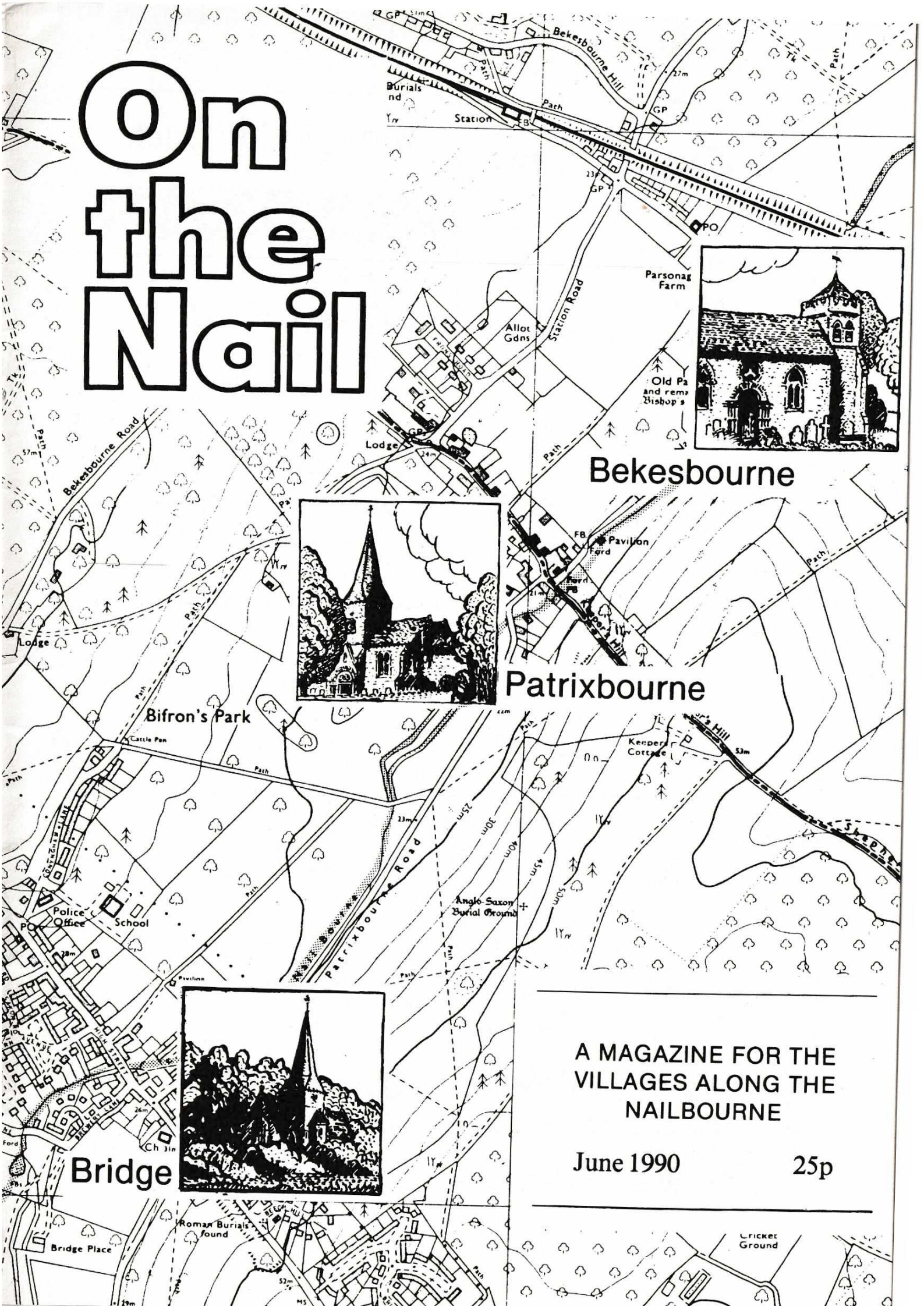
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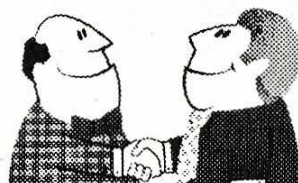
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Sunday Worship in June

Bridge	Patricxbourne	Bekesbourne
3rd: 11am Family Service: Eucharist with Holy Baptism 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion
10th: 9.30 The Eucharist (<i>ASB Rite A</i>) 6.30pm Evensong	11am Matins	8am Holy Communion
17th: 9.30 Parish Communion (<i>ASB Rite A</i>) 6.30pm Evensong (<i>Canon F Bull</i>)	8am Holy Communion	11am Matins
24th: 8am Holy Communion 6.30pm Evensong	9am Holy Communion	11am Matins
1st July: 11am The Eucharist with Confirmation (<i>Bishop David Say</i>) 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion 4pm Holy Baptism	9.30 Parish Communion

● *Following the 9.30am Eucharist at Bridge on the second Sunday of each month coffee and biscuits are served at the back of the church. Donations will be gratefully received to help our sister parish of Bekesbourne reach its Church Urban Fund target.*

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *3rd*, Mr Hugh Sheehan *10th*, *Holy Communion*, The Revd Sheila Foreman *17th*, Dr Christine Pilkington *24th*, Mr R H Peacock

Junior Church meets every Sunday morning from 9.30 to 10.30 in Bridge Village Hall, except the first Sunday when the Family Service is held.

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, 6th at 10.15am. The New Close service is each Wednesday at 2.30pm, and non-residents are always most welcome to share in this short informal act of worship.

For your diary and prayer list

- 1st *Justin, Martyr at Rome, c165*
- 2nd Fish Scheme Annual Coffee Morning, Bridge Village Hall, 10.30am to 12 noon
- 3rd *Pentecost* (Whit Sunday)
This being a major church festival the 11am Family Service will again be

- a Eucharist, and also as last month there will be a baptism within it.
- 5th *St Boniface, Bishop, Missionary, Martyr, 754*
 Patricbourne with Bridge PCC, Bridge Methodist Church, 7.30pm
- 7th Hospital League of Friends Coffee Morning, Bournes Corner, 10am to 12 noon.
 Prayers for Health and Healing, 68 Bridge Down, 7pm
- 9th *St Columba, Abbot of Iona, Missionary, 597*
 Pray for Adrienne Stamp and Keith Motion to be married in St Peter's Church, Bridge at 3pm.
- 10th *Trinity Sunday*
- 11th *St Barnabas the Apostle*
- 13th Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15 to 11.45am
- 14th *St Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea, Teacher of the Faith, 379*
 Bridge Parish Council, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
- 16th **BRIDGE VILLAGE FÊTE** (*See the Posters for details and see you there!*)
- 17th *First Sunday after Trinity: Pentecost 2*
- 19th Bridge with Patricbourne Women's Institute, Bridge Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 20th Bridge School Governors meeting
- 21st Bekesbourne PCC meeting, School House, School Lane, 8pm
- 22nd *St Alban, first Martyr of Britain, c209*
- 24th *Birth of St John the Baptist* [Trinity 2, Pentecost 3]
- 28th *St Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, Martyr, c200*
 Fish Scheme Tea Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 2.15 to 3.45pm
- 29th *St Peter the Apostle* The Eucharist, St Peter's, Bridge 7.30pm

The year in retrospect

The vicar's report at Patricbourne with Bridge's Annual Church Meeting looked back over the parish's year as these extracts show:

The PCC is expected to meet at least four times a year and has done so, and . . . this year there've been a few changes in PCC officers. Douglas Hill, after doing great service as Hon Treasurer, asked to be relieved of the post, and the PCC, in accepting his resignation, offered its heartfelt thanks for all the time, energy, expertise and love he has put at its disposal. In welcoming Keith Nicholson as his successor we leaped at Doug's suggestion that he become our first ever Parish Covenants Officer. The other change is in Hon Secretary. Richard Whatley has done that job with diligence, but being in a highly demanding and time-consuming line of business and a conscientious chap to boot, felt he couldn't do the secretary's job properly, so resigned. I was very pleased indeed when Tim Flisher agreed to take over; although with this meeting just round the corner it wasn't exactly the best time to start.

Musically speaking

There have, of course, been other changes in church officials, supremely in both churches' music departments. In saying which, however, I believe Rosalie Stacey had already become organist at Patricbourne by the time of the Annual Meeting, but I would like to say how much we appreciate what Rosalie has achieved at St Mary's, particularly by including other instruments and young musicians in the worship, to very good effect. At Bridge the departure of

Martin Miles left us thoroughly bereft, for he wasn't just a most accomplished and professional organist but also a superlative choir trainer. He also had an affection for the church community at Bridge, which feeling was mutual. The subsequent disbanding of the choir has seemed to many a strange tactic, but I have to say membership had dwindled even while Martin was still in charge and after Bill Rose and I had agonized on the subject for some time this seemed the only sensible, if regrettable course to follow. On the credit side it has at least left the way clear for the young choir, which was feeling swamped by the grown ups, to blossom. Sadly they can't sing as regularly as we and they might like for lack of a trainer. I'm afraid the organist situation in the Canterbury area as a whole has reached an impasse, for whereas competent players do exist, none of them wants a regular commitment. The service Mrs Imogen Sayer and Dr Lewis Ryder offer us is most valuable; we are indeed lucky to have such proficient and willing stand-bys. We won't mention the vicar's occasional contributions!

Now to other matters to do with the ecclesiastical parish! I stress 'ecclesiastical parish' because our concerns are not like the parish councils'. And this prompts me to remind everyone of a feature about our parish that we might be tempted to overlook, that whereas Bridge and Patricbourne come under different civil authorities they constitute a single ecclesiastical parish. Like many such nowadays we are one parish with more than one church. We are two quite distinct Christian congregations, each worshipping in its own church, yet we are in reality one parish, and for our own good that's how we must see ourselves. This means that because we may happen to identify closely with one of those churches, we're not excused from having any feelings towards or concern about the other. By and large I think we understand this, but I'm sure the point needs remaking every so often, and this meeting is the place for it.

Keynote of greater commitment

Taking an overall picture I feel the keynote of this past year for us has been increased commitment, which has manifested itself in a number of areas of church life. I've already mentioned the choir, which doesn't only consist of girls but includes also two very keen boys. There is greater commitment to Junior Church, seen both among children and leaders, and this year we've arrived at an interesting stage of development, with a bevy of Junior Church children having moved on to the next stage of Christian commitment. They form the core membership of *Hearsay*, a group led by Andrea Nicholson that channels their burgeoning imagination and initiative into some worthwhile areas of mutual and outside benefit. Further growth is found in the largest confirmation preparation group I have ever had.

But I sense deeper commitment elsewhere, with somewhat older age groups becoming more involved in various aspects of church life, including—I'm pleased to say—the worshipping life. Eighty-nine communicants on Easter morning at Bridge and about half that number at Patricbourne can't be bad! Also present at both were some pre-confirmation age children and some adults who are not yet confirmed but, who knows, one day probably will be. The warmth of feeling at both those eucharists was very noticeable, and made for a truly wonderful, spiritual festival.

Year's highspot

Amongst the year's memorable events the archbishop's visit must come high

on the list. The initial impetus came, as you probably know, via his diocesan chaplain and our erstwhile organist, David Maple, and it was a real honour and delight to have Archbishop Robert with us—and David too for that matter. A day or so afterwards I received a most encouraging personal letter from the archbishop, which left me in no doubt that he greatly enjoyed his time with us, and benefitted hugely from the warm and friendly atmosphere he found here. He said it was particularly welcome after a gruelling week at the General Synod

On the healing front

It's good to report growth also in the healing ministry here. Fifth Sundays aren't that frequent, yet the ministry of the laying on of hands that we now offer during fifth Sunday eucharists at Bridge is serving a need. The twice-monthly meetings of prayer for health and healing continue to be the main work of healing in this church, however, and I hope by now it is realized that these meetings are not restricted to a close, select group, but open to all-comers. We always welcome subjects for prayer from anyone, whether they come or not. A number of parishioners support the periodic deanery healing services, and I try to publicize these well in advance.

Encouraged by the PCC's support my wife Rosemary attended a diocesan training course to assist in the laying of hands with prayer and is now serving her probationary year, at the end of which it is hoped she will receive the Bishop of Dover's official permission to exercise this particular ministry as Enid Wintle already has.

And finally . . .

I trust you will forgive any deficiencies or omissions in all this, and in accepting this report also accept my very sincere thanks for so much love and support as I exercise the ministry here it has pleased God to give me.

Rosemary and I are most appreciative of the many signs of friendship and loving concern that come our way, especially for your prayers, all of which help to make the task so much lighter and rewarding. I believe that our parish has been greatly blessed these past twelve months and pray it may continue. I commend all of us to the prayers of all, for only with prayer can yet greater things be done for God in these delightful villages.

Family occasions

Holy Baptism

On 29th April at St Peter's Church, Bridge the vicar christened **Margaret Isabelle Mary**, second child of John and Emily Shirley, Great Pett Oast, and the following Sunday, 6th May, also at Bridge and during the Family Service, a Eucharist, the baptism took place of **Jennifer Bridget**, first child of Jane (née Mummery) and David Martin, 3 Union Road.

Holy Matrimony

The vicar officiated at two Bridge weddings on 5th May. The first was that of **Pauline Griffiths** and **Julian Randall**, 10 Union Road, both already members of the congregation of St Peter's. In the afternoon the wedding took place of **Paula Harris**, 56 Bridge Down and **Steven Prior** of Maidstone. Both couples were blessed with fine weather: an omen we pray of the life before them. Pauline and Julian returned from the honeymoon by the following Sunday

and as it was Bridge's 'coffee morning' they brought a piece of wedding cake for everyone in the congregation; a delightful touch that was much appreciated.

Bekesbourne Church Finances

At the annual church meeting at the end of April, as Hon Treasurer I had to say that it looks as if Bekesbourne will have to face real deficits in its finances unless we can increase our regular, committed income. 1989 was the second year running when expenditure had exceeded income by some £400. In 1988 that could be explained by the fact that we had bought a new mower for the churchyard. But there was no such easy explanation for 1989. Our small reserves of £4,000 will not last long at this rate, especially as costs for the church, as for each one of us, continue to rise and this year, 1990, we are having to take from our reserves nearly £2,000 for the vestry floor and some work to the roof.

St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne relies on its small congregation and a few others who make a regular contribution to the running costs of the parish through the envelope scheme and deeds of covenant (and we are very grateful to them all for their support!). In addition there are the collections at services, the regular events such as the Christmas market, and occasional events such as the recent concert. Unfortunately these are no longer enough.

I would ask anyone who cares about Bekesbourne to consider making a regular contribution (see note 2 below).

Notes:

1. Here is a summary of the 1989 income and expenses.

Income:

Covenants and envelope scheme	1,808
Events (Christmas market and concert)	393
Collections and donations	1,279
Other	580
	<u>4,060</u>

Expenses:

Local expenses (Heat, light, insurance, services, vicar's expenses, building maintenance etc)	1,874
Parish 'share'*	2,606
	<u>4,480</u>

Deficit (420)

*The parish share is the contribution to diocesan costs, most of which comes back to the parish as a contribution to the vicar's salary.

2. If you pay income tax and want to contribute to church funds, the most beneficial way for the parish is for you to enter into a deed of covenant. We can then add to your contribution by getting back the tax you have paid. Covenants are for a minimum of four years, but there are no penalties if you find you cannot keep up the payments.

David Millyard

● If you turn to page 13, after the Diocesan News and advertisements, you will find a helpful article on Deeds of Covenant by Douglas Hill, Patricxbourne with Bridge Covenants Officer.

Deeds of Covenant

IMPROVED CHANGES IN THE PROCEDURE FOR RECLAIMING TAX

By Douglas Hill, Patrixbourne with Bridge Covenants Officer

The 1990 Budget recently introduced further improved changes in the procedure for reclaiming tax under the relaxed method of collection by Diocesan House from the Inland Revenue, as reported in our February 1990 *On The Nail*.

From the Tax Year 1990/91 the threshold level for collection by the relaxed method has been increased from £175 to £400 per annum. The effect of this means that covenants which *do not* exceed £400 per annum will require the completion of the 'Certificate of Deduction of Income Tax' *in the first year only* of each covenant. Where, however, covenants exceed £400 per annum, this 'certificate' will continue to be required to be completed annually.

A further improvement in the 'tax reclaimed' procedures concerns donations given to parishes after 1st October 1990, between the levels of £600 to £5,000. These can be dealt with and tax reclaimed in one year instead of over a four year span. All donations under £600 will be dealt with as before on a Loan and Waiver/four year deed of covenant basis.

Music at Bekesbourne

Saturday, 5th May was a perfect summer evening for a concert in Bekesbourne Church of music by Purcell and Handel, Bach and Bruckner. Once again we enjoyed an excellent performance by students from the University—this year it was the inaugural concert of the Chamber Music Society—with Emma Peers conducting the Chamber Choir, plus a brass ensemble, flautist Helen King and organist David Cresswell.

About seventy people squeezed into School House afterwards for a party. The food seems to have been appreciated by the students, who have asked if they can come again next year!

A much-needed £165.00 was raised for church expenses (see the article on page 8). Many thanks to all who supported us, helped in any way or contributed to the supper.

Jane Millyard

Church Urban Fund

by Andrea Nicholson, Patrixbourne with Bridge Representative

I have recently had a letter from Joan Haig, a member of St Aidan's, Sheffield, our CUFlink parish. She writes:

I am writing to ask if you and your friends at Bridge and Patrixbourne would be interested in supplying second hand good quality clothing to us on a one month a year basis.

We are opening a shop with the church and the community working together. We have called ourselves 'Genesis'.

The idea came after the cut backs in social benefits, when our local people found life more difficult. So the shop had been purchased by the Diocese and is now in progress of being repaired and got ready.

We are a non-profit making concern. We just want to provide a service to the people of Manor. We are hoping to have twelve suppliers who we hope will be responsible for supplying our stock one month a year and

transporting it to us. This will give us a completely new stock each month. This is perhaps a practical way for you to help. We are hoping the shop will open perhaps late summer.

This letter gives us an opportunity to help our *Church Urban Fund* link parish in a very practical way. Anne Mummery has said she will store donations and Stephen Pike and I will also act as collection points. Please start looking out good second hand clothing soon as a considerable amount will be required to stock a shop for a month.

Maurice made it!

Maurice Smith of 18 The Close, Union Road writes:

I successfully completed the London Marathon even though struck by a mystery illness over that weekend—could it have been due to scoffing too much pasta in an attempt to carbohydrate-load? I crossed the line behind a tomato, a carrot, and some very fat bodies. The final sum in support for the local British Legion Welfare Fund is not in at the time of going to print but it will be very considerable. Very many thanks to all my supporters.

He adds a PS—Never again! From us all, especial the Bridge Royal British Legion branch, well done, Maurice! Are you sure you won't have another go?

The Nailbourne Youth Club has now been in operation for nine months, and we have a regular attendance of twenty people. We are hoping to increase this number with new members. If you used to come when we were in Bridge and have stopped since we moved to Bishopsbourne, please let us know the reason and give us another try. If you have friends interested please bring them along.

We are also in need of adult helpers on a rota system, *i.e.* one week in every six would be most appreciated.

On a Friday night we are hoping to run a Music Evening for the over fourteens; please let us know if you are interested and bring along your own records and tapes. Telephone Kirsty on (0227) 830529.

Forthcoming events include an outing to Thorpe Park or Chessington in May or June, a barbecue in June, Jumble Sale in July, indoor summer camp for a long weekend, putting on a play in October (all budding amateur actors needed) and a Toy Fayre in November.

Contributed

Bridge Recreation Ground

The Recreation Ground is for the enjoyment of all, but certain activities have to be excluded because of their hazardous nature. Such a one is the exclusion of dogs. Another is horse-riding which, it must be made clear, not only ruins pitches, but presents a hazard to children no matter how well-controlled the horse is.

R.J.F.

From the 1990 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Since the Patribourne with Bridge Annual Parochial Church Meeting was poorly attended we shall, over the following months, give wider publicity to the reports made at it. Perhaps reading these reports will make the majority of the Electoral Roll members who stayed away wish they hadn't! We begin with

Andrea Nicholson's report on the activities of the Church Youth Group, 'Hearsay':

Our Sunday evening youth fellowship group has recently celebrated its first birthday. We enter our second year with an average attendance at our fortnightly meetings of twelve to fourteen members. During the last year meetings have been a mixture of informal discussions, drama evenings, craft sessions or just an opportunity to have fun. This mixture is devised so that we have time for inward thought and education some evenings, whilst enjoying the fellowship of a like-minded group at all times. Some older members of the group are at present preparing for confirmation.

During the course of the year the group has been privileged to be invited to have a meeting in the homes of other church members. The liaison this induces between those of various ages is very worthwhile and such evenings have been enjoyed by *all* participants.

The next year will see changes in the 'Hearsay' group. The enthusiasm to join among older Junior Church members is phenomenal and will result in September in a much expanded group with hopefully some boys involved. To do justice to the hopes and ideals of the new group will necessitate a lot more planning and organisation than that of last year. The active participation of more adults will also be needed.

On The Nail Noticeboard

Hospital League of Friends

Everyone is invited to a coffee morning at Bournes Corner, Bekesbourne Road, Bridge between 10am and noon on Thursday, 7th June. There will be a Bring and Buy Stall, local pottery for sale and a Raffle. Swimming will be available (weather permitting) for a small extra charge. Please come and support the local hospitals and bring your friends.

Maggie Field

Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute

At the meeting on 19th, the speaker will be Mr Wait, subject 'Gardening'. New members always welcomed.

Joan Monk



Bridge Parish Council

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 10th May, Cllr John Hill was re-elected Chairman for the ensuing year and Cllr Mervyn Gulvin Vice-Chairman. The following appointments were also made: *Recreation Ground Committee*—The Vice-Chairman, Cllr Ken Greenaway and Cllr Reg Franklin (who is also the Council's representative on the Bridge Village Sports Trust). *Streets, Footways & Lighting Committee*—Cllrs Greenaway and Mrs Margaret Jones. *Environmental Committee*—Cllr Mrs Billie Anderson (Trees), Cllr Mrs Meriel Connor (Foot-

paths), Cllr Franklin and Mrs Jones. *Planning Committee*—The Chairman, Cllrs Tim Hoare and Mrs Connor. *Representatives to Village Hall Management Committee*—Cllrs Greenaway and Mrs Ann King. *Mary Gregory Trust*—Cllr Mrs King and Mr Peter Lawrence. *Kent Association of Parish Councils*—Representatives to Area Committee—Cllrs Mrs Anderson and Mrs Connor. *Youth Club Representative*—The Vice-Chairman.

Parishioners seeking advice on specific matters should try to contact, if available, the appropriate Councillors.

Helpful signs! The East Kent Ramblers Association it would appear have started to put our village rights of way in order. Smart new signs have appeared at the start to some of our paths.

There has been an improvement so far this season in the standard of cutting in the Recreation Ground and the Council's appreciation of this has been passed on to the County Council.

There is the possibility of obtaining a bottlebank for the village by the autumn of this year.

Concerns Following a justified complaint about tipping and even burning in Mill Lane, a letter is to be sent to all those residents of Ford Close whose gardens back on to that road, asking for their co-operation in putting a stop to the problem. The Council were also most concerned to learn that residents were using the Recreation Ground for horse riding. They would ask that such a practice cease immediately as it is not only causing damage to the turf but also poses a possible danger to young children

Your 'Listening Council' As a result of a suggestion from a resident, the Council are to investigate the cost of tree planting along the far side of the Recreation Ground to act as a sound barrier for the Bypass.

Again, a resident has prompted the

Council to renew a request to the County Council to consider putting a continuous white line in the centre of the road on Town Hill towards the crossroads to prevent vehicles from overtaking.

A quiet time for planning Only two applications for planning permission had been received in the last month. The Council had no objections in principle to the revised plans relating to the change of use for the Old Telephone Exchange, High Street, Bridge, from Offices to a dwelling, or to an application for a replacement sign at East Bridge Guest House on Bridge Hill. Despite strong objection from the Parish Council, the City Council have granted planning permission for a two-bedroom dwelling on land to the rear of Kent House, High Street.

Help for the Nailbourne Scout Group

The Council agreed to support an application from the Scout Group for £150 from the City Council's Lottery Fund.

The next meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday, 14th June will be at the usual time of 7.30pm in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall. *K Walder, Clerk*

Fish News



The Blossom Tour proved to be a great success. It was a beautiful day and our party of fifty-two enjoyed a glimpse of the sea in addition to a delightful tour through the countryside, which was looking at its best. *Age Concern*, Hythe provided us with a magnificent tea in their newly-opened Day Centre and treated us to a free raffle. May I thank our volunteers whose efforts contributed so much to the smooth running and success of the afternoon. Unfortunately we had to abandon our plans for the Orchard Tour. A severe frost damaged the early blossom and the sudden heatwave shortened the life of the late blossom.

* * *

Please don't forget our Annual Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale in Bridge Village Hall on Saturday, 2nd June from 10.30am to 12 noon. We always have a large plant stall and we would be grateful for your surplus plants, cuttings and bedding plants. If you can't be with us we can arrange to collect contributions—or they can be left at the hall from 9.30am on the day.

The Mobile Chiropody Clinic will be in the village from 5th to 8th June. The Coffee Pop-In will be in Bridge Village Hall from 10.15am to 11.45am on Wednesday, 13th and the Tea Pop-In on Thursday, 28th from 2.15pm to 3.45pm.

Joan Warren, 830233

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Hon Treasurer: Mr K. Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patricxbourne CT4 5BU (830947)

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

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

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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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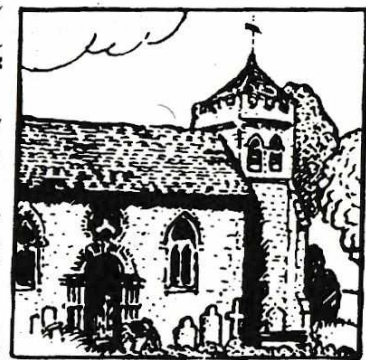
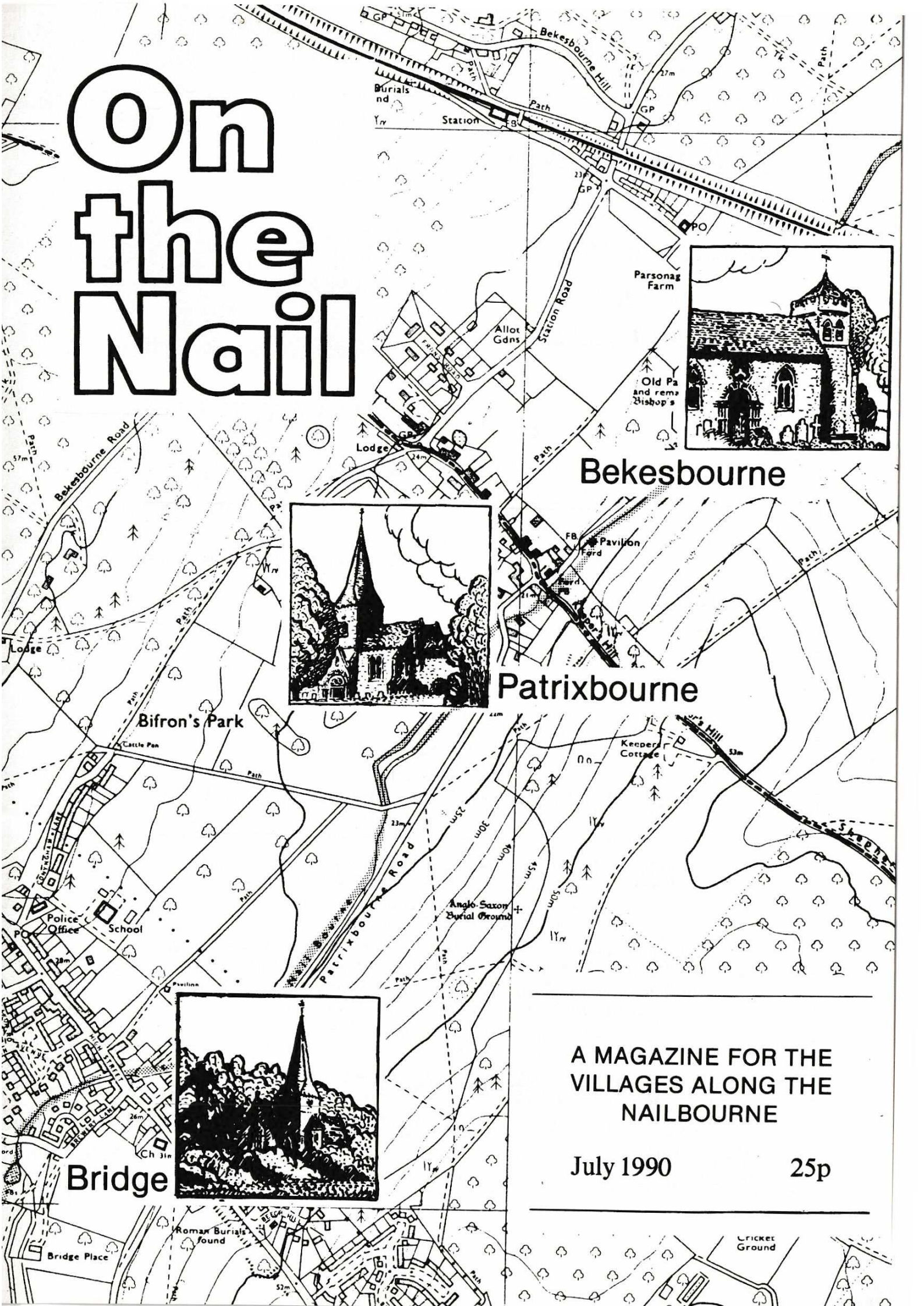
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Bekesbourne



Patrixbourne



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July 1990

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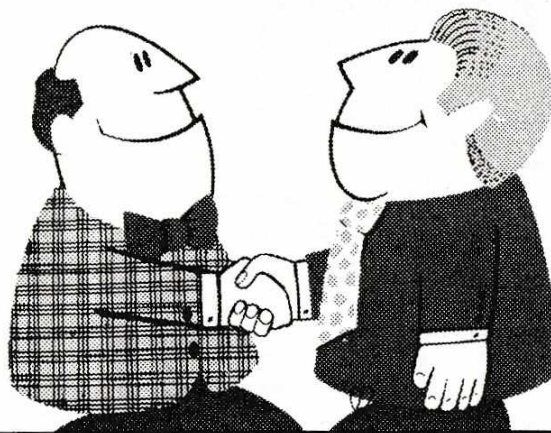
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Sunday Worship in July

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

1st:

11am The Eucharist
with Confirmation
(*Bishop David Say*)

8am Holy Communion
4pm Holy Baptism

9.30 Parish Communion
(*Revd W. Owen*)

6.30pm Evensong

8th:

9.30 The Eucharist
(*ASB Rite A*)

11am Matins

8am Holy Communion

6.30pm *Deanery Family Festival Service*

15th:

9.30 Parish Communion
(*ASB Rite A*)

8am Holy Communion

11am Matins

6.30pm Evensong
(*Canon F. Bull*)

22nd:

8am Holy Communion
(*Canon F. Bull*)

9am Holy Communion
(*Revd C. Verity*)

11am Matins
(*Revd W. Owen*)

6.30pm Evensong
(*Canon J. Packer*)

29th:

9.30 The Eucharist
(*ASB Rite A*)

11am Matins

8am Holy Communion
3.30pm Holy Baptism

6.30pm Evensong

● *Following the 9.30am Eucharist on the second Sunday of each month coffee and biscuits are served at the back of the church. Donations will be gratefully received to help our sister parish of Bekesbourne reach its Church Urban Fund target.*

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *3rd*, Mr Hugh Sheehan *10th*, *Holy Communion*, The Revd Sheila Foreman *17th*, Dr Christine Pilkington *24th*, Mr R. H. Peacock.

Junior Church meets every Sunday morning from 9.30 to 10.30 in Bridge Village Hall, except the first Sunday when the Family Service is held.

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 most welcome to share in this short informal act of worship.

For your diary and prayer list

1st *Third Sunday after Trinity : Fourth after Pentecost*

We welcome to St Peter's Church, Bridge Bishop David Say, former Bishop of Rochester and now an assistant bishop in this diocese, who

comes to celebrate the eucharist and confirm Claire Brasier, Louisa Fagg, Susan Foster, Andrew Legge, Sarah Mummery, Kathryn Reece, Melanie Swannell, Elizabeth Walder, Edward Weatherall, Lucy Wilms-hurst, Matthew Wood and Emma Young. Do remember all these in your prayers.

- 2nd *Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (See Luke 1 vv. 39ff)*
3rd *St Thomas the Apostle*
4th Roman Catholic Mass, St Peter's Church, Bridge, 7.30pm. (See article below.)
5th Prayers for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm
6th *St Thomas More, Martyr, 1535*
8th *Fourth Sunday after Trinity : Fifth after Pentecost*
This afternoon Bridge plays host to the annual Deanery Family Festival, commencing in the school at 2.30 and culminating in a service of praise in the church at 6.30pm.
11th *St Benedict, Abbot of Monte Cassino, c.550*
Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15 - 11.45am
13th Interchurch Barbecue on the Vicarage lawn, 7.30pm
14th Pray for Catherine Hawkins who today marries Colin Irwin in St Peter's Church, Bridge at 3pm.
15th *Fifth Sunday after Trinity : Sixth after Pentecost*
19th Prayers for Health and Healing, 7pm
22nd *St Mary Magdalen* Trinity 6 : Pentecost 7
25th *St James the Apostle*
26th *St Anne, Mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
29th *Seventh Sunday after Trinity : Eighth after Pentecost*

● The Vicar will be on holiday from 17th to 26th July, during which time anyone urgently requiring a priest may contact Canon Frank Bull (Tel: 830330). Please do not call on him for something that can await the Vicar's return.

A Mass of Progress

Etched on my memory from school days is something that rounded off every school assembly. The final prayer was offered and then, before various notices were given out, the door of an adjacent classroom was opened and into the hall filed a group of boys who had not been in for the prayers. They belonged to the school and wore the same uniform as the rest of us, yet there was an important difference about them which explained why they were always kept out of morning worship—they were Roman Catholics!

Sadly my old school (founded in 1520) perished with the introduction of comprehensive education, but if it still existed this curious palaver of the banished boys would by now have gone. No longer would those boys have to spend assembly-time in quarantine (catching up on homework?) for the very good reason (and it *is* good) that the present-day Roman Catholic Church wouldn't demand it. Thank God for good Pope John XXIII and his Second Vatican Council!

* * *

Contrast that boyhood experience (and it wasn't in any way unique to my school) with an event this month and we can indeed thank God for the far

greater unity all Christian Churches now share.

At 7.30 on the evening of Wednesday, 4th there will be a celebration of Mass for the local Roman Catholic community in St Peter's Church, Bridge.

For more years than I have been Vicar a Mass has been held in Bridge Church on or around St Peter's Day (the joint Feast of Saints Peter and Paul in the Roman Calendar). When I first came here it was a said Mass with the absolute minimum of Anglican involvement. Nevertheless, as the host Church, I always urged the resident congregation to attend even though we were not able to make our communion.

Over the years the two groups of Christians have become close friends through meetings at other times and for other reasons, and several years ago Canon Cronin and I took a bold step which, without being inter-communion, from which we are barred, gave us the next best thing. I began to robe and take part in the Mass as either a reader or intercessor and at the time of communion, while the Catholics made their communion at the Nave Altar the Anglicans present went to the High Altar rail where we communicated from our own sacrament, specifically reserved at a previous eucharist. So although we didn't make our communion from the one bread and wine we did at least communicate under the same roof and at the same time.

This has been a tremendous strengthening of our relationship and although it hasn't always been possible to hold this yearly Mass on St Peter's Day itself we have only once had to cancel it. That was last year and it was entirely due to the lack of an available priest. The Anglicans, however, had their own eucharist and were very touched when almost the entire local RC community attended, howbeit with the heightened pain of being unable to communicate.

* * *

This year it's all systems go again and we shall welcome our friends with Fr Chris Keen, the local RC priest, as celebrant. I do hope the 'home team' will be out in force for it is vitally important that both Churches are well represented. Recalling those ostracized boys in my youth, and many similar incidents, let's ensure that where this community is concerned such a state of affairs remains dead and buried!

* * *

The Interchurch Group hasn't met for some time but the liaisons established through it continue and the group invites you to join them at a barbecue in the Vicarage garden on Friday, 13th at 7.30pm.

To keep expenses to a minimum please bring your own cutlery, glass and food to be barbecued. Other goodies will be provided, including soft drinks.

Those wanting something stronger are welcome to bring their own drink. Something suitable to sit on would add to your comfort! Tickets are £1 and can be got from Maureen Sullivan, Sheila Fenn or Kath Pierce.

Bridge Village Fete, 1990

What can one say? The weather was superb! The organization was superb! The support was superb! The result was superb!

I know what one can say. Very many thanks from both church and school to all concerned in the most successful fete ever, from the Fete Committee under the chairmanship of Tony Walder (What an enthusiast!) to the humblest patron. Thanks also, of course, to those who came and spent, to enable us to reach the staggering figure of about £2,800.

Joys and Sorrows

There was an addition to the June Bridge Family Service Eucharist, it being Whitsuntide, when **Emma Louise Parsons**, 1 Windmill Close was baptized. On Saturday, 9th June at St Mary's Church, Patricxbourne the baptism took place of **Lorianne Thomasin Burge**. Lorianne's family lives in Singapore, but the baptism was at Patricxbourne as that is where her parents were married.

* * *

The wedding took place in St Peter's Church, Bridge on 9th June of **Adrienne June Stamp**, 63 Bridge Down and **Keith Robert Motion** from Hythe.

* * *

The following funerals took place last month: **Ronald Hawkins**, late of Union Road, Bridge, (Barham Crematorium); **Kathleen Payne**, The Haven, Aerodrome Road, (Bekesbourne Church and Churchyard) and **William Clapp** of Riverside Close, Bridge, (Barham Crematorium). Our sympathy is offered to those who mourn their departure.

On The Nail Noticeboard

Junior Church

A coffee morning hosted by Christine and John Sladden was held recently in aid of Junior Church funds. Attendance was down a little on last year but a pleasant time was had by all who came. Our thanks go to Christine and John for their hospitality.

On 26th May the younger members of Junior Church went on an outing to The Rural Heritage Centre at Elham. They saw many farm animals and some old farm equipment. The afternoon ended with a picnic tea.

Our next venture is taking twenty older children for a weekend at the Diocesan Youth Centre, Womenswold. Many activities have been organized and the chosen theme for the weekend is *To be a Pilgrim*. You'll be kept informed of the outcome.

Evelyn Andrews

Nailbourne Horticultural Society

There will be a talk and demonstration on *Preparing and Presenting Vegetables and Flowers for Exhibition* at 8pm on Wednesday, 1st August in Bridge Methodist Church. This will be a unique opportunity for old and new members who have been so far discouraged to exhibit garden produce due to lack of know-how and confidence. Mr Roger Austin and Mrs Pat Davidson will go through the Society's summer show schedule imparting sound advice and tips.

The evening promises to be a lively, informative one, which we hope will 'bear fruit' in the form of many entries for the summer show on 18th August. Please bring your show schedules (to be distributed soon) and contact the committee members if you need transport. A small charge will be made for refreshments and new members are most welcome.

R. Dasan, Secretary

S.O.S. for Sugar

Having just had a highly successful Village Fete you might think that's enough; but no, thoughts are already on the other big church social and fundraising event of the year, the Autumn Fayre. Fret not, it's not the eleventh hour, except where jam making is concerned. Ann Medhurst is all set to start but

needs the all-important sugar and thus asks for donations as soon as possible, please.

WRVS Clothing Needs

We are always pleased to receive gifts of clothing for distribution. We are especially in need of bedding linen and blankets or covers, men's and children's wear. If you are unable to bring goods to our office in Castle Row, Canterbury, and could phone 456349 arrangements could be made to collect.

Edith Sinnock

Pedal Power pulls in £££££££!!

The 1989 Sponsored Bike Ride raised over £727,000 in the country as a whole in just one day, and Kent Raised over £70,000—a magnificent effort and a wonderful help for all the chapels and churches that benefited. In 1990 twenty-four counties will join in on **Saturday, 8th September**.

All who have taken part in previous years know it is a great day out for all the family, so this is to give you plenty of time to get those bikes oiled and brakes checked. You'll be hearing from the local organizers in due course!

Kath Pierce

Here's a novelty!

From time to time old and foreign coins are found in the wall boxes of Patricbourne and Bridge Churches. If you are going to Germany, the Netherlands, Eire, Spain, Portugal or Australia I have a small selection of coins which I would like to exchange for sterling. In addition I have a selection of other foreign (mostly old) and old English coins. Is anybody interested in these coins? Please contact me on 830947.

Keith Nicholson, Hon Treasurer

Mike Windess—quite an institution!

The early retirement (of course, he's not that old) of Mike Windess as Deputy Head of Bridge and Patricbourne CE Primary School marks the end of an era and the sad loss of a most valuable and exceedingly professional member of staff. Mike was appointed by Mrs Olive Knight, so you have some idea of the length of service involved, and to say that the school is going to miss would be the understatement of the year. His musical contribution to the school has been superlative and the legacy he has given to the large number of children who have passed through his hands is incalculable. His former colleague of many years, Barbara Herbert has kindly provided this testimony.

I am wondering if my description of the delights of retirement were just too much for Mike Windess, that he couldn't resist joining the bandwagon. Both of us spent approximately the same length of time at Bridge School and during that time Mike was an excellent colleague and a very good friend.

As teacher of music and drama he was outstanding, combining thorough preparation with a charismatic style of presentation. The list of his productions is legion, everyone having their own particular favourite. The recent production of *Alice* was considered by some to be the best yet, but *they* didn't see the other *Alice*, *The Wizard of Oz* and my all time favourite *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. (He promised me we'd do *Oliver* before I finished, but sadly that was not to be.)

One thing I liked particularly about his productions and concerts was that everyone in the class could take part. Mike didn't just take the select few with

Continued on page 13

good voices, but everyone was involved who wanted to be.

In the classroom Mike's forte was in language work and I particularly admired the quality of personal writing that he produced from his fourth years. There are many old pupils who must be very grateful for the grounding received at Bridge School from Mike Windess.

They will remember too his great sense of fun and clowning. If they were in school in those early years they would have been privileged in seeing the staff pantomimes, written, produced and 'acted' in by Mike Windess. His sense of the ridiculous was epitomized by titles such as *Little Red Riding Hood and the Babes in the Wood meet Jack up the Beanstalk*.

As Deputy and occasionally Acting Head relationships meant a great deal to Mike. His friendly and caring attitude extended itself to everyone connected with the school.

Bridge School will seem a different place without Mike. I wish him the very best for the future.

Deanery Family Festival, Sunday 8th July

This annual event for the parishes of East Bridge Deanery reverts this year to the previous popular pattern of an afternoon of activities, a communal tea and an act of worship in church, and Bridge is the host parish.

The festival starts at 2.30pm in Bridge School and among the activities on offer are a chance to sing in the choir, do some drama, arts and crafts, a prayer workshop and one on *Hebrew for beginners*. *No previous knowledge necessary. Age limit, 8 to 100*. There will be something for all, and all we ask is that you turn up, if possible bring some food for the tea, and join in the fun. It is hoped the service at 6.30 in St Peter's Church, which ends the festival, will be largely made up of items prepared during the afternoon.

Good causes for thanksgiving

Christian Aid

The total collected in our three villages during *Christian Aid Week* in May was £611.32, only 10p less than last year! I should like to thank every collector on behalf of all the worthy causes throughout the world who benefit from *Christian Aid*. Also a special thank-you to all the collectors who gave up so much of their time trudging from door to door, and heartfelt thanks to Muriel Packer, without whose words of wisdom and support this—my first as organizer—would have gone a lot less smoothly.

Wendy Durell

The Samaritans

My thanks to all who helped me raise the magnificent sum of £242 for this year.

M.E.J.

Hospital League of Friends—Bridge Branch

The coffee morning at Bournes Corner, Bridge on Thursday, 7th June raised £252. Very many thanks to all who supported us. Our next event will be a Garage Sale on 15th September in Western Avenue—items for sale will be welcomed.

Maggie Field

Bridge Church Library

We would like to remind you that the lending library at the back of Bridge Church is still in business despite the church being closed most of the time. It's there for your use, please take advantage of it!

We would like to ask those who have had books out for a long time (many months in some cases) to return them so that others can have the benefit of them. We are particularly concerned about a hard-back edition of Gerald Priestland's autobiography that disappeared without being signed out and has never been seen since. It's not just the fact of losing an expensive book that we mind but that particular copy had been given in memory of someone. Maybe the person who removed it won't read this plea; the book went while the church was still left open!

From the Annual Meeting

This month we print Evelyn Andrews' report to Patricbourne with Bridge Annual Church Meeting on Junior Church activities. It makes encouraging reading.

There are now fifty-three children regularly attending Junior Church. This year we have been joined by two more helpers, Jean Hopkins and Helen Dawson.

We continue to meet on three Sundays a month; on one of these we attend the Eucharist at St Peter's. The new arrangement of children sitting with members of the congregation is proving popular with the children and, we hope, with the adults too.

As well as our Sunday sessions we like to arrange other activities. This past year we have been rambling, ice skating, carol singing and we attended the Christmas and Easter Youth services at the Cathedral and also *Mother Goose* at the Marlowe Theatre.

One of our most popular ventures was our weekend at the Womenswold Diocesan Centre. The centre itself is very basic, so we slept on the floor. The children were responsible for the cooking (with a little supervision). They also planned our Sunday worship, which turned out remarkably well and will have lasting memories.

During our time at Womenswold we incorporated discussions, craft work, barbecue, disco, midnight feast, treasure hunt and many sports.

The children's reactions were most positive—one remarking, "Let's go for a week next year". This year we do return to Womenswold on 7th-8th July, all twenty places are booked. We do ask for your prayers that it may once again be a time of fun and renewal for us all.

Our fund-raising has once again been successful; the sale of home made cards has raised about £100. In total we have donated £562 to charity.

The African Problem

by the Revd Cecil Verity

Africa is so large that it is difficult to say that a problem in one area applies to another. Most of the north of Africa is virtually Arab inhabited. If a line is drawn down the Nile almost to the far south, to the east lie the Bantu races and to the west the negroids.

For ten years I worked amongst Bantus (the word means *people* in the local languages, and one man is *muntu*, as the front of —*ntu* changes, *i.e.* *Kintu* is a thing, *bintu* things).

Ruanda was annexed to the Congo which is negroid, after the first World War when German Tanganyika was divided between the British and the Belgians. Ruanda is as dead central in Africa as you can conceive, and is one degree south of the Equator.

I went out there in 1928, a long time ago, and it took me six weeks to get there. Life was primitive, aggravated by famine, and meant living with my wife in a tent for over a year while making sun-dried bricks to build a small bungalow and dispensary. I spent ten years out there, and in February of this year I returned there once again, taking just under twenty-four hours by *Air France* to reach Kigali, the capital.

Diseases of all kinds kept the population down, the most common in those days being 'yaws' which 90% suffered from, showing itself in horrid smelly ulcers, cracked feet and painful joints. This disease has at last been almost eliminated, but one gave as many as a hundred injections daily when travelling round the district.

After fifty years away sadly I had forgotten the language, but my three weeks there were an eye-opener. The wilder parts are now game parks, but during my time there we had endless trouble from lions that had largely become man-eaters and attacked the native kraals killing cattle or humans if they came out with spears to drive them off. I always slept close to a kraal because I knew the cows would bang their horns together if they smelt lions and they would wake me up like an alarm!

The problem today is the population explosion which applies not only to Ruanda, but also to Uganda, Kenya and further south. The average family is now eight, and my African driver told me he had nine children and would no doubt have at least two or three more.

In those earlier times Ruanda was largely cattle-grazing but cows are now few and far between. The hillsides are now covered with maize, beans and sweet potatoes which are just sufficient to meet the needs of the existing population. But for the future generation I fear things look pretty bleak. Modern medicines have been both a blessing and in a certain sense a curse.

Fifty years ago morality in the country was strong; little or no thieving, as thieves had their thumbs cut off—a common sight amongst some of the elderly—and I never locked a door all the time out there. Adultery was unknown, and only the old women, as a concession to old age, were allowed to smoke.

I was glad to meet a few of the older generation who still remembered me. One of them told me I was the first white man he had ever seen. I met the Bishop, who reminded me I had baptized him when a young man in our school where we trained teachers to go out into the surrounding hillsides as evangelists and teachers. He now drives a Mercedes, but has a large district to cover. No African could drive a car when I went out, and many had never seen a car! Roads are now excellent and built by the Chinese. We had constantly to renew car springs broken through falling through culverts made of wood and eaten by white ants.

Africa goes ahead materially, but each generation seems to be faced with a fresh challenge. The population explosion and morality; now AIDS has replaced the old disease of Yaws, will be the problems of the coming generation.

A lift to church

The elderly and infirm who wish to come to church but can't manage the walk to Bridge Church are invited to contact Mrs Enid Wintle (830728) who will be delighted to arrange transport for them.



Bridge Parish Council

The Parish Council met on 14th June when, in the absence of the Chairman, Cllr John Hill, the Vice-Chairman, Cllr Mervyn Gulvin took the Chair,

Looking after the Recreation Ground

As always, management of the Recreation Ground took up a large proportion of the Meeting. A bark safety surface is planned for the immediate area around the swings, in addition to the 'Playtop' rubberised surfacing already ordered for around certain items of play equipment. It is also planned to improve the area around the pavilion by laying bark in one triangle of ground and possibly by turfing and planting at the rear. The two beeches planted this Spring are dead and will be replaced by Wealden Woodlands in the next planting season. The Recreation Ground Committee is to report on other action required regarding trees and grass cutting. Stafford House Tutorial College have again asked to use the football pitch for their students this summer, and money from their hiring of the pitch will be put towards the proposed improvements.

Perennial problems The proprietor of 'Circle C' Supermarket is to be asked to ensure that lorries use the rear access for deliveries to prevent severe congestion and illegal parking at the junction of Western Avenue and the High Street.

Litterbins are still not being emptied regularly. Would anyone noticing that any bin has not been emptied at the end of the working day on Mondays please let me know that evening (Tel: 830057) and I will

report the offending bins the following day to the City Council!

No white line for Town Hill There are various criteria to be met before a continuous white line is marked down the centre of a road and these are not met in the case of Town Hill where there is good visibility and a speed restriction already in operation.

Plans afoot The Council had no observations to make on a planning application for the erection of a first floor extension at 23 Bridge Down, but saw no reason to alter their views following amended plans received in connection with an application for a change of use to retirement home and two-storey rear extension at Field House, Station Road.

They had objected strongly in the first instance on the grounds that the location was unsuitable for such a use and the extension was so large as to alter the character of the original house.

Planning permission has been granted by the City Council for the erection of a replacement sign, including external illumination, at East Bridge Country Guest House, Bridge Hill; for the conversion of the Old Telephone Exchange, High Street to a dwelling, for a two-storey side extension at 12 Bridge Down and a single storey side extension to 9 Windmill Close.

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

K. Walder, Clerk

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7th, Mrs Whigham 14th, Mrs Ash 21st, Mesdames Smith and Hogben 28th, Mrs Farbrace.

Fish News

Thanks to the generous support of the community and the hard work of the volunteers our Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy Sale raised £202. The proceeds, combined with the grants we receive from our local parish councils and private donations, will fund the work of the Fish Scheme for the current year.

* * *

Chiropody patients will be pleased to hear that in future the Mobile Clinic will be in the village for an extra day at each visit—nine sessions instead of seven every eight weeks.

* * *

Owing to lack of support it has been decided to discontinue the Tea Pop-Ins. The Coffee Pop-Ins on the second Wednesday of every month are well supported and will be held as usual. The next Coffee Pop-In will be on Wednesday, 11th from 10.15 to 11.45am in Bridge Village Hall.

Joan Warren, 830233

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

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

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

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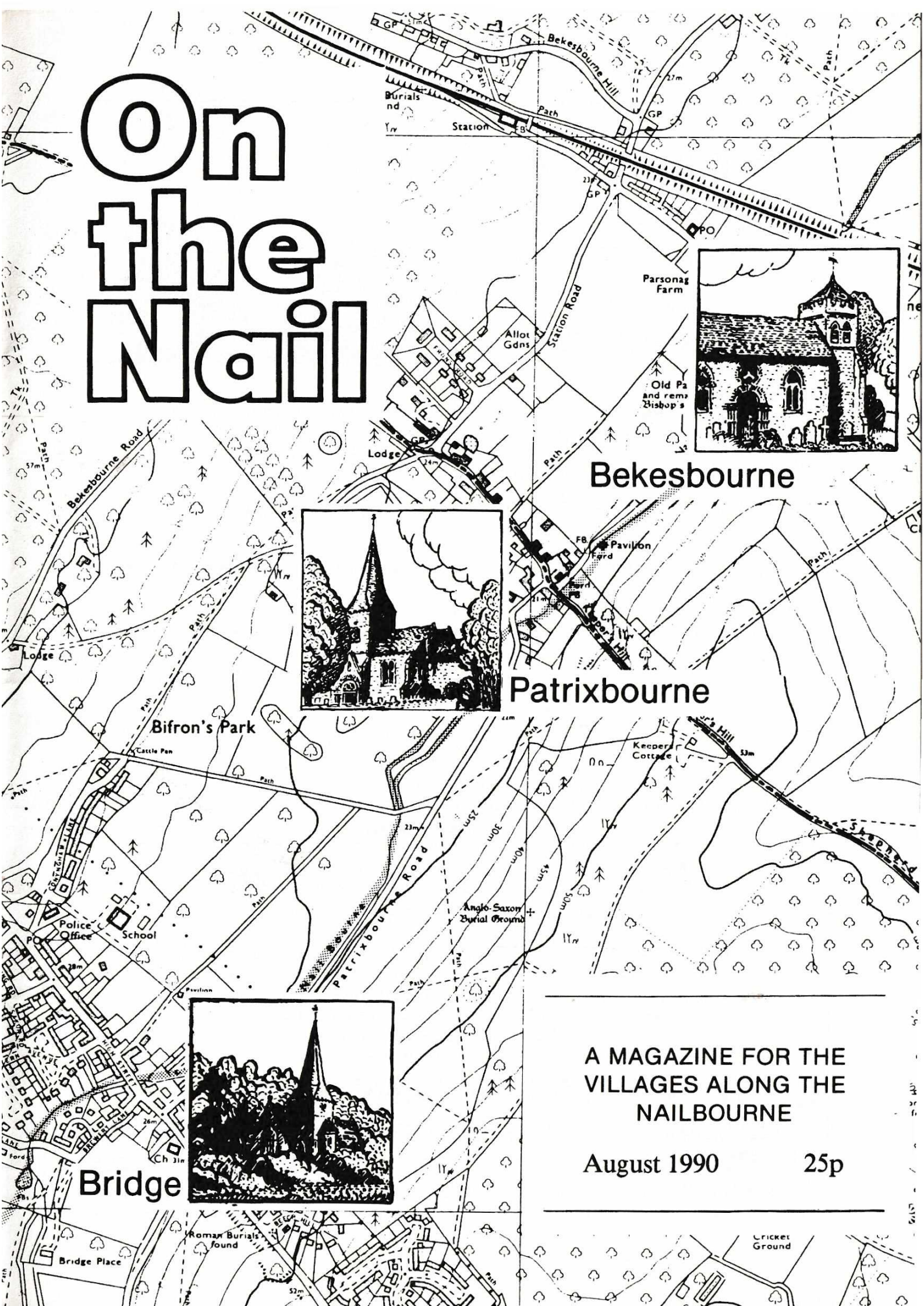
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August 1990

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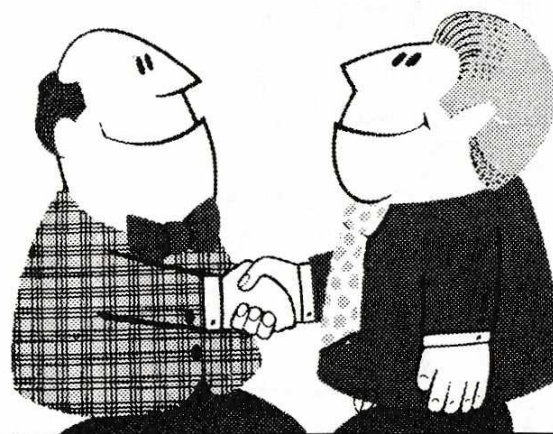
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Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

5th:

11am Family Service
with Holy Baptism

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
(*Canon F Bull*)

8am Holy Communion 11am *Songs of Praise*

26th:

8am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evensong

9am Holy Communion 11am Matins

2nd September:

11am Family Service
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion 9.30 Parish Communion

● *Following the 9.30am Eucharist at Bridge on the second Sunday of each month coffee and biscuits are served at the back of the church. Donations will be gratefully received to help our sister parish of Bekesbourne reach its Church Urban Fund target.*

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *5th*, Mr S Kentish *12th*, Holy Communion, The Revd Sheila Foreman *19th*, Mrs R Maxwell *26th*, Mr L Dron *2nd September*, Mrs H Colyer. (Note unusual spelling of 'Colyer') (*Ed: Apologies to our Methodist friends for accidentally repeating June's preachers last month.*)

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, 1st at 10.15am. The New Close service is each Wednesday at 2.30pm, and non-residents are always most welcome to share in this short, informal act of worship.

For your diary and prayer list

2nd Prayers for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm

4th *St. Dominic, Priest, Friar, 1221*

5th *Eighth Sunday after Trinity : Ninth after Pentecost*

6th *Transfiguration of our Lord*

7th Saxon Lodge Coffee Morning

8th Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15 - 11.45am

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

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

Pray for Hugh Muir-Little and Sally Gibbs who are to be married today

in St. Mary's Church, Patrixbourne at 2pm.

12th *Ninth Sunday after Trinity : Tenth after Pentecost*

16th Prayers for Health and Healing, 'Orana', Brewery Lane, 7pm

18th Pray for the soul of Leonard Appleton, sometime Vicar of Bekesbourne, a plaque to whose memory is to be dedicated in St. Peter's Church today by Canon Derek Ingram Hill.

19th *Tenth Sunday after Trinity : Eleventh after Pentecost*

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

24th *St. Bartholomew the Apostle*

25th Pray for Susan Vince and Timothy Orton who are to be married today in St. Mary's Church, Patrixbourne at 2pm.

26th *Eleventh Sunday after Trinity : Twelfth after Pentecost*

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

31st *St. Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne, 651*

Yours faithfully

If I understand secretarial etiquette correctly official letters that begin 'Dear Mr Smith' or 'Dear Mrs Jones' should end 'Yours sincerely'. If on the other hand, you use the top 'Dear Sir', as written to a firm for instance rather than a named individual, the tail should be 'Yours faithfully'. Does anybody know who decided this and why?

Looking at the dictionary for suitable synonyms for 'faithfully' it appears one could sign off 'Yours loyally', 'Yours conscientiously', 'Yours accurately' or even 'Yours exactly', dependent on which meaning of 'faithfully' is applicable in this formal context. In fact it seems to be an indication that the writer is to be trusted, someone with whom the recipient can feel safe in doing business.

What 'faithfully' in this setting clearly does not relate to is the Christian faith. 'Yours faithfully' is most certainly not an indication that the writer is a Christian nor that the anonymous addressee, who may not be a 'sir' at all, is also. It says nothing about their spiritual beliefs or lack of them, nor is it meant to.

Occasionally I receive letters from professional colleagues that end 'Yours ever', which I take to be a mild term of endearment acceptable between knowingly Christian correspondents. Perhaps 'Yours forever', of which it's probably a conflation, would be considered distinctively excessive, yet surely underlying such a final salutation is the implication that the writer wishes to pledge allegiance to the recipient for all time. It implies that the one writing the letter wishes his or her correspondent to realize that within the faith they have a common bond that will last.

* * *

On the first of last month we had a most moving and splendid Confirmation Service at St Peter's, Bridge at which, immediately after the Bishop had laid hands on the twelve candidates the capacity congregation offered a prayer for them. Amongst the blessings from God we sought for the newly-confirmed was that "they may continue yours forever". This was not of course a pledge between Christians but a request of God for his faithful soldiers and servants, that through the power of his Holy Spirit those who had taken their stand for Christ should be able to continue in their new role forever.

It's not quite comparable with a letter ending 'Yours forever' but neither is it wholly dissimilar. If we pledge our allegiance within the faith to our fellow-

Christians at the end of a letter we can surely pray that those who have just been confirmed will pledge themselves to God in Christ for all time "and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more until they come to your everlasting kingdom".

* * *

Our newly confirmed brothers and sisters in the faith, whom we welcome with joy into our company, are Claire Brasier, Louisa Fagg, Susan Foster, Andrew Legge, Sarah Mummery, Kathryn Reece, Melanie Swannell, Elizabeth Walder, Edward Weatherall, Lucy Wilmshurst, Matthew Wood and Emma Young.

More family news

Holy Baptism

On the afternoon of the Confirmation Day, 1st July, in St. Mary's Church, Patricbourne the baptism took place of **Robert William**, son of Michael and Angela Hopkins, Keepers Cottage.

Holy Marriage

The previous afternoon, 30th June, St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne was the venue for the wedding of **Nicholas Dawson**, son of Ruth and Derek of Soldanella, The Hill and **Amanda Dale** of Anerly Park, London.

Two weeks later, on 14th July at St. Peter's Church, Bridge the wedding took place of **Catherine Hawkins**, daughter of Bridget and Eric of Trafalgar, 4a Brewery Lane and **Colin Urwin** of Glengormley, County Antrim, Northern Ireland.

Both weddings enjoyed hot sunny weather and we pray that God's richest blessings will be with both couples in their future together.

Summer activities for children

Kent County Library Service invites children to come and join the Library Staff on a *Journey Into Space* at Green Court, Bridge on Thursday, 23rd from 4 to 4.30pm. Astronauts, rockets, aliens, planets! Come and join us, all ages are welcome.

Jennifer Hocken

Bridge and Patricbourne School '100' Club

Change our '50' club into a '100' club! By making a single payment of £12 a year or twelve payments of £1 a month, you will be entered into a monthly draw. The prizes depend on the number of participants, *i.e.* 50 participants 1st prize £15, 2nd prize £10, 3rd prize £5; 100 participants 1st prize £25, 2nd prize £15, 3rd prize £10.

The lucky winners will be informed after each draw. To join the 50/100 Club or for more information please contact Lesley Coates, evenings, on 0304-831103.

Saxon Lodge Residential Home will be holding a coffee morning on the first Tuesday of this month, 7th, in aid of the *Special Care Baby Unit* at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital. All are welcome!

New Organist for Bridge Church

Whether it's due to prayer or good luck I leave to you, but St. Peter's Church, Bridge has been extremely fortunate at last in getting a full-time organist and choirmaster who starts this very month.

Arnold Wills has paid three visits to Bridge to play for Evensong and his previous reluctance to take a regular commitment suffered what for us was a happy reversal when he felt the one thing missing was that very thing. So he agreed terms with his wife, rang me and everything followed from there.

Arnold is a most competent organist and very keen to start work with Bridge's enthusiastic young choristers, with whom I am confident he will enjoy a most fruitful musical relationship. The Willses live at Fordwich (across country, so to speak) and are guaranteed a warm welcome at St. Peter's.

For me it's quite extraordinary that during my ministry I have worked with three organists whose initials were AW — Arthur Wills (no relation) who has just retired from Ely Cathedral, Allan Wicks at Canterbury and now Arnold Wills. It surely bodes well.

* * *

Children of the choir please note that although Mr Wills starts this month you will start with him in September; and amongst your other commitments be prepared in future for regular weeknight practices on an evening which Mr Wills will arrange with you.

Mrs Dorothy King drew my attention to the following, without giving any indication as to who wrote it.

FOR THOSE WHO LIVE ALONE

I live alone, dear Lord,
Stay by my side;
In all my daily needs
Be thou my guide.
Grant me good health —
For that indeed I pray —
To carry on my work
From day to day.
Keep pure my mind, my thoughts,
My every deed;
Let me be kind, unselfish
In my neighbour's need.
Spare me from fire, from flood,
Malicious tongues,
From thieves, from fear
And Evil ones.

If sickness or an accident befall,
Then humbly, Lord, I pray,
Hear thou my call:
And when I'm feeling low
Or in despair,
Lift up my heart
And help me in my prayer.
I live alone, dear Lord,
But have no fear,
Because I feel your presence
Ever near.

Bekesbourne *Songs of Praise*

The habit of a lifetime isn't easily shed and although Bekesbourne Church hasn't exactly held *Songs of Praise* services that long they have become so much a part of the late summer programme that thoughts of a change of routine were greeted with horror.

So on the third Sunday of the month Matins will give place to *Songs of Praise* and the call is on right now for your hymn requests. Following the usual pattern Churchwarden John Purchase conducts the necessary research to help us learn more about the hymns we sing, so let him have your choice as soon as possible. No doubt in anticipation of a *Songs of Praise* this month you have already given the matter some thought and can get in touch with John right away. His address and phone number are at the back of this magazine and he is waiting to hear from you!

From Bridge's Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This month's report is that given by Churchwarden Stephen Pike.

Annual Report On the fabric of St. Peter's Church, Bridge April 1990

This year marks something of a first for me in making this annual report on the fabric of St Peter's church, in that for once, the outstanding repair items which were in hand last year have been completed and there is no new work in progress nor is any contemplated at present.

1. Outstanding Repair Items

This time last year there were two items in progress, both of which have been completed. Firstly the stained glass window to the south wall of the chancel has been repaired and I must say that the result is truly excellent. One cannot easily tell which glass is original and which is new. Secondly, the floor of the pews in the South Aisle has been repaired and in spite of any rumours to the contrary, there will not be any restrictions on the seating arrangements for the rugby players amongst us at this year's Confirmation Service!

2. Locking of the Church

Unfortunately, this last year has again seen malicious damage to the church whilst unattended; therefore the decision has reluctantly been taken to keep it locked other than for services. However, I hope that any in the parish who may wish to make use of our church, know that a key is always available during office hours from Priors, the estate agents, and at other times from the vicarage or myself. Whilst we appreciate that this may cause some inconvenience we are sure that you will understand our reasons for taking this action.

3. Churchyard

You will have noticed that the large lime tree towards the corner of the Bishopsbourne Road, which was left standing after the 1987 hurricane has been felled in recent weeks. This tree was not particularly attractive as it had been pollarded on more than one occasion and was causing great anxiety to Mr and Mrs Connor whose property it threatened. The decision was therefore taken to fell this tree; we have yet to decide on what if anything to replace it with.

Once again, I must express my thanks to a willing band of helpers who have once more assisted in keeping the churchyards under control. Especial thanks are due to Eric Hawkins through whose good offices we were able to obtain the necessary equipment last summer, and through whom we have this year obtained our own rotary mower. Anyone who would care to join a rota of volunteers to keep the old churchyard cut please let me know. The more people who can help then the less work is involved for everyone.

Earlier this year we received notice from the Department of the Environment that an application for an Order in Council to close Bridge churchyard would be made. We now await notification that such an order has been made.

4. Storm Damage

The winter's storms caused damage to roof tiles but on each occasion the builders responded very rapidly and effected a repair before further damage was done.

5. Central Heating

As most of you will know, British Gas turned off our gas supply earlier this year, having been called in to deal with a gas leak in the boiler room. The supply was turned off because the engineer who came out maintained that the installation was illegal and we needed a special cowling fitted to the boiler, but subsequently a different engineer decided that the existing installation is adequate and not illegal. However, we were left with no heating for several weeks and we are grateful to the Diocese for the use of portable heaters from the Youth Centre at Womenswold and also to Raymond for the loan of a similar heater.

6. Ladychapel

Once again I am delighted to offer our thanks to those responsible for the refurbishment of the Ladychapel. We now have the new carpeting and the altar itself has been professionally cleaned and polished. Our next project should be the redecoration of the church to do justice to these splendid furnishings but we shall have to be guided by the availability of funds.

7. Autumn Fayre

The second of our new style autumn fayres again proved successful and I would like to think was enjoyed by all who came. Our thanks are due to everyone who helped to make the day such a success.

8. Conclusion

In conclusion, I can report that the fabric and furnishings remain intact. The church ornaments and plate are also in good order and intact.

Sponsored bike ride 1990

Hopefully, you will have made a note of the date for the sponsored Bike Ride, but just in case you did not, it is on Saturday, September 8th, starting at 10am from your local church.

Sponsor forms are available from your local organiser, so if you have not obtained yours, please hurry! All three churches would like to pass their total for 1989 — so encourage a friend to accompany you and make a special effort to get extra sponsors. If anyone riding for the first time would like advice on planning a route, your local organiser would be pleased to assist. They are as follows:—

Bekesbourne	Christine Ash	830214
Bridge	Kath Pierce	830844
Patricxbourne	Andrea Nicholson	830947

There should be a list of riders in each church and they would be only too pleased to have members of the congregation sponsoring them

So please do not wait to be asked, offer your sponsorship to them and help swell the final total for your church. Thank you.

Kath Pierce



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CARE needed in the community

The Government has required that many more houses are built in the south east of England, and a choice has been made that a thousand houses and an industrial area are created at Aylesham.

Because of the possible effects on neighbouring Adisham, the villagers there have set up a group called Conserve Adisham's Rural Environment or CARE.

The Chairman, Mr Maurice Crane, has issued a statement which contains CARE's views and explains how Bekesbourne might be affected by the present plans of Dover District Council's Option 17.

"Adisham's organisation CARE welcomes the attempts to find more homes for local people.

"CARE would wish any industrial or commercial activity planned for Aylesham to be based on the Snowdown colliery site, which site should be designed to improve the environment.

"CARE believes that many of the thousand homes planned for Aylesham should be constructed in the unused but previously planned central areas and thus integrated into the present village and not divorced from it. The present plan would lead to a divisive situation between the old and new Aylesham — a view held by many of Aylesham's community.

"We also hold that the present road system along the B2046 (from Wingham to Barham) and also from Adisham BR station to Canterbury (down School Lane, Bekesbourne) could not cater for six times the amount of traffic, generated by the proposed plan. It would be dangerous for school-children and others during peak hours, and any upgrading of the roads would only increase road activity."

The Chairman's statement has implications for the people of Bekesbourne. Our parish council is following these matters, and any member would be pleased to hear comments that our villagers might have. *John Purchase*

A TALE TOLD IN OLD JERUSALEM

The famous stone

Scholars from all over the known world came to the Great Library at Alexandria. Some came to gain medical knowledge, others to read history, mathematics, astronomy or religion, while some studied alchemy and magic, searching for the Touchstone which it was believed could transmute any base metal it touched into pure gold.

According to legend, when the Great Library was burnt to the ground, only one charred book survived which was bought one day by a poor scholar for a few pence. Late that night, as he poured over the book by candlelight, he found scribbled on the back page the story of the loss of the Touchstone, and how it could be found somewhere on the shores of the Black Sea.

Immediately the scholar gathered together his few possessions and began the long journey on foot to the Black Sea. He had read that though the Touchstone looked no different from other stones, it could be

distinguished because, unlike any other stone, it always felt warm to the touch, almost as if it were alive.

Arriving at his destination the scholar began his search in a methodical way. Stooping to pick up a stone, he would hold it briefly, testing it for warmth, and then, so as not to try the same stone twice, each rejected stone would be flung far out into the water.

He continued his unremitting search for weeks, then months and then years, stooping, testing and throwing each stone away. When he at last picked up a stone which was warm in his hands he kept to the custom of years and turned and threw it into the water. Alas, how hard it is to break with our habits.

The poet and hymn writer, George Herbert (1593-1633) had the Touchstone in mind when he wrote the hymn "Teach me my God and King" with the verse

"This is the famous stone
Which turneth all to gold.
For that which God doth touch and own
Cannot for less be told."

PARISH PUMP

Parish Council
News



Bridge Parish Council

The Council's last meeting before the summer recess was on Thursday, 12th July

Improvements to note The appearance of the centre of the village is much improved thanks to the efforts of Miss Sarah Howland who has just taken up her responsibilities as street cleaner. A larger litterbin now in place outside the newsagents should also help to keep that area tidier. The previous one there was just not large enough to cope with all the litter. Cllr Reg Franklin has again been busy and this time it has been the turn of the wooden seat and litterbin outside the supermarket to receive his attentions. A smart new bus shelter in the High Street and safety surfacing in the children's play area (see separate article) are also recent improvements to the village.

Streets and Footways Survey Cllr Mrs Margaret Jones has completed her detailed annual survey of all the streets and pavements of the village — no mean feat! This report will be submitted to the Kent County Council's Highways Department for their attention. Now that Union Road has been resurfaced, the roads and pavements in Dering Road and Brewery Lane vie for first place as being the worst in the village.

Bonfires Complaints have been received about bonfires being lit at all times of the day, a practice which, particularly in the summer months, can cause a nuisance

and be troublesome to those living nearby. The Parish Council would therefore be pleased if residents would show consideration to their neighbours when having their bonfires by restricting them to later on in the evening.

A quiet time for planning applications Only one planning application had been received by the Council over the last month and that was for the conversion of part of the first floor above the supermarket at 2 Western Avenue to a two-bedroom flat. The Council had no comments to make on this proposal. One application had been granted planning permission by the City Council, namely the application for a change of use to retirement home and erection of a two-storey rear extension at Field House, Station Road.

Lottery fund help for Guides The Council are to support an application from the 1st Bridge Guide Company for £150 from the City Council's Lottery Fund to assist them with the purchase of a marquee.

Birthday Greetings The Parish Council are to send on behalf of parishioners birthday greetings to the Queen Mother on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

The next meeting of the Parish Council, in two months' time, will be on Thursday, 13th September at the usual time of 7.30pm in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall.

K Walder, Clerk

Fish News



The Luncheon Club will be closed for the whole of August; the new session starts on Monday, 3rd September.

* * *

The Mobile Chiropody Clinic will be at The New Close, Bridge from Monday, 13th August until Friday, 17th August.

* * *

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

Joan Warren, 830233

St Peter's, Bekesbourne Cleaning and Flower Rota

4th and 11th, Mrs Skinner. 18th, Mrs Purchase. 25th, Mrs Broadwater. 1st September, Mrs Fry.

BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL has erected a new timber-framed and Kent Peg Tile roofed bus shelter to replace an old and dilapidated concrete one. The Parish Council feels the new shelter is more in keeping with the attractive position over the Nailbourne and its situation in the general conservation area of the village as a whole.

This follows a recommendation in the Village Appraisal to improve the appearance of the village.

Following a decision at an open Parish Meeting, the Parish Council has also installed special safety surfacing around some of the equipment in the children's play area at the recreation ground and will put bark around the swings shortly. This is in line with Local Authority recommendations and should make the play area a safer place for the children of the village. K W

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

PATRIBOURNE 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 T. J. Flisher, 52 Riverside Close, Bridge CT4 5TN (830871)

Hon Treasurer: Mr K. Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patribourne CT4 5BU (830947)

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

Organist (Bridge): Mr A. Wills, 10 Brooklands Close, Fordwich, Canterbury CT2 0BT (711278)

Organist (Patribourne): Mrs R.M. Stacey, Joclet, Keepers Hill, Patribourne CT4 5BT (830205)

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: Mrs R.M. Stacey, Joclet, Keepers Hill, Patribourne CT4 5BT (830205)

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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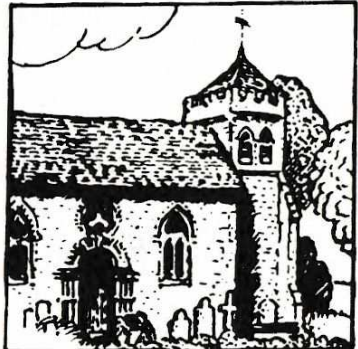
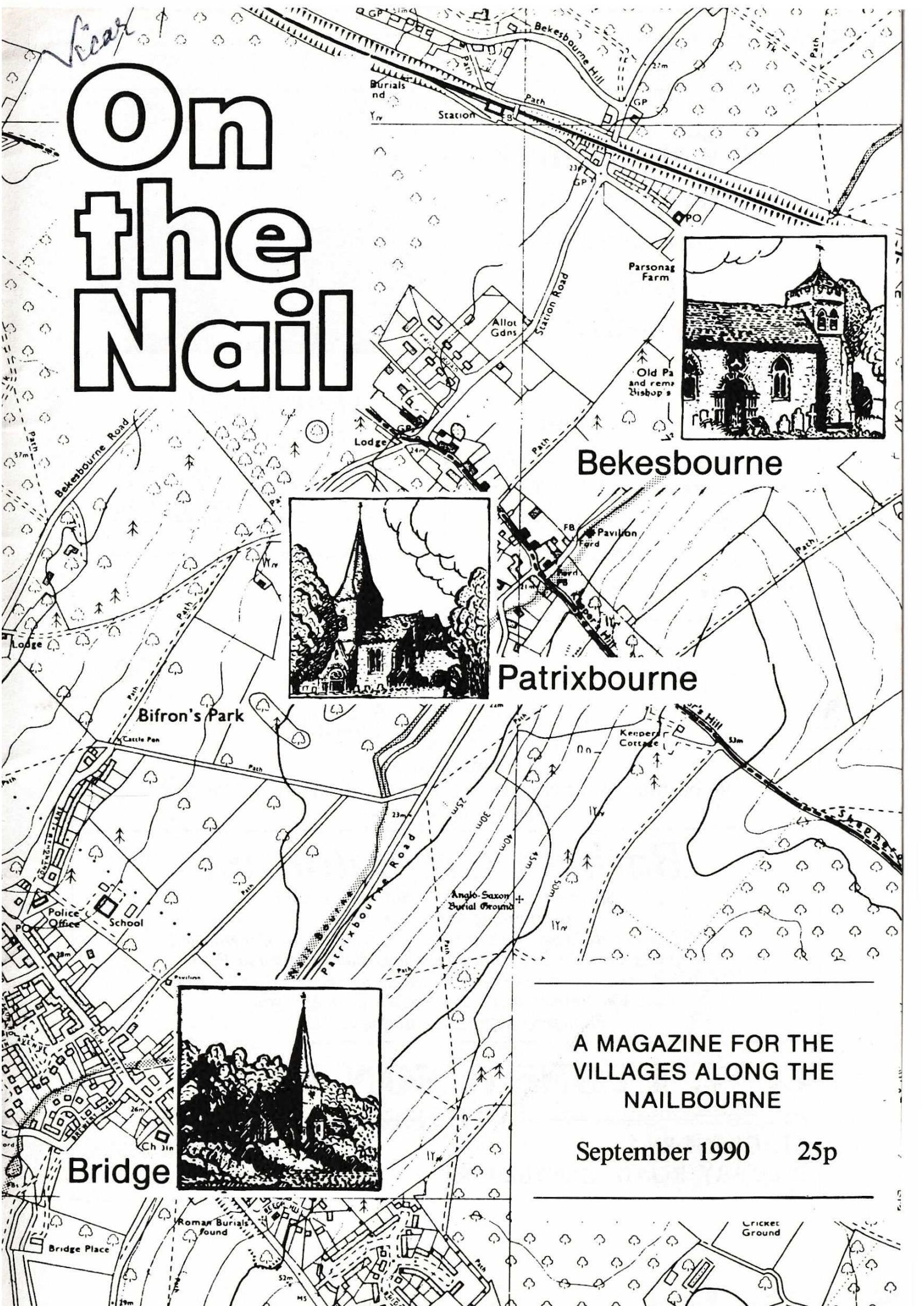
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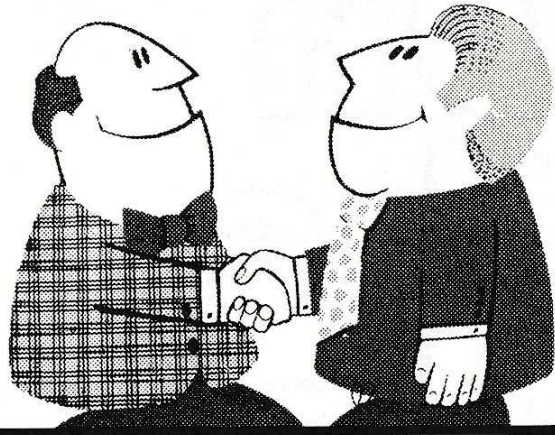
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Sunday Worship in September

Bridge	Patricxbourne	Bekesbourne
2nd: 11am Family Service 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion
9th: 9.30 The Eucharist (ASB Rite A) 6.30pm Evensong	11am Matins	8am Holy Communion
16th: 9.30 Parish Communion (ASB Rite A) (Canon F Bull) 6.30pm Evensong (Canon F Bull)	8am Holy Communion (Revd C Verity)	11am Matins (Revd W Owen)
23rd: 8am Holy Communion (Canon J Packer) 6.30pm Evensong (Canon J Packer)	11am Matins (Revd W Owen)	9am Holy Communion (Revd C Verity)
30th: 9.30 The Eucharist (ASB Rite A) with Laying on of Hands 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	11am <i>Harvest Festival</i>
7th October: 11am Harvest Family Eucharist 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion

PLEASE NOTE the change in the worship pattern at Patricxbourne and Bekesbourne on 23rd and 30th so as to accommodate Bekesbourne's Harvest Festival on 30th. Regular members of Bekesbourne congregation please note that the Holy Communion on 23rd is at 9am, not 8am.

● *Following the 9.30am Eucharist at Bridge on the second Sunday of each month coffee and biscuits are served at the back of the church. Donations will be gratefully received to help our sister parish of Bekesbourne reach its Church Urban Fund target.*

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *2nd*, Mrs Hazel Colyer *9th*, Holy Communion, The Revd Sheila Foreman *16th*, *Harvest Festival*, Dr John Butler *23rd*, Mr Alistair Barwick *30th*, The Revd Sheila Foreman. (The Methodist Church's Harvest Festival continues on Monday 17th at 7.15pm with a service conducted by Alistair Barwick.)

Weekdays Celebrations of Holy Communion are held in St Peter's Church, Bridge each Wednesday (BCP) at 9.30am. Please note, the regular ASB Rite A celebrations on Friday morning at 7.30 will not take place this month except on 7th. 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 most welcome to share in this short, informal act of worship.

● The Vicar will be on holiday from 10th to 27th September, during which time anyone requiring the urgent services of a priest may contact Canon Frank Bull (830440). Please only call on Canon Bull over a matter that will not keep until the Vicar's return.

For your diary and prayer list

- 2nd *Twelfth Sunday after Trinity : Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*
3rd *St Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, Teacher, 604*
First Luncheon Club of the new session
4th Pray for Bridge and Patricbourne School and other local schools at the start of a new school year.
6th Prayers for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm
8th *The Blessed Virgin Mary*
The Sponsored Cycle Ride takes place today. Please support with a generous sponsorship those who support the church by cycling on its behalf.
9th *Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity : Fourteenth after Pentecost*
16th Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15 - 11.45am
13th *St Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, Martyr, 258*
14th *Holy Cross Day*
15th Hospital League of Friends Garage Sale, 10am - noon, Western Avenue
16th *Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity : Fifteenth after Pentecost*
18th Bridge with Patricbourne Women's Institute, Village Hall, 7.30pm
20th Prayers for Health and Healing, 8 Ford Close, 7pm
21st *St Matthew the Apostle*
23rd *Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity : Sixteenth after Pentecost*
25th *Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop of Winchester, 1626*
26th *Ember Day*
27th *St Vincent de Paul, Founder of the Vicentian Order, 1600*
28th *Ember Day*
29th *St Michael and All Angels Ember Day*
Pray for Helen Ash and Jamie Watson whose wedding is today at Bekesbourne.
30th *Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity : Seventeenth after Pentecost*

Time marches on!

Is it because of advancing age that I get increasingly conscious of the passage of time? On the 29th of next month I shall have been Vicar of Patricbourne with Bridge and Bekesbourne for eleven years and when I think what has happened in that time I am amazed in two conflicting ways: one, that so much has been packed into such a short time, and two, that the changes we've experienced actually took so long.

But it's the speed of time generally that now baffles me, especially when I realize children I baptized as babies are now nearing confirmation age, that others who were of pre-school age in 1979 are now at their secondary schools. At least one who was a Brownie when I first came has this summer graduated from university, and I've conducted the wedding of a choirgirl or two. At the

opposite extreme, not surprisingly, a number of villagers I got to know well have now died, *e.g.* Charles Potter from Patrixbourne, Dick and Nell Turpin from Bridge and Ruth Edwards from School Lane, Bekesbourne, to mention just four. The fact remains that time by its very nature never stands still for 'this same rose that blooms today, tomorrow will be dying'.

Nevertheless the years, in my experience — and I don't believe I'm alone in this — do seem to come and go much faster. My birthday is early in December and when I was a boy the gap between birthday and Christmas seemed interminable; now it's as if I'm opening birthday cards one day and Christmas cards the next. I can scarcely believe that the summer holidays are over, that it's three months since the fete and seven since the Archbishop's visit. Where has it all gone? How time flies!

* * *

One of the things I often ask young couples when we are discussing their baby's christening is if they have put his or her name down at the school. Once over the surprise they still think I've either taken leave of my senses or am being unduly premature; but, as I point out, it's barely five years away and helps the school to plan ahead if it has some idea of future numbers.

While on the point, two baptisms have occurred since the last *On The Nail* came out; school admissions please note. One was at Bridge Family Service on 5th August, that of Kelly Louise, daughter of John and Vivian Saunders, 17 Bridge Down.

The other preceded Kelly's christening and was at Bekesbourne on 29th July. This was the baptism of Sophie Elinor, daughter of Peter and Angela Walker, Mandeville, School Lane, and it was after entering it that I had a closer look at Bekesbourne's Baptism Register. What I found there was fascinating and a little mind-boggling, for unlike most baptism registers this one is a very thick leather-bound tome, on a par with an old ledger.

The first baptism recorded is that of Agnes Emma, daughter of Daniel (simply described as a labourer) and Esther Harriet Hopper and took place on 26th August, 1877. The family's address is just 'Bekesbourne' and the clergyman who performed the ceremony was the Revd C. E. Smith, designated by himself as 'late Vicar of Nackington'. The very next entry is signed by the vicar of the time, S. Jenner, so whether Mr Smith was brought in as a stop gap or happened to be a family friend I wouldn't know.

But here's the interesting bit! Bekesbourne's Baptism Register has space for 3,200 entries and little Sophie Walker's, the latest, was only number 819. At the current average of about five christenings a year, and assuming handwritten entries continue that far into the future, it looks as if the register at present in use at St Peter's Church will not be full until about 496 years hence, which brings us to AD2466. The big unanswerable question is, will time still be marching on by then — or will time have given way to eternity, according to the Christian hope?

Other family news

On 11th August in St Mary's Church, Patrixbourne the vicar officiated at the wedding of **Hugh Muir-Little** of 'Waylands', Town Hill, Bridge and **Sally Gibbs** of London.

* * *

On 1st August at Barham the cremation took place of Mrs **Florence Ennis**, lately of Churchill House but for very many years a resident in the flats at

Lynton Place. Mrs Ennis was very well-known and loved in Bridge as a quiet, gentle lady who had entered fully into the social life of the village, especially, as Joan Warren reminds us in the *Fish News*, enjoying the Luncheon Club. She was also to the end a regular communicant member of Bridge Church and will be much missed by her closest village friends.

A former near neighbour of hers has also died, **Fred Smith**, of whom a tribute appears elsewhere in this issue. Fred was always a bright and cheerful man and it was sad to see his gradual decline, recalling how alert he had been. I was personally encouraged to see him occasionally amongst the congregation at the Family Service, which he seemed particularly to enjoy, I suspect due to its predominant involvement with children. As the funeral had regrettably to take place during the first part of my summer holiday, I was very pleased that Canon Packer, whom Fred knew, was able to deputize for me. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his loving wife and sister.

At the time of writing news comes in of the death after a protracted illness of Mrs **Phyllis Smith**, 59 Bridge Down. She has been on the church's prayer list for a long time and we shall continue to pray for her husband Ted at this sad time.

On The Nail Noticeboard

Hospital League of Friends

The Bridge Branch of the Hospital League of Friends is holding a Garage Sale on Saturday, 15th September between 10am and 12 noon in a garage in Western Avenue, adjacent to *Homeware Plus*. We would be grateful for items to sell; these can be donated totally or sold by us taking 25% of the asking price. Any household or garden items would be welcome but **NO CLOTHES** please. Items for sale should be brought to the garage as near 9.15am 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. We have some real bargains so do come and browse — we may have just the thing you've been looking for! *Maggie Field*

Bridge with Patricbourne Women's Institute

The WI meets in Bridge Village Hall on the third Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm. New members warmly welcomed. Contact Mrs E Stewart, 830344.

Joan Monk

It's here at last

The book you've been waiting for, a local production, has arrived and is on sale *right now!* Entitled *Recipes from Bridge and Beyond* it is a collection of about 140 recipes from the people of Bridge, Patricbourne, Bekesbourne and Bishopsbourne put together by Chantal Ochs and attractively illustrated by Julia Rowntree.

Our own cookbook contains soups and starters, main course dishes, puddings, cakes and biscuits, and ends with a section enticingly called 'Preserves, Pickles and Potent Potions'. At the beginning there is a most useful table of conversions from imperial to metric measures, and from gas marks to the equivalent temperatures in both Fahrenheit and Centigrade (None of that 'Celsius' nonsense, I'm happy to see!)

It is a compact, sturdy little book with a ring binding so that it stays beautifully flat whilst in use.

Altogether a bargain at £3, the recipe book is available from Chantal Ochs and will be sold at the Autumn Fayre — an ideal Christmas present. Profits from its sale will go to St Peter's Church, Bridge and Bridge School, both thoroughly worthwhile causes. May it sell like the hot cakes it shows you how to bake!

Junior Church at Womenswold

For the second year running some of the older members of Junior Church spent a July weekend at the Diocesan Youth Centre at Womenswold, and I'm indebted to two eight-year-olds who were there for an account of what went on. From what I saw when I visited them everything was beautifully organized and going with a swing.

On Saturday 7th July, twenty-two people from Bridge Junior Church walked to a place called Womenswold.

When we got there we unpacked and explored. Then we went for a walk and took some photographs.

Next we went into the art room; some people did banner making, some did work with clay and a T-shirt design. Saturday evening we had a barbecue and a pyjama disco.

The next day we made up our own little Church Service. Then we helped prepare lunch and went for a walk. When we got back we had lunch and cleared up, to finish off we had sports and then we went home. Phew!

Alice Barnard

At 11 o'clock on Saturday 7th July we started walking to Womenswold, it was five miles and took us three hours. When we got there we made our beds, then we made badges with clay and painted designs on T-shirts and then we had a B.B.Q.

We went for a walk and when we got back we got ready for bed and had a midnight feast; we had marshmallows and cocoa. When we got up the next day we made up a play about Pilgrims and Thomas Becket, then we made up a service. After lunch we played sports, my team won. I would like to go again.

Nicky Hopkins

Christian Aid

Bridge School put on two concerts organized by Mike Windess at the end of the school year. Also to mark his retirement a collection was taken in the school and *Christian Aid* will benefit by £238 due to Mike's hard work and generosity.

Contributed

Ed: The writer doesn't make it quite clear that on his retirement Mike Windess made it known he didn't want a leaving present but asked for donations to Christian Aid instead — a gesture that was very typical of him.

Roman Catholic change

Fr Chris Keen, who only came here a year ago has already moved on to the next phase of his ministry, and for all of us — Catholic and non-Catholic alike — it was quite a year. Fr Chris endeared himself to the local community from the

outset and I greatly valued his openness and friendship. He actually called at the vicarage to introduce himself within days of his arrival. The following letter, dated 19th July, was true to type and I thought you should read what he wrote:

I would just like to say thank-you for the opportunity of allowing me to celebrate Mass in St Peter's Church, Bridge on 4th July. I was very pleased to be able to continue the tradition that has grown up over the last fifteen to twenty years of the Parish of Bridge and the Catholic Community in Canterbury and surrounding areas. I do hope that this continues in the years ahead and that whoever replaces me as the Priest for that area, will continue to build up this worthwhile Ecumenical venture.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your friendship over the last year and to assure you of my prayers for not only yourself and your wife and family, but also for your community in Bridge.

I remain, Yours sincerely, Chris Keen

Fish News

Members of the Luncheon Club were saddened to hear of the recent deaths of two of its members — Mrs Flo Innis and Mrs Marjorie Hudson. Both had been in poor health for some time but had remained active and involved in local activities until they were admitted to hospital a few days before their deaths. They will be missed but fondly remembered by fellow residents of Churchill House and their many friends.

Two other local residents have died recently at The New Close. Mrs Beattie, who would have been ninety in a few weeks' time, was a member of the Luncheon Club for several years. Fred Smith was a popular and active member of the community for many years, a regular attender at the Coffee Pop-Ins and a great supporter of the Fish Scheme. We shall miss them all and send our sympathy to their relatives.

The new session of the Luncheon Club starts on Monday, 3rd September.

The next Coffee Pop-In will be on Wednesday, 12th September from 10.15 to 11.45am in Bridge Village Hall. We can arrange transport for anyone who would like to join us but has difficulty getting to the hall. *Joan Warren, 830233*

Sheffield Visitors

On the weekend of Bridge's Harvest Festival the parish will be playing host to our *Church Urban Fund* link parish, St Aidan's, Sheffield. An invitation was extended some weeks ago via the Rector, John Packer to the congregation of St Aidan's to come to Kent for the weekend as our guests, and accepted with pleasure.

They will travel down on Friday, 5th October and be with us until after lunch on the Sunday, staying in the homes of members of the Bridge or Patricbourne congregations. Several families have already agreed to put people up for the two nights, but we need others. Andrea Nicholson is kindly acting as accommodation officer, and if you would like to have a guest or guests do please contact her as soon as possible. She is anxious to hear from you.

What does it entail?

Two communal events are being planned, one of which — of course — will be the Harvest Service at Bridge on the Sunday morning at 11am. This is the

monthly Family Service, but to make our visitors feel thoroughly at home we shall share the eucharist together, hopefully with John Packer as the preacher.

The other joint occasion will be a supper on the Saturday evening, probably in the school, for hosts and visitors. Details of this have still to be finalized and the venue will depend on how many St Aidan's people come; but in any case it seems advisable to restrict attendance at the supper to host families, guests and perhaps one or two others only, so as not to swamp our guests.

For most of the Saturday it will be up to the host families to entertain their guests as they think best, but a must is surely a visit to the Cathedral. They might also enjoy going to the Dover cliffs, particularly if France is visible at the time. We must realize that few if any will have been down this way before, so it will all be a novelty.

If you would like to share in this experience and get to know some members of our link parish personally do please contact Andrea on 830947.

The sponsored bike ride is on us!

Saturday, September 8th is the day of the sponsored bike ride in aid of the churches. Previous years have shown some remarkable achievements by riders in visiting dozens of churches on the day between 10am and 6pm.

The sponsors are what matters now — if you have not yet sponsored a rider please do so soon. To find out details, get advice on routes, or cheer the affair along, please get in touch with the local organisers. In Bekesbourne it is Christine Ash, 830214; in Bridge, Kath Pierce, 830844; and in Patricxbourne Andrea Nicholson is the contact on 830947.

All our churches have gained from receiving part of the sponsorship money directly; and indirectly through *The Friends of Kent Churches* who receive the rest of the sponsorship.

The need is great for support. The weather may be the best for years, and there is the camaraderie of meeting fellow cyclists all over the place.

Christine Ash



Canon Appleton's service

St Peter's Bekesbourne was the chosen setting by Canon Leonard Appleton for his cremated remains to be buried next to his wife, and for a memorial plaque to be dedicated to his memory.

Our old friend, Canon Ingram Hill from the Cathedral took the dignified service on Saturday, 18th August.

Relatives had flown from the other side of the world to be present and there was a strong contingent from the parish and organisations such as the British Legion and the WRVS present to attend the two parts of the service.

It was a lovely day, and the churchyard at St Peter's never looked more peaceful. It was a fitting ending to a life of service by Canon Appleton and his wife, Joyce.

John Purchase

A Healing Ministry

The following commission was given by our Lord to his disciples and, by inference, their successors in the Christian Church: "Heal the sick and say the kingdom of God has come close to you". (*Luke 10.9*) St Peter's, Bridge has tried to obey that injunction, first through the bimonthly open meetings of prayer for health and healing on Thursday evenings at 7 o'clock in the vicarage, and secondly by offering the healing ministry of the Laying on of Hands at the Eucharist on fifth Sundays. There being a fifth Sunday this month I felt it would be helpful to write something about this addition to the said service, knowing how already many people have been greatly blessed through this Laying on of Hands with Prayer.

What's involved

After we have received the Holy Communion and before proceeding with the rest of the service, a chair is set before the high altar. First I and whoever is assisting me lay hands on each other for God's grace to perform the ministry. Then those wishing to receive the ministry come up singly, sit in the chair and the ministers lay hands on together, one of them audibly saying a prayer over the person.

Two people lay on hands so as to emphasize that this is not an act of one individual but of the whole Church. The rest of the congregation is urged to pray at the same time, further stressing the corporate nature of what is done, and suggested prayers are provided for that purpose. This also avoids the faith healer syndrome, which is not part of the Church's Healing Ministry and which invariably glorifies the practitioner at the expense of the true healer, who is Christ.

When hands are laid on you

Everyone to begin with is reticent about receiving the Laying on of Hands. For one thing it is something new, and in church we have an inbuilt fear of new things, especially of an intensely personal nature. The Laying on of Hands at a public service singles you out in a setting where you are customarily one in a group, a member of the congregation. So anyone who is of a shy, nervous disposition may have to pluck up quite a lot of courage in order to step forward. To allay fears of this sort the chair is placed at a distance from the congregation and the person sits facing the altar, with his or her back to the people.

There is a further reason for conducting the Laying on of Hands in a place apart. The ministry is one that can be received for others as well as for oneself, and to acquaint those ministering with the fact (and it does help them to know for whom they are praying) the person needs to explain to the ministers before receiving the Laying on of Hands who is to be prayed for. It isn't essential to say anything but it is clearly advantageous if you come with a specific person or situation in mind to say so. This practicality is easier to deal with if you know you aren't being overheard.

Surrounded by love

Be assured receiving the Laying on of Hands is far less daunting than the above may suggest. In fact the many who regularly avail themselves of this ministry — and some are quite shy, undemonstrative types — without exception witness to the wonderful peace and blessings they receive, and declare how at the time they felt surrounded by love. That's how it should be, and you will find it's

very much simpler to receive the Laying on of Hands than to explain or talk about it — as is the case in many other departments of life.

Who needs healing anyway?

One thing further! Don't think you have to be under the doctor before you are eligible for the Laying on of Hands. The well-known dictum, "There are plenty worse off than me" doesn't apply here. God is not concerned with how much healing any one person needs, for he knows we all do need healing. Healing being wholeness, it is sufficient that we realize and accept our need of it, at least to some extent, even those of us who are hale and hearty. Don't forget the body and mind are not the only parts of the human constitution that can go wrong. Whether our need is greater or lesser than another person's is entirely beside the point. God treats each one of us as an individual, and never more so than in this healing sacrament of the Laying on of Hands.

Junior Church all ready for off!

The new year for our very successful, much sought-after Junior Church begins on Sunday, 9th. It meets in Bridge Village Hall every Sunday but the first (when hopefully the family attends the 11am Family Service at St Peter's) at 9.30am and is for children in Bridge, Patixbourne or Bekesbourne who are at least four years old. On third Sundays the children come to church part way through the Parish Communion and parents are warmly invited to attend that service and to collect their children afterwards.

Not being confirmed does not exclude anyone from attendance at church, but if you would like to know more about confirmation and what it entails I should be most happy to discuss it with you. Those who cannot come to the Parish Communion should of course collect children from church on the third Sunday.

"Come, ye thankful people, come."

Harvest Festival

at

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Sunday, 30th September

11am

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for all his love."*

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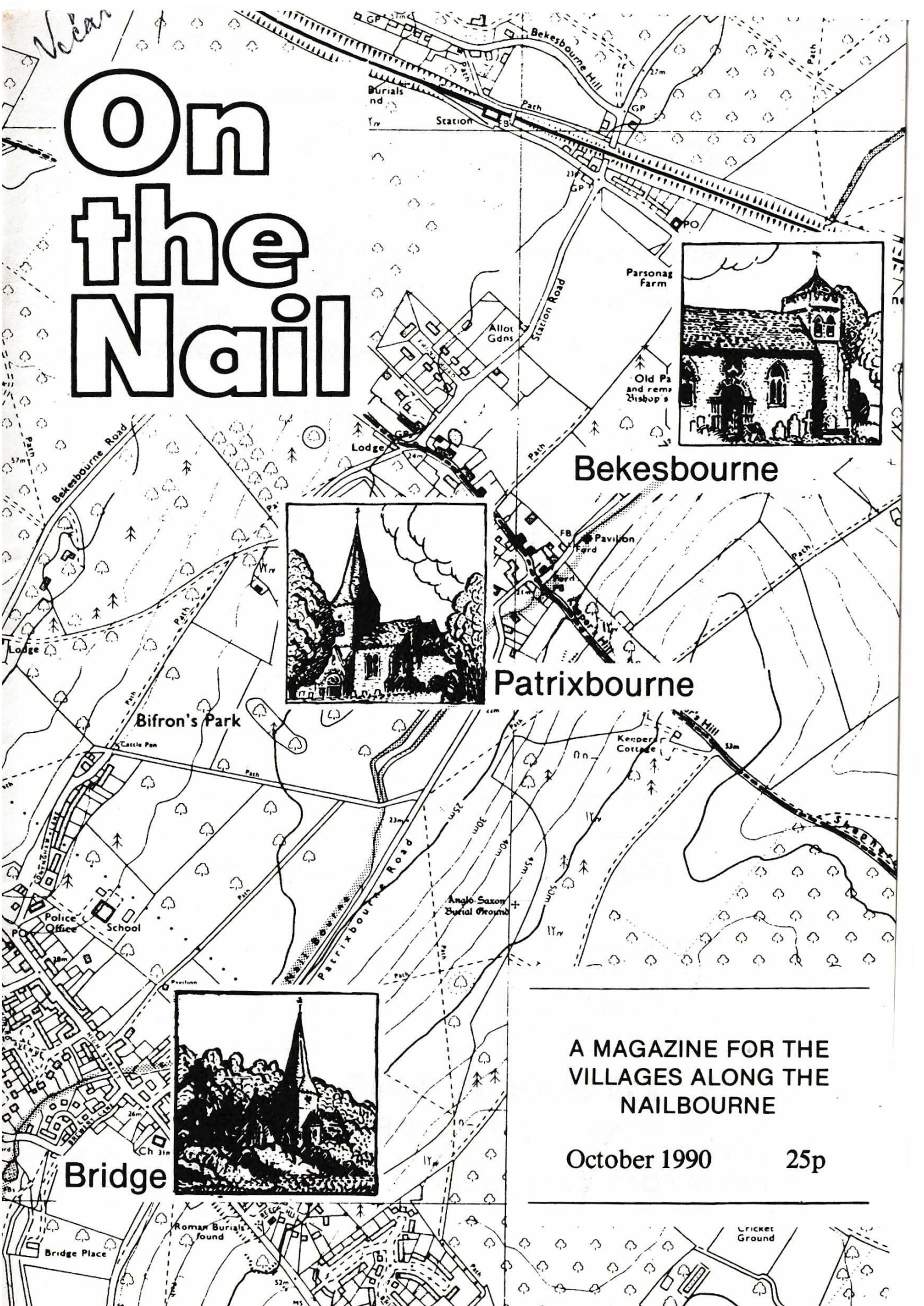
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On the Nail



Bikesbourne



Patrixbourne



Bridge

A MAGAZINE FOR THE
VILLAGES ALONG THE
NAILBOURNE

October 1990

25p

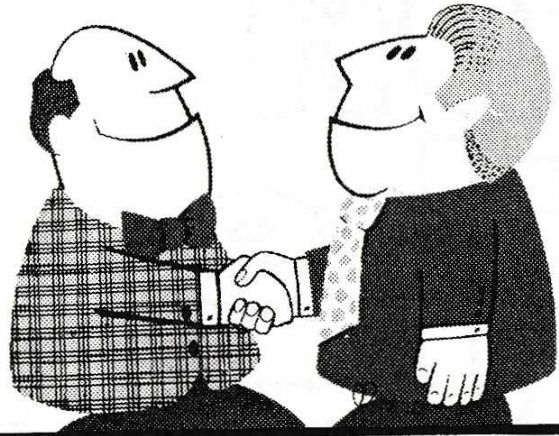
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Sunday Worship in October

Bridge

Patricbourne

Bekesbourne

7th:

11am Harvest Family Eucharist (*Preacher: Revd John Packer*)

8am Holy Communion

9.30 Parish Communion

6.30pm Harvest Evensong (*Preacher: Canon John Packer*).

14th:

9.30 The Eucharist (*ASB Rite A*)

11am Harvest Matins

8am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evensong

21st:

9.30 Parish Communion (*ASB Rite A*)

8am Holy Communion

11am *Songs of Praise*

6.30pm Evensong (*Canon F Bull*)

28th:

8am Holy Communion

9am Holy Communion

11am Matins

6.30pm Evensong

4th November:

11am Family Service

8am Holy Communion

9.30 Parish Communion

6.30pm Evensong

● *Following the 9.30am Eucharist at Bridge on the second Sunday of each month coffee and biscuits are served at the back of the church. Donations will be gratefully received to help our sister parish of Bekesbourne reach its Church Urban Fund target.*

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *7th*, Mrs H Fairhurst *14th*, *Holy Communion* The Revd Sheila Foreman *21st*, Dr E A H Tresidder *28th*, The Revd Gordon Jones.

Weekdays Celebrations of Holy Communion are held in St Peter's Church, Bridge each Wednesday (*BCP*) at 9.30am and on Friday mornings (*Rite A*) at 7.30. 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 most welcome to share in this short, informal act of worship.

For your diary and prayer list

4th *St Francis of Assisi, Friar, 1226*

Prayers for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm

Patricbourne with Bridge PCC meets at 7.30pm.

Bridge Methodists Autumn Coffee Morning and Sale, at Bridge Methodist Church, 10am to 12 noon. (Half proceeds go to charity.)

7th *Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity: 18th after Pentecost*

Bridge Harvest Festival is celebrated today with a Family Eucharist at 11am and Evensong at 6.30pm. At the morning service we shall be joined

by our visitors from St Aidan's Church, Sheffield and their Rector, John Packer will preach. Do join us and help to give our guests a typically warm welcome.

- 9th Pray for the Deanery Clergy who meet this morning at Nonington.
10th Coffee Pop-In at Bridge Village Hall, 10.15am to 11.45am
13th *St Edward the Confessor, King of England, 1066*
14th *Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity: 19th after Pentecost*
Patricbourne celebrates its Harvest Festival this morning at 11am.
15th *St Teresa of Avila, Mystic, 1582*
17th *St Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, Martyr, c107*
Christmas Card Working Party meets at 12 High Street at 2pm.
18th *St Luke the Evangelist*
'Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths' Coffee Morning, 4 Meadow Close, 10am to 12 noon.
Deanery Healing Service, Kingston Parish Church, 7.30pm
20th Canterbury Council for Health and Healing holds its AGM and Study Day at St Paul's Church, Maidstone from 10.30am (*See article on p. 7*)
21st *Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity: Last after Pentecost*
Songs of Praise will again replace Matins at Bekesbourne this morning, and as in August your hymn requests are urgently sought by Churchwarden John Purchase (Tel: 830937).
22nd The Mobile Chiropody Unit will be in Bridge until Friday, 26th
23rd Pray for the meeting of the Deanery Synod this evening.
28th *St Simon and St Jude, Apostles Trinity 20, 9 before Christmas*

Prayer made easy

What follows is an abridged version of an evensong sermon I gave last month, printed here in the hope it may help someone to pray better.

A man once said to his spiritual director, "I'm not enjoying my prayers", to which the priest replied, "Never mind, God is!". I wonder how you feel about your own prayers? Are you contented, feeling you've got it about right, this praying business? If so, I suspect you're one of a small company, for most of us, if we think at all seriously about it, probably feel there is room for improvement and no doubt we would register a little unease if we sensed all was lovely in our prayer life.

I expect the man was not happy in his prayers because they seemed shallow, stilted and lacking in an important aspect, rather than him not relishing the task as such. If so, I fancy we can sympathize with him. We *want* to enjoy our prayers because they *should* be enjoyable. After all, we're in communion with God and if that leaves us cold and dissatisfied then there's something wrong somewhere.

What a problem!

For all of us, if we're being frank, our times of prayer leave much to be desired. Just occasionally we are conscious we've hit the jackpot, but more commonly we shall come out of our prayers knowing that like the proverbial school report we could have done better, and we blame ourselves for our incompetence, our lack of concentration, even our lukewarmness. "I couldn't find the right words," "God seemed far away," "My mind kept wandering," "It was a complete waste of time." They are some of the remarks we make and they

betray the fact that for many of us prayers are what we offer to God and what God therefore receives from us. The comments describe what we understand about prayers, that their content is all up to us; and if that's what we believe and how we face the business of praying then it is small wonder we find it hard graft and not particularly pleasurable.

Leave it to God!

It is quite normal to feel tongue-tied in praying, especially if we see it in terms of us *saying* our prayers, which is why so many of us fall back on set prayers that someone else has written. But seen in terms of conversing with God, sharing a relationship of love with him, a love that flows freely between us and embraces anyone else we may pray for, then a different set of rules apply, the chief one being spelt out by St Paul in Romans 8, 26ff, where we read:

'The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness. We do not even know how we ought to pray, but through our inarticulate groans the Spirit himself is pleading for us, and God who searches our inmost being knows what the Spirit means, because he pleads for God's people as God himself wills.'

All of which offers the encouragement that through his Spirit God is far more involved in our prayers than we often give him credit for. Whenever we pray God is with us, which is why even though we may not be enjoying them, he is, and why our prayers are never a waste of time.

Joined in Christian Marriage

On 25th August in St Mary's Church, Patrixbourne **Susan Vince**, 13 Riverside Close, Bridge was married to **Timothy Orton** of St Peter Port on the Channel Islands. And on 8th September, also at Patrixbourne, the civil marriage of **Ann** and **Paul Muir-Little** received God's blessing in the presence of both their families. We wish both couples continued blessings and happiness in their lives together.

On The Nail Noticeboard

The Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths is holding a fund-raising Coffee Morning at 4 Meadow Close on Thursday, 18th October from 10am to 12 noon, at which there will be a Raffle, Bring-and-Buy Stall, Christmas Cards, etc. Do support this very deserving cause!

* * *

Cancer Research Collection. Many thanks to those who collected and to those who gave so generously in the recent collection. The total raised in Bridge was £323.44.

Hilary Pike

* * *

Christmas Card Working Party. We will be meeting at 12 High Street on Wednesday, 17th October at 2pm to 'remake' Christmas Cards to sell at the Autumn Fair. Don't panic! — it's really easy; the more that come, the sooner we'll be finished. Coffee, tea and conversation guaranteed.

HP

* * *

AUTUMN FAYRE The summer is over and we have put away our buckets and spades for another year. Autumn draws on and it is time once more for our Autumn Fayre.

This year's fayre is to be held on 10th November in the school hall at 2pm. Donations of all kinds would be most appreciated, especially groceries, gifts and bottles, and these can be left in church at services or at the vicarage — or at 12 High Street.

Please note: Do not buy your Christmas cards and wrapping paper until you have seen ours!

Help will be needed for the preparation of the hall on the evening of the 9th November and the morning of the 10th. If you can help then, or wish to help in any other way (e.g. manning a stall, making Christmas cards or decorations) please contact Peter Lawrence (tel: 830472) or myself (tel: 830708).

Stephen Pike

St Luke's-tide 1990

St Luke's Day is 18th October, when apart from celebrating Luke the Evangelist we also remember Luke the Physician (*Colossians 4,14*). It is the Saint's medical role that has made St Luke's-tide an occasion to pray for, and think about doctors and nurses and the many other healing agents. Nowadays we give thanks also for the restoration of the Church's healing ministry.

This year, on the day itself, we shall be having another of our Deanery Healing Services, this time in St Giles's Church, Kingston. Make a note of 18th October at 7.30pm in your diary, and try and join us.

* * *

Still in St Luke's-tide, those with a particular interest in the Church's healing ministry might like to know that the *Canterbury Council for Health & Healing* is holding its Annual General Meeting and Study Day on Saturday, 20th October at St Paul's Church, Maidstone, when the guest speaker will be Bishop Graham Chadwick, who was evicted from South Africa and now works with David Sheppard as an assistant bishop in the diocese of Liverpool.

The day begins with the short AGM and ends with an Act of Worship with the Laying-on of Hands at 3.45pm. Participants should bring a packed lunch (drinks will be provided), there will be a bookstall and the cost is £3 a head or £5 for a married couple.

* * *

At this season also our attention is drawn to the work of the *Hearing Research Trust*. Founded with the help of Jack Ashley, MP the trust works to relieve deafness and give hope to those who suffer from it. Jack Ashley himself had high expectations of political advancement when at the age of forty-five he became totally deaf following a virus infection and unsuccessful surgery. Despite his deafness, he was re-elected and has become famous for his championship of the disabled.

From 'A Personal Account' in *Adjustments to Adult Hearing Loss* Jack Ashley writes, "My experiences are naturally different from those who were born deaf, because I have made the bleak journey from the world of hearing to the world of silence. The born deaf are denied the advantages gained by the deafened before their hearing loss, yet they are spared the desolating sense of

loss. I had enjoyed the natural acquisition of speech and language and had a knowledge of the hearing world. These are priceless assets in attempting to cope with total deafness. But I was painfully and permanently aware of what I had lost. My perception of that loss is a lifelong burden."

Anyone wishing to contribute to the work of the *Hearing Research Trust* should write to 330/332 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EE.

Nailbourne Horticultural Society

DAY OUTING TO LEONARDSLEE GARDENS NEAR HORSHAM, WEST SUSSEX

A coach outing has been arranged for Sunday, 7th October to Leonardslee Gardens. These gardens extend over both sides of a southwards falling valley and have a fine collection of trees including a variety of rare species from Asia and North America which should produce a glorious display of autumnal colour, and are well worth a visit.

The coach will leave from the Church, Bishopsbourne at 9.15am with a pick-up at the Newsagents and Post Office in Bridge and will leave again for home at 5pm. The cost of the coach is £5 and entry to the gardens is £1.50. Refreshments are available there.

Would all those interested please contact as soon as possible the Secretary Rajini Dasan, on 830313, Kathy Walder on 830057 or any other of the Committee members.

Ride to success!

What a wonderful day for the sponsored cycle ride on Saturday, September 8th. In the first thirty minutes of opening, thirty-seven cyclists signed in at Bridge Church; the race was continued through the day and by 6pm one hundred and twenty-eight people had passed through the doors!

It was lovely to see so many families taking part this year. It is too early to predict how well we did with sponsorship as by the time of writing only six sponsor forms have been returned. The final results will be published in the November issue of *On The Nail*. We are confident that the 1989 figure will be passed.

Fortunately we had no accidents or punctures reported, and one family achieved their goal of **forty** churches visited. Tim Flisher with Simon and Emma managed this, so Emma's new bicycle did the trick. Well done!

Stephen Pike also excelled with **forty-three** churches, but he was cycling alone. He left Hilary to chaperone Elizabeth and Catherine — and they achieved twenty-five churches!

Details of other records managed by cyclists and walkers will be revealed next month.

My grateful thanks to all who helped man the church between 10am and 6pm, and signed in and welcomed all our visitors. A happy day and a successful one was the general verdict.

Kath Pierce

ADVANCE NOTE: The Friends of The New Close will be giving a firework party for friends and residents of The New Close on Monday, 5th November at 7pm.

Middle East refugees from the Iraqi war

A report from the Jordanian/Iraqi border by Canon Peter Naylor, Vicar of All Saints, Maidstone

On Sunday, 2nd September I crossed the Allenby Bridge over the River Jordan, having completed a four-week course of study at St George's College. From the bridge I drove to Amman, the capital city of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. I was to stay with the Revd William Taylor, who was curate at All Saints, Maidstone until 1986. William is much involved with helping refugees, especially in the present crisis created by the situation in the Gulf.

He took me with him to visit seven hundred Filipinos in a makeshift camp in what used to be the British Embassy Club. We also went to visit a group of Sri Lankans at another location in the city. William is doing his best to ensure supplies of water, food and other essentials. In the evening I was privileged to celebrate Holy Communion for a hundred and fifty people, mainly Filipinos, in the church belonging to the Anglican Palestinian congregation used by the Chaplaincy here.

The following day I was able to sit in on a planning group called together by the Middle East Council of Churches. It was decided to buy three hundred and fifty tents from the Jordanian army to help in setting up a new camp at the border to relieve the awful situation.

We left for the border on the Tuesday, early, taking with us a BBCtv crew. It is two hundred miles away at Ruweished. There is seventy kilometres of 'no man's land' between Jordan and Iraq. The camps are Shaalan 1 and 2. Camp 1 is just over the border and camp 2 is forty kilometres into nowhere. It is, of course, just desert with daytime temperatures in the high thirties, and the nights rather cold. The first camp is smaller and quite well organized, but camp 2 is a sea of makeshift tents stretching seemingly for miles. There are some marquee type army tents for a medical centre, bravely staffed by a few young French doctors, but nothing else had any kind of organization. We estimated that over 40,000 are there. The Jordanians are not allowing people to leave the camps until the government concerned have flown their people out of Amman. Then they bus a few more people into the city. You may have seen pictures of refugees on William's roof on your TV news — he had the tent specially made.

The purpose of our visit to Shaalan 2 was to visit some of the people and get BBCtv to raise the awareness of people in the West to the catastrophe unfolding there.

Before we left we chose a piece of desert nearer the border on which to create the camp for our seven hundred tents. As I write this report the tents are being erected by sixty Jordanian soldiers. Water tanks are being made and proper sanitation is being planned. The problem at Shaalan 2 is that there was no time to make proper arrangements for latrines, and we saw food being distributed from a lorry parked in the area where most people had been defecating. There is obviously a huge health hazard.

I believe that the BBC carried the pictures and William's comments on the 9 o'clock news that night. William emphasized the urgent need for water, food, tents, sanitation and other life-saving necessities. The UN and the Red Crescent (Arab version of the Red Cross) are stepping up their efforts, but

there is very little evidence of it out there. We believe that the Jordanian Government is doing its best, but has had to admit that it cannot cope alone.

We reckon that our camp will be ready in a matter of days and it will be designed to have a series of settlements for the various ethnic groups thus preventing the tensions and fights which have taken place in Shaalan 2.

When I stood in 'no man's land' on the Jordanian/Iraqi border I thought of people in Maidstone. We tend to say that it is a long way and we can't do anything about it. We are sorry for all these people but we are nice and safe at home. Let me suggest that there is something you can do. We need money for the tents we bought (£50,000) and all the other basic needs for providing help and care for forty to fifty thousand people who have travelled for five days in a pick-up truck to get out of Iraq. People are arriving at the camps at the rate of a hundred an hour. We are witnessing another man-made tragedy. I am not a politician, nor am I in the business of apportioning blame. But we do need people to be aware of what is happening.

Brothers and sisters in the family of man . . .

If you are not a Christian believer, then remember that the vast majority of those in the camps are not christian believers either; they are simply your human brothers and sisters. If you are a christian believer and you want to know something of the suffering of Jesus, look as I have into the eyes of a father who pleaded with me to help him as his small child had had nothing to eat for forty-eight hours and no water for a day. I offered that man hope and a promise of help, but there was no food or water for his child. The Christian message is a message of hope and resurrection and if it means anything, it means helping to get the people out of the mess that is no fault of theirs.

When you look at 40,000 people in the shimmering heat of the desert, you cannot comprehend what you are seeing. When you meet them with a smile and a handshake, you realise that they are just like all the rest of us, our brothers and sisters in the family of man.

● *This article was written to be published in The Kent Messenger, and seemed highly appropriate for the parish magazine. Readers may well wish to respond to Canon Naylor's moving account of the plight of the thousands of refugees crossing from Iraq to Jordan. I suggest that donations should be sent to Diocesan House, Lady Wootton's Green, Canterbury CT1 1NQ — marked 'Refugee Fund'.*

John Purchase

Diocesan items

The Ordination of Women to the Priesthood

If Parishes or other organizations would like to find speakers on this subject, the Board of Ministry has a list of people prepared to address meetings and answer questions. There is also literature available. Contact: Canon Christopher Lewis at Diocesan House.

Praying with the English Tradition

From Bede right up to the present day there is a distinctive tradition of English prayer and praise to God. Drawing on this rich store Margaret Pawley has compiled a lively collection of prayer by English men and women. Available from SPCK, price £2.95.



HARVEST FESTIVALS 1990

Bridge: HARVEST FAMILY EUCHARIST
on Sunday, 7th October at 11am.
(Preacher: Revd John Packer of
St Aidan's, Sheffield – our
link Parish.)

HARVEST EVENSONG at 6.30pm
(Preacher: Revd Canon John
Packer)

Patricbourne: HARVEST MATINS
on Sunday, 14th October at 11am.

“Come, ye thankful people, come.”



PARISH PUMP

Parish Council
News



Bridge Parish Council

The Parish Council had a busy meeting when they met on 13th September after their summer recess.

No holidays for busy councillors Four of the Councillors; Mrs Billie Anderson, Reg Franklin, Ken Greenaway and the Vice-Chairman, Mervyn Gulvin, have been directing a lot of their energy into the Recreation Ground. A comprehensive survey of all the trees has been carried out and necessary care, work and new planting has been identified and in some cases already carried out. Cllr Mrs Anderson is preparing an application to submit to Shell for a grant for some of the works proposed, which include improvements in the pavilion area and the provision of circular wooden seats around two of the mature trees which will also protect them from the mower. Cllr Tim Hoare has kindly offered to gift two trees for inclusion in the plans.

Cllr Mrs Meriel Connor has been walking the footpaths and has just updated her survey of all the rights of way in the parish. Complaints about new fencing and changes to one part of the bridleway leading from Patricbourne Road to Bridge Down have been investigated and found to be in accordance with the Kent County Council Diversion Order made at the time of the construction of the Bypass.

Cllr Mrs Margaret Jones has, as ever, been keeping a watchful eye on the roads and pavements during the summer months, particularly with the recent surface dressing work. A number of complaints have been received that the surface dressing had been done before potholes had been filled in, an oversight according to a County Council spokesman which is to be remedied shortly.

Keeping the parish 'up to scratch' An inspection of the playground equipment has recently been carried out. The cost of

carrying out the maintenance advised is in the region of £700 and provision will be made in next year's budget. The bridge into the Recreation Ground is to be painted at a cost of £195. Following the success of the bulbs planted at the corner of Conyngham Lane, the Chairman, Cllr John Hill, is to purchase more bulbs, this time for the area of grass in front of the Recreation Ground in Patricbourne Road.

Continuing sagas The Council is still trying to get a bottle-bank for the village. 'Affordable Homes for Village People' is still high on their list of priorities and they have now enlisted the help of the Downland Housing Trust. The County Council are to be pressed again to arrange for the ramp from the road into the driveway of 'Robbins' on Bridge Hill to be removed following an incident where a cyclist swerved into a car to avoid the ramp.

Thanks A thank-you from the Council to Mr and Mrs Booth of Union Road who, voluntarily, are responsible for the floral display alongside the path to the rear entrance to the Village Hall.

Another peaceful planning period Only one new application has been received, namely for floodlighting the tennis courts in Patricbourne Road and there was no objection to this. The following applications have been granted planning permission by the City Council: the erection of a 100-bedroomed hotel with ancillary accommodation on land to the south of Pond Cottages; a first floor side extension to 23 Bridge Down; the conversion of part of the first floor from storeroom to flat, 2 Western Avenue.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday, 11th October at 7.30pm in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall. Parishioners are most welcome to attend these meetings. *K Walder, Clerk*

Fish News

Luncheon Club meetings restarted on September 3rd. Because both the cooks at The New Close were ill, our first three sessions were threatened with cancellation. However, thanks to the efforts of our volunteers we were able to provide meals for our first two sessions — one at The New Close and the other in the Village Hall.

This exercise made us appreciate how much we owe to Mary and Jean who cook our weekly meal in addition to their usual work. We wish them a speedy recovery.

The Luncheon Club has now been running for ten years, and we hope to celebrate with a gala meal on October 8th.

October Coffee Pop-In will be on Wednesday, 10th from 10.15 to 11.45am in the Village Hall.

The Mobile Chiropody Clinic will be at The New Close from Monday, October 22nd to Friday, October 26th.

Joan Warren, 830233

St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne

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

Hon Secretary: Mr T. J. Flisher, 52 Riverside Close, Bridge CT4 5TN (830871)

Hon Treasurer: Mr K. Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patribourne CT4 5BU (830947)

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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)

Organist: Mrs R.M. Stacey, Joslet, Keepers Hill, Patribourne CT4 5BT (830205)

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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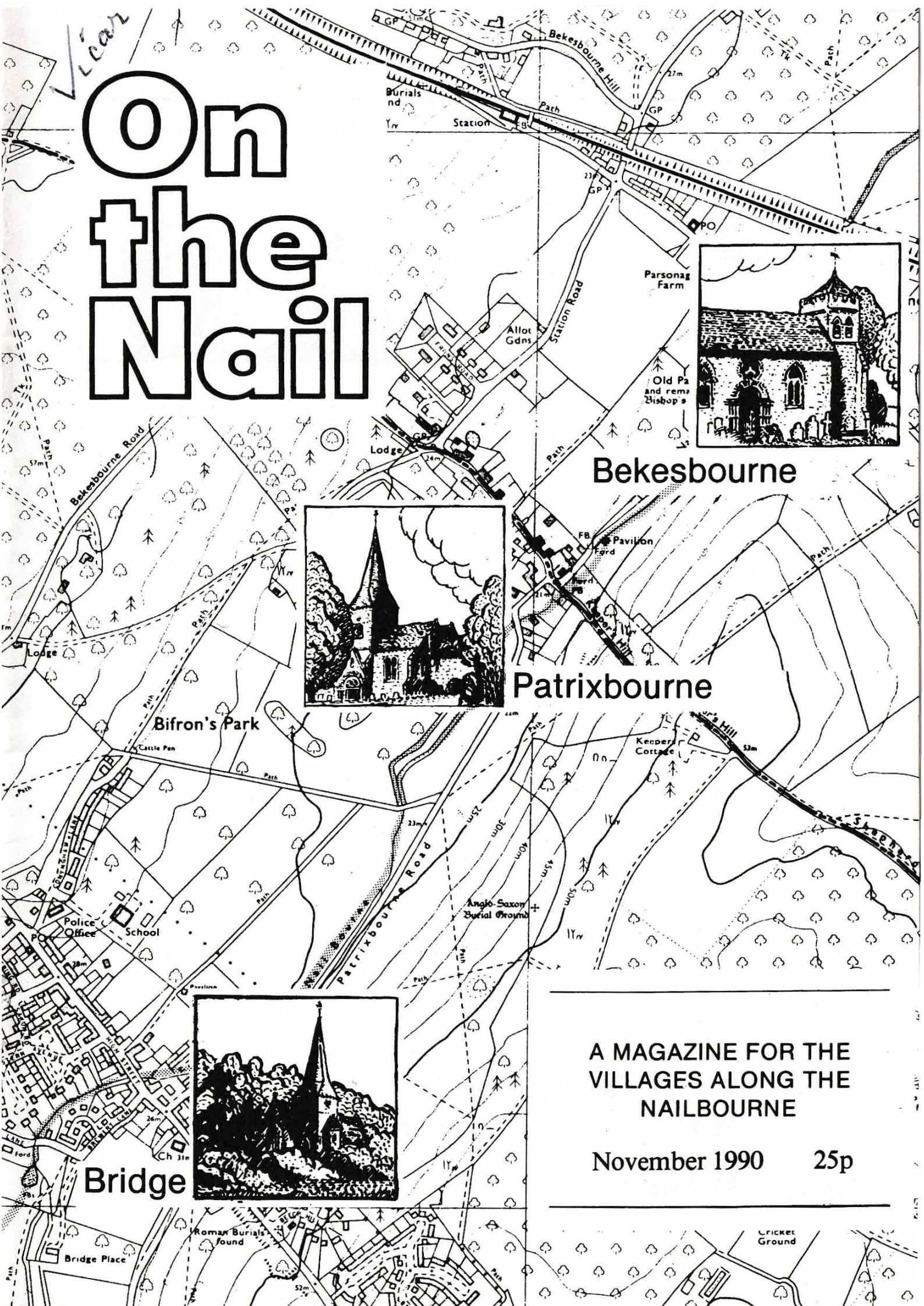
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On the Nail



Bekebourne



Patrixbourne



Bridge

A MAGAZINE FOR THE VILLAGES ALONG THE NAILBOURNE

November 1990 25p

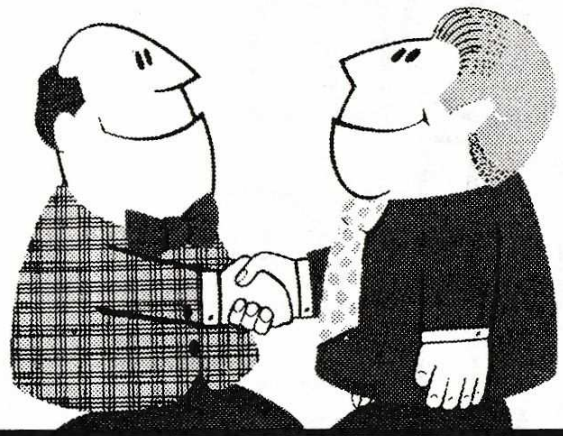
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Sunday Worship in November

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

4th:

11am Family Service
with Baptism
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion 9.30 Parish Communion

11th:

9.30 The Eucharist
(ASB Rite A)
3.30pm Evensong

11am Matins
(Canon F Bull)

8am Holy Communion
10.55am Service of
Remembrance

18th:

9.30 Parish Communion
(ASB Rite A)
3.30pm Evensong
(Canon F Bull)

8am Holy Communion 11am Matins

25th:

8am Holy Communion
3.30pm Evensong

9am Holy Communion 11am Matins

2nd December:

11am Family Gift Service 8am Holy Communion 9.30 Parish Communion
3.30pm Evensong

PLEASE NOTE that with the agreement of the PCC Sunday Evensong throughout the winter months will be at 3.30pm. We change to the new time on 11th.

● *Following the 9.30am Eucharist at Bridge on the second Sunday of each month coffee and biscuits are served at the back of the church. Donations will be gratefully received to help our sister parish of Bekesbourne reach its Church Urban Fund target.*

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: 4th, Miss J Charlesworth 11th, Holy Communion, The Revd Sheila Foreman 18th, The Revd John Forster 25th, The Revd Dr Derek Brice.

Weekdays Celebrations of Holy Communion are held in St Peter's Church, Bridge each Wednesday (BCP) at 9.30am and on Friday mornings (Rite A) at 7.30. 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 most welcome to share in this short, informal act of worship.

For your diary and prayer list

1st *All Saints' Day*

Prayers for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm

2nd *Commemoration of All Souls*

3rd Pray for Gillian Doré and Nicholas Coles who are to be married this afternoon at Patricxbourne.

4th *Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity: 8 before Christmas*

- 7th Bridge and Patricxbourne School Book Sale, 2.30 - 4pm
Nailbourne Horticultural Society, Bridge Methodist Church, 8pm
- 8th *Saints and Martyrs of England*
Bridge Parish Council, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
- 9th *The Children's Society Annual Christmas Gift Fair*, Cathedral Chapter House, 10am to 12 noon
- 10th **THE AUTUMN FAYRE**, The School Hall from 2pm. Come and enjoy the congenial atmosphere of this popular annual event and at the same time help to support Bridge and Patricxbourne Churches.
- 11th *Twenty-Second Sunday after Trinity : 7 before Christmas*
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY will be marked by the Bridge Branch of the Royal British Legion laying a wreath at the village war memorial in the churchyard at 10.30am. The Service of Remembrance this year is in St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne. It is timed to start at 10.55 in order to be in church for the customary two minutes silence at 11am.
- 14th Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15 - 11.45am
- 15th Samaritans Coffee Morning, 18 Conyngham Lane, 10am to 12 noon
Prayers for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm
- 16th *St Margaret of Scotland, Queen, Wife, Mother, 1093*
- 17th *St Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, 680: St Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, 1200*
- 18th *Twenty-Third Sunday after Trinity : 6 before Christmas*
- 20th *St Edmund of East Anglia, King, Martyr, 870*
AGM of Bridge with Patricxbourne WI, Bridge Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 24th *Kent Trust for Nature Conservation Christmas Cards & Gift Sale*, 9 High Street, 10am to 6pm
- 25th *Sunday next before Advent : 5 before Christmas*
Kent Trust for Nature Conservation Christmas Cards & Gift Sale, 9 High Street, 10am to 6pm
- 28th Pray for Bridge School Governors who meet this evening
- 29th Patricxbourne with Bridge PCC meeting, Bridge Methodist Church, 7.30pm
- 30th *St Andrew the Apostle*

Dipping into December

Announcing three events early next month that you mustn't miss!

1. Bekesbourne Christmas Market, the major fundraising event for St Peter's Church and Bekesbourne Brownies, is on Saturday, 1st in Bekesbourne Village from 2.15pm. Please note the date and lend your support!
2. The Family Service on Sunday, 2nd is the occasion when we ask families to bring with them a Christmas present for a resident of The New Close. Without this gift service some of the residents could face Christmas without a present to unwrap. Your generosity in previous years has ensured this doesn't happen. As usual it would help the staff if you put a label on your gift with 'From the (name) family to . . .' leaving the recipient's name to be added later. Please also specify if your gift is only suitable for a man or woman. It is hoped the Officer in Charge, Mr Pearson will be at the service to receive the gifts, as in previous years.
3. On Tuesday, 4th December at 7.45pm in St Peter's Church, Bridge there

will be a dramatic reading of Clive Sansome's award-winning poem *The Witness*. In aid of church funds it will be performed by Thea and William Carr, Raymond Gilbert and Catherine Pike. The poem is extremely moving and describes the witnesses' reaction to their encounter with Jesus of Nazareth. Included among them are the wife of the Bethlehem innkeeper, Joseph, John the Baptist, Martha of Bethany, St Peter, the owner of the Palm Sunday donkey, the rich young ruler and many others.

Out of the world to be in the world

For about seven years now the clergy of East Bridge Deanery and their wives have shared with church people across the Channel, mostly priests, in an ecumenical link that brings us together twice a year. In the spring our French friends spend a day in the deanery and in the autumn we go over there.

At our last meeting in France on 11th October we spent the day visiting two monasteries, one male and one female, near the village of Wiscques. Both communities are Benedictine and enclosed, which means the monks and nuns never leave the abbey confines, devoting their lives to prayer and work within it.

We were privileged in each abbey to attend one of the lesser hours (short acts of worship that punctuate the day), in the men's community occupying seats at the back of the church, and in the women's being restricted to a transept where we could not see or be seen by the community.

Set apart

It was in the abbey of Notre Dame that the presence of the enclosure was most noticeable. We were ushered into our corner of the church to hear the nuns sing the office. It is a lofty building, and sitting side on we could just see a bit of the altar. Across the church, at right-angles to us, was a high wrought-iron railing which marked the limit of the enclosure, effectively cutting off the community from the altar: we faced no such barrier.

After the service we went back into the entrance hall, where one of the sisters silently showed us slides of the abbey, with a recorded commentary to explain them — normally silence reigns, talking being limited to the recreation hour and other times when verbal communication is essential.

Having seen the slides we were shown into a large room, in which the part where we were was segregated from the rest of the room by a wooden partition about three feet high surmounted by vertical bars to a height of fifteen feet or more, not unlike the sheriff's jail in an old Western Film. Actually, as a means security the grille (which is what this barrier was) would have been quite useless since most of the bars could be moved away at the bottom with ease, as we discovered by testing them.

Two sisters (one the projectionist) came into the other section of the room through a separate door, and while we drew up some chairs to the grille on our side they did the same on theirs and we taked through it. The second nun was a postulant and could only have been about twenty years old. She was there because she spoke fluent English — her mother being English.

They asked for questions and I couldn't resist asking what one of the French priests thought a most significant question; why we had been allowed to share the same space as the sister when watching the slides but were now physically

cut off from her by the flimsy grille. The answer was that the grille symbolized for the sisters the enclosure of their lives, like the more sturdy grille across the front of the church. It was interesting to note that even the French priests were put off by the grille, which permitted verbal and visual contact, though not physical, and whereas the sisters took it all in their stride we felt inhibited and uncomfortable, almost unclean behind it.

Why be shut away?

People invariably find the enclosed monastic life difficult to contend with or understand. Is it an escape from the world and its problems (the most commonly held idea), in which case it's cowardly and wrong? Is it some kind of permanent quarantine against the corruption of the world, or maybe a less drastic solution to a lost love than joining the foreign legion?

Actually it's none of these but a positive desire to devote one's life to the service of God in the best way possible, through worship and prayer, which is why the monastic day revolves round the regular times of communal prayer, where the domestic chores and work are interrupted by a few minutes together in the chapel. Enclosed religious communities protest that they don't cut themselves off from the world because they can't face it, but actually immerse themselves in it by constantly offering the world's needs and cares in prayer to God. We don't see prayer as quite that important, so challenge their motives (monks and nuns have been called wicked for shutting themselves away) and feel they would be better employed doing some useful work for the church out in the world. Yet in a way, apart from anything else, they keep before our eyes the chief end of our human existence, which the Revised Catechism says is "to worship God and enjoy him for ever". St Augustine's prayer is also pertinent here: "Thou, O God, hast made us for thyself, and our hearts are restless till they rest in thee". The trouble is, shut away like that, we forget monks and nuns exist, which means their work and witness is rather lost on us. Or maybe, unbeknown to us, we are a good deal better off for their prayers.

Joys and Sorrows

Bekesbourne's Harvest Festival decorations merged happily with those for the wedding the day before of **Helen Ash**, Parsonage Farm to **Jamie Watson** of Chillenden, to whom we offer our prayers and blessings for the future.

* * *

The church and Aerodrome community at Bekesbourne were shocked and greatly saddened by the sudden death of **Anne Barnes**, 'Anne's Cote', Aerodrome Road. Anne was such a happy and lively person who endeared herself to everyone she met. No doubt she was a model nurse during her working life. She was a greatly loved and very devoted mother and churchgoer, and amazingly, until her death never had a day's illness throughout her long life.

The parishioners of Bridge were sorry to hear of the death of **Leonard Flynn** of 12 Dering Close after a period of ill health, and we extend our sympathy to his wife Gladys at this sad time. The vicar officiated at a cremation service at Barham, attended by many friends from the village and beyond.

The death on 29th September of **Maurice Stacey**, 8 Bourne View leaves Bridge bereft of one of its very senior residents, whose cremation on 6th October followed a service in Bridge Methodist Church. The following tribute was supplied for us by JW:

Maurice Stacey was one of the great village characters who had been associated with the parish of Bridge and Patrixbourne for over seventy years. He went to school at Bekesbourne and his first job was as a boot-boy at the Old Palace, where he received a free breakfast and a pint of milk for his services. He then joined the firm of Price & Sons who were a high-class grocers and were situated where Skippers are today. During the Second World War he served in the RAF and afterwards rejoined Prices, who were subsequently taken over by Vyes. Latterly he worked in Canterbury as a china packer with Courts in Burgate. He lived for over forty years at 8 Bourne View, surrounded by his immaculately kept garden.

On The Nail Noticeboard

Bridge Pharmacy

I shall be retiring on 31st October and from 1st November the pharmacy will be owned by Mrs Lesley Coates. I would like to thank all those who have supported the pharmacy during the last twelve years and hope this support will continue for Mrs Coates.

Grace Goodman

Nailbourne Gardeners

Did you know that your local gardening society, the Nailbourne Horticultural Society, has now been running for about sixteen years?

Whether you are an 'expert', a beginner or just plain interested, we will be pleased to welcome you at the varied and interesting talks and functions that we arrange throughout the year. This month's meeting will be a talk and demonstration in Bridge Methodist Church given by Mrs Muggleton on *Winter Flower Decorations*. To whet your appetite further forthcoming meetings — the details will appear monthly in *On The Nail* — will include talks on such varied subjects as 'The Flora of South Africa', 'Making your own compost', experiences in the Land Army and 'Growing Alpines'.

We do hope there is something to cater for all tastes. Although the talks are open to non-members, benefits of joining the society include the opportunity to share gardening tips and seek advice, as well as enjoying discounts from local garden centres. We also hope to organize shortly a collective seed order, which should attract an even larger discount. The annual subscription is £1 per person and £1.50 per family. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings this winter.

For further information please contact Roger Austin (830185), Rajini Dasan (830313) or Peter Langley (830609).

Kent Trust for Nature Conservation

The annual Christmas Card and Gift Sale is at 9 High Street on Saturday, 24th and Sunday 25 from 10am to 6pm.

D Whittaker

Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute

The Samaritans have received a donation from the recently held WI Jumble Sale. Why not join the WI? We meet in Bridge Village Hall on the third Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm. This month's meeting on 20th is our AGM. Contact Mrs E Stewart (830344).

Joan Monk

Continued on page 13

Extra Coffee Morning

This year I am holding an extra Coffee Morning to raise more funds for the Samaritans on Thursday, 15th from 10am to 12 noon. Usual stalls; I look forward to seeing you.

M.E.J.

Hospital League of Friends

The recent Garage Sale raised £80 to be spent on equipment for the local hospitals. Many thanks to all who supported us. Our next fund-raising event will be a 'Musical Interlude', with the singing group *Just Four Men* at the Dominican Priory on Saturday, 17th November at 7.30pm. The evening will conclude with a Ploughman's Supper to include a glass of wine and coffee, all for the price of £5. Tickets and enquiries to Elizabeth Stewart (830344) or committee members. Do come and join us and bring your friends and family.

Maggie Field

Church Urban Fund

Bekesbourne Brownies have collected pennies in Smartie tubes, and have donated £9.31 to our Church Urban Fund — this is the third collection from the Brownies — a splendid effort which brings us closer to our target for the Fund. Our thanks also to Bridge Church for their help — we are nearly there now.

Firework Spectacular and Bonfire

A Grand Firework Spectacular and Bonfire will be held in the field adjacent to the Recreation Ground on Saturday 3rd November from 6.30pm. Fun for all the family, delicious food available — hot dogs, soup, crisps, drinks. Adults £1.50, Children 80p.

School Days

Bridge and Patrixbourne CE Primary School requires a cleaner for 1½ hours per day — term-time only. Hours to suit. Starting 5th November. Please apply to the school, telephone 830276.

* * *

Bridge and Patrixbourne CE Primary School is holding a book sale on 7th November, 2.30 - 4pm. New paperbacks and hardbacked books for adults and children available at greatly reduced prices. Tea will be served during the afternoon. Please tell your friends, everybody will receive a warm welcome!

A G Newton, Headmistress

Sponsored bike ride result

Congratulations to all our cyclists and walkers, who raised the magnificent sum of £392.65, of which 50% will be returned to the church. Rosalind Waller, who walked the route visiting twenty rural churches raised the staggering figure of £133!

All the participants did extremely well and I hope the families for whom this was their first attempt enjoyed it so much that they will volunteer again next year, and encourage their friends to join in. They all deserve a mention for their sterling efforts, and if you — dear reader — know any of them do add verbal congratulations when you meet. If you didn't sponsor them this year

perhaps you will next! Here they are: Evelyn Andrews and Matthew; Vivienne Brasier, Claire and Daniel; Chris and Lesley Finney, Simon and Alex; Tim Flisher, Simon and Emma; Jean and Eric Hopkins, James and Nick; Stephen and Hilary Pike, Elizabeth and Catherine; Christine and John Sladden, David and Mary; Tony Walder and Richard; Rosalind Waller; Pat Wilmshurst and Lucy.

May I add my personal thanks to the volunteers who helped me keep the church open all day to sign in the cyclists and cheer them on their way.

Kath Pierce

Fireworks at The New Close

Please note that owing to the new location of the village bonfire and fireworks display on 3rd November, it is considered that as this is in close proximity to The New Close there is no point in having a separate firework party on Monday, 5th. Friends are of course still invited to view the display with the residents and for this there will be a small charge towards the cost. As usual we still hope to provide a drink and snack.

Doug Cartwright, Chairman

Bridge Brownies and Guides

In Bridge we are very fortunate to have a thriving Brownie Pack of seven to ten-year-olds, all bright and enthusiastic, *but* Susan Leaney, the Brown Owl desperately needs some help. This is a delightful age group, but one pair of hands is not enough to organize and occupy twenty-four Brownies. I would love to hear from anyone who would be interested in this rewarding job, and if you have a friend who would come too, so much the better. Experience in Guiding would be useful but not essential and if you are aged between eighteen and fifty-five and could spare the time please ring me on 830224.

Mrs Maggie Field, District Commissioner

* * *

In September a number of Guides, Brownies and Leaders took part in a fashion show. Rather strange, you may think, but the models this time were showing the new Guide, Brownie, Rangers and Leaders' uniforms.

The day before the event we had a practice in Mrs Field's house, which was good because we were allowed a swim in their pool!

The night came and everybody was very nervous, but 'it's always all right on the night!' The Guides and Brownies all jogged down the catwalk as if they had done it all their lives. Even Mrs Field, our Leader went down the catwalk in real style! They did three shows at the Simon Langton Grammar School and everyone agreed it was really good fun to do, but very hard work. Next stop, the catwalks of Milan!

Susan Mummery

Music success

Two ex-pupils of Bridge School and both members of the Canterbury Youth Band achieved first and second places in their class at the Medway *Kent Messenger* Annual Brass Solo Contest recently. The contest, held in Chatham Town Hall, was open to soloists from all over the country. Sarah Field, aged fifteen, from Bridge won first place, playing *Idylle* by Edward Elgar on cornet

and Julian Fagg, also fifteen, from Bekesbourne gained second place playing *Legend* by Philip Catelinet on tuba. Both were accompanied on the piano by David Cutting, their teacher and Musical Director of the Band. *Anon*

PART-TIME STREET CLEANER Due to the resignation of the present street cleaner, because of full-time employment commitments, Bridge Parish Council is again seeking a part-time Street Cleaner to keep the village clean and tidy. Hours and pay are by negotiation and equipment will be provided.

Interested person should contact either the Chairman, Cllr John Hill (Tel: 830215) or the Clerk, Kathy Walder (Tel: 830057).



Patricbourne with Bridge Parish again ask for your support at their highly popular

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1st December
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- All our usual stalls
- All our usual bargains
- Come and enjoy it!

PARISH
PUMP
Parish Council
News



Bridge Parish Council

The Council met on Thursday, 11th October.

Progress The Vice-Chairman, Cllr Mervyn Gulvin and Cllr Mrs Meriel Connor are preparing a leaflet on the footpaths of the Parish. When completed, this will be available to interested persons. It is also intended eventually to have a large map of the footpaths on display in a prominent position in the village. With

regard to a bottlebank in the village, it is understood from the City Council that Bridge may be allocated one to replace an under-utilised site in Canterbury, hopefully before the end of the year. Meanwhile the Nailbourne Scout Group's collection of waste paper continues each month on the week-end of the first Saturday of the month.

The Council have received from the

City Council the street name plate for the footpath leading from the High Street to the Recreation Ground and the Chairman, Cllr John Hill will be putting it up shortly at the High Street end. No longer will this path need to be referred to by the above long-winded phrase but will be known simply (and relevantly) as Bifrons Path.

Due to the considerable problems with the delivery of bark, the swings have not been able to be used for the last month, but it is hoped that by the time this is read, the bark will have been delivered and put in place as a safety surface around the swings.

Painting of the bridge at the Recreation Ground has now been carried out at a cost of £165 and it is intended that the play equipment will be repainted next year.

Members of the Council were to plant daffodil bulbs in the area alongside the Recreation Ground in Patricxbourne Road on Saturday, 20th October.

Concern The Council were concerned to learn from Cllr Mrs Margaret Jones that sacks of rubbish which included aerosol cans of weed killer had been dumped alongside the school path in the Recreation Ground. Cllr Mrs Jones arranged for the rubbish, which was a potential hazard to the many children who use the path, to be removed.

Resignation of Street Cleaner The Council were sorry to receive the resignation of Miss Sarah Howland who had, by her conscientious efforts, been keeping the village clean and tidy over the past few months. It is hoped that a replacement will be found for her soon.

'Affordable Homes for Village People'

The Chairman reported that he and other members of the Sub-Committee were to meet with representatives from the Downland Housing Trust on the Tuesday following the meeting to look at possible sites should the land be made available. He also said that he had been informed by Savills, the agents for the Conyngham Estate, that the provision of affordable housing was one of their priorities in their future plans for the area.

Resident's Request Following a request from a resident in Patricxbourne Road for an extension of the 30mph speed limit restriction and for further street lighting there, the Council decided to investigate the possibility of providing a further lighting column which, it was advised by the County Council, would result in the speed limit restriction being moved automatically.

Planning proposals The Council had no observations on two applications for two-storey extensions at Nos 9 and 28 Bridge Down. Tree Preservation Order No 6, 1990 relating to Sidehill Wood has been confirmed by the City Council.

Community Adviser Cllr Reg Franklin has agreed to be the Community Adviser for the City Council and in this capacity he will liaise with them in the event of any emergencies such as severe weather conditions as part of their emergency planning procedures.

The Council's next meeting will be on Thursday, 8th November at the usual time of 7.30pm in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall and as always parishioners are most welcome to come along.

K Walder, Clerk

Fish News



The Luncheon Club held a celebration on 8th October for its tenth birthday. The delicious meal was cooked by Mrs Mary Moat and Mrs Jean Foster, who were each presented with a plant to mark their ten year's service to the club. On behalf of the community Councillor John Hill, Chairman of Bridge Parish Council thanked the catering staff and volunteers for their work and congratulated three members who had been present at the first meeting — Miss Ada Francis, Mrs Sophie Taylor and Mr Reg Harvey. After lunch members were entertained by the choir of Barham with Kingston WI.

The Fish Scheme, which is affiliated to *Age Concern*, provides voluntary help for elderly and disabled people in Bridge and the surrounding villages. In addition to running the Luncheon Club the scheme provides advice, information, a welfare service, a transport scheme and a monthly Coffee Pop-In. When the scheme started in 1980 many of our volunteers were over retirement age and advancing years have depleted

their number. The present policy of encouraging married women to return to work and lifting the optional retirement age to sixty-five in many occupations has severely reduced the pool from which voluntary bodies recruited their volunteers. New volunteers are urgently needed. If you can spare a few hours to help each month please let me know.

Transport The Canterbury Volunteer Bureau has increased its mileage allowance to volunteer drivers to 25p per mile. As we cover most of the bureau's work in our villages the allowance to our drivers will be going up to the same rate. It is three years since the last rise and I am sure that users of the transport scheme will appreciate that the recent large increase in petrol prices and increasing maintenance costs have made this rise inevitable.

The Christmas Shopping Evening in Canterbury will be on Wednesday, 21st November from 6 to 7.45pm. Marks & Spencer, British Home Stores, W H Smith, Woolworths, C&H Fabrics, Ratners (Jewellers) and Culpeppers will be open. Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to attend, as tickets are limited. I should be grateful for offers from drivers to provide transport for elderly people to enable them to do their Christmas shopping.

The next **Coffee Pop-In** is in Bridge Village Hall on Wednesday, 14th from 10.15 to 11.45am. If you haven't been before, do join us. This is a social gathering not a fund-raising event and we can provide transport if you can't get to the Hall under your own steam.

Joan Warren, 830233

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PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

Churchwardens: Mr J.J. Williamson, Beechmount, Conyngham Lane, Bridge CT4 5JX (830399)

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

Hon Secretary: Mr T. J. Flisher, 52 Riverside Close, Bridge CT4 5TN (830871)

Hon Treasurer: Mr K. Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patricxbourne CT4 5BU (830947)

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

Organist (Bridge): Mr A. Wills, 10 Brooklands Close, Fordwich, Canterbury CT2 0BT (711278)

Organist (Patricxbourne): Mrs R.M. Stacey, Joslet, Keepers Hill, Patricxbourne CT4 5BT (830205)

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: Mrs R.M. Stacey, Joslet, Keepers Hill, Patricxbourne CT4 5BT (830205)

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.

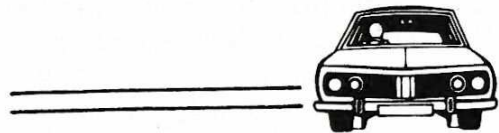
Would Secretaries of Organisations and others with items for On The Nail please send them to the editor by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

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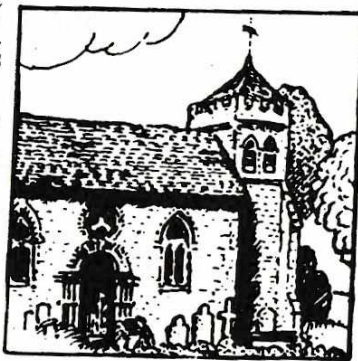
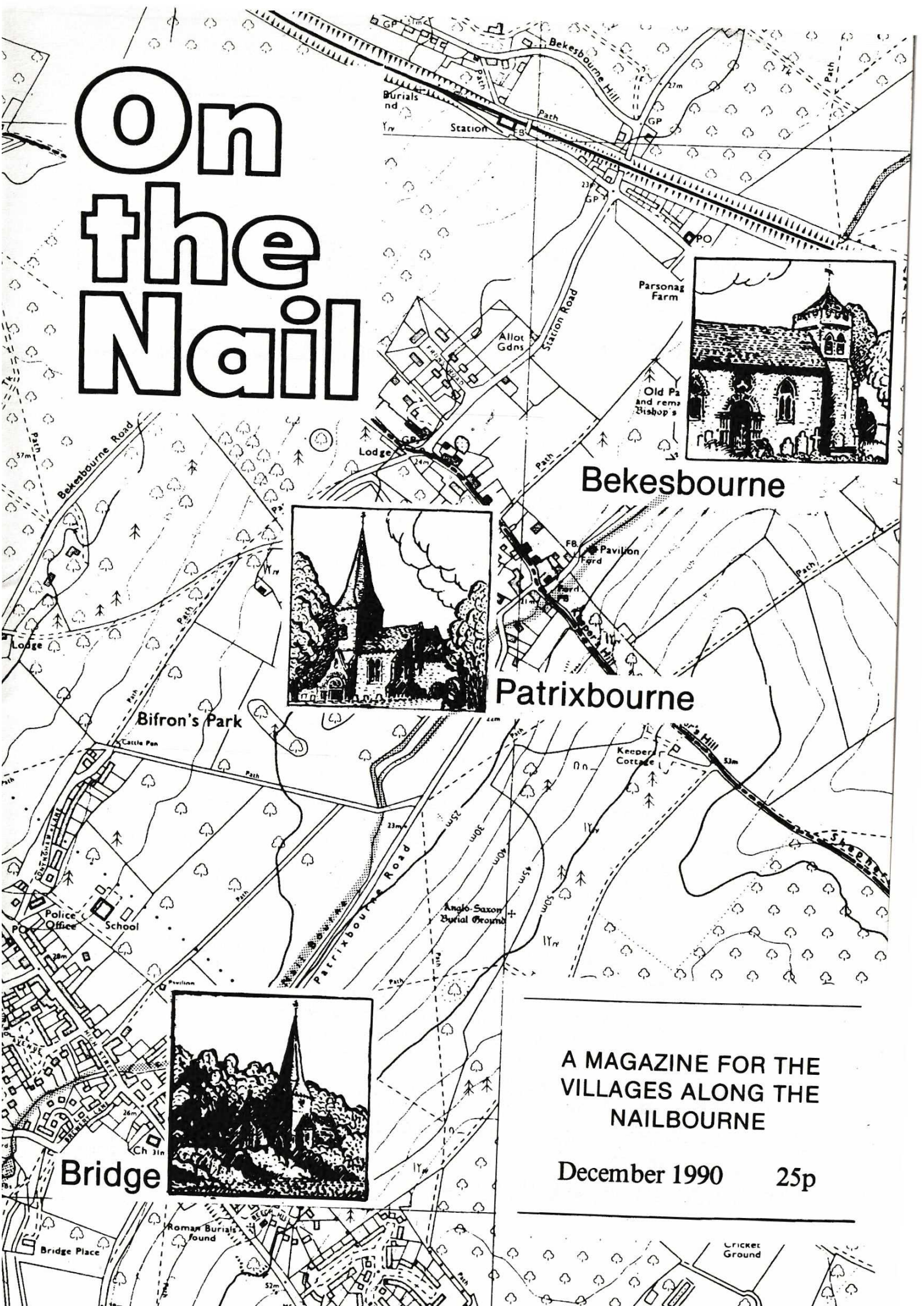
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On the Nail



Bekesbourne



Patricxbourne



Bridge

A MAGAZINE FOR THE
VILLAGES ALONG THE
NAILBOURNE

December 1990 25p

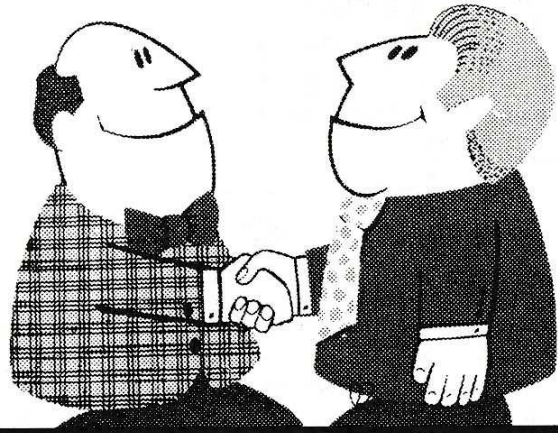
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Sunday Worship in December

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

2nd:

11am Family Gift Service 8am Holy Communion 9.30 Parish Communion
3.30 Evensong

9th:

9.30 The Eucharist (ASB Rite A) 11am Matins 8am Holy Communion
3.30 Evensong

16th:

9.30 Parish Communion (ASB Rite A) 8am Holy Communion 11am Matins
3.30pm Nativity Play (Junior Church)

23rd:

8am Holy Communion 11am Carol Service 11am Matins (Revd W Owen)
6.30pm Carol Service

30th:

9.30 The Eucharist (ASB Rite A) 11am Matins 8am Holy Communion
No Evensong today

6th January:

11am Family Service at the start of the Decade of Evangelism 8am Holy Communion 9.30 Parish Communion
3.30pm Evensong

● *Following the 9.30am Eucharist at Bridge on the second Sunday of each month coffee and biscuits are served at the back of the church. Donations will be gratefully received to help our sister parish of Bekesbourne reach its Church Urban Fund target.*

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *2nd*, Mr R Chadwick *9th*, Holy Communion, The Revd Sheila Foreman *16th*, Dr J Rogers *23rd*, Mrs Hazel Colyer *30th*, The Revd Sheila Foreman

Weekdays Celebrations of Holy Communion are held in St Peter's Church, Bridge each Wednesday (BCP) at 9.30am and on Friday mornings (Rite A) at 7.30am, except on Wednesday, 26th and Friday, 28th. 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 most welcome to share in this short, informal act of worship.

Christmas Communion The Vicar is always most willing to bring communion from the reserved sacrament to sick and housebound communicants. Please let him know if you can't get to church and would like communion brought to you at home this Christmas. The service is quite short and simple.

For your diary and prayer list

1st Pray for Mary Fowler and Clive Relf, to be married at 1.30 in St Peter's

Church, Bridge.

Bekesbourne Christmas Market, Bekesbourne Village Hall at 2.15pm

2nd ***First Sunday in Advent***

A representative of The New Close will be at the Family Service to receive the Christmas presents we have brought for the residents on Christmas Day.

3rd ***Kent Trust for Nature Conservation Christmas Sale*** at 9 High Street, Bridge, 2 - 6pm, until 9th inclusive.

4th ***THE WITNESSES***, a composite portrait in verse of Jesus of Nazareth, will be performed in St Peter's Church, Bridge by Thea and William Carr, Raymond Gilbert and Catherine Pike at 7.45pm. Admission is £2 adults, £1 children, the proceeds going towards setting up a fund for much-needed church redecoration.

6th ***St Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c326***

Nailbourne Horticultural Society, Bridge Methodist Church, 8pm

7th ***St Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Teacher of the Faith, 397***

8th Annual Christmas Coffee Morning, The New Close, 10.30am

9th ***Second Sunday in Advent***

12th Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15 - 11.45am

13th Magazine Distributors Annual Meeting, The Vicarage, 2.30pm

Bridge Parish Council, The Hunter Room, 7pm

14th ***St John of the Cross, Mystic, Teacher of the Faith, 1591***

16th ***Third Sunday in Advent***

Instead of Evensong Junior Church will perform its annual Nativity Play in Bridge Church at 3.30pm.

23rd ***Fourth Sunday in Advent***

Patricxbourne Carol Service at St Mary's, 11am

Bridge Church Carol Service, sung in candlelight by an amalgamated choir, is at 6.30pm.

24th ***Christmas Eve***

Christingle Service, St Peter's Church, Bridge 4pm

The Midnight Eucharist of Christmas will be celebrated in Bridge and Bekesbourne Churches at 11.30pm.

25th ***CHRISTMAS DAY (See below for details)***

26th ***St Stephen the First Martyr***

27th ***St John the Evangelist***

28th ***Holy Innocents***

29th ***St Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1170***

30th ***Sunday after Christmas***

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve

4pm Christingle Service (*Bridge*)

(Collection for *The Children's Society*)

11.30pm Midnight Eucharist (*Bekesbourne & Bridge*)

Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion (*Bridge*)

9.30am Holy Communion with Carols (*Patricxbourne*)

10.30am The Eucharist (*Bridge*)

11am Bekesbourne Carol Service

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Shame about Advent!

Every year Christmas seems to come earlier, at least where the retail trade is concerned! It's only a decade since coloured lights and MERRY XMAS signs began to make an appearance at the end of November. At the time even that seemed somewhat premature — it still does, as a matter of fact — but this year at least one Canterbury shop was sporting Yuletide decorations in October. What price the end of September next year?

All right, so it's good sales technique, akin to the way that come the afternoon of Christmas Eve most shops will have slung out all reference to Christmas and garish SALE notices will have taken over.

* * *

Let's be honest! If Christmas is to be a successful family occasion — and why shouldn't it be? — preparations must be made. No matter how much of a chore and over-commercialized we consider it, even the simplest, no frills Christmas has to be planned ahead, just like any festive occasion, be it a birthday, wedding or house-warming. So let's not cock a snook at the shops for providing the wherewithal for whatever type of Christmas we want, or for generating a festive atmosphere to encourage us to spend (they are in business, after all) towards that end. They know it's not yet Christmas, just as we do, but unless we're committed Christmas shoppers who can't get enough of it the stimulus of a festive environment can make our task that much plesanter.

* * *

Much the same applies to Christmas as a religious festival, for that too needs proper preparation, if our celebration of it is to be of the best. And I'm not just referring to the need for Carol Services and Nativity Plays to be well-rehearsed — most of them also anticipate Christmas anyway. The preparation I'm thinking of is that for which the season of Advent was created, *i.e.* a corporate preparation to celebrate the coming of the Saviour, coupled with an individual preparation of our minds and hearts for certain inevitabilities.

* * *

Advent carefully avoids anticipating Christmas by steering our attention off the Christmas story and accompanying festivities to thoughts of death, judgement, heaven and hell. Why these morbid subjects? Because, as we approach the festival of our Lord's first coming, it is salutary to reflect on his expected and undated second coming when this world comes to an end and gives way to that which is to come. Much as we would rather get on with the jollifications of Christmas the Church, in its wisdom, takes the opportunity to bring us back to reality with thoughts that each of us one day must die, that we shall one day be finally and irrevocably judged, on the outcome of which depends our eternal presence in heaven or hell, *i.e.* with God or absent from him for good and all. The Church established Advent to remind us of these four last things not as a kill-joy, nor yet to pile on the agony of waiting for Christmas, but because they are factors with which we shall all one day be concerned. Unfortunately Advent tends to be an unpopular Christmas preparation, scarcely surprising given its theme, yet despite being on a losing wicket the Church observes Advent and urges the faithful to do the same, postponing the celebrations of Christ's first coming until we have thought of his second coming. So spare a

thought for Advent, then enjoy a wonderful Christmas!

Sponsored Bike Ride reports

Bekesbourne

My thanks to the three intrepid riders: Julian Fagg, Zoe Gabbé and Ian Gillanders, and all their sponsors who supported Bekesbourne Church on the Annual Sponsored Bike Ride. They worked very hard to successfully raise £110, which was a very commendable effort. My thanks particularly go to Jill Gillanders for all her hard work fund-raising both on the day and prior to it.

Christine Ash

Patricxbourne

The Friends of Kent Churches Sponsored Bike Ride 1990 raised £286.95 in Patricxbourne. Riders for St Mary's were Joan Carpenter, Marion Harlow, Jonathan Nicholson, David Morris and John Morris. Thanks are also due to all those who ensured the success of the day by manning the church and 'signing-in' a hundred and nineteen riders over the course of the day.

Andrea Nicholson

Joys and Sorrows

During Bridge's Family Service on 4th November the christening took place of **Isaac William John**, son of Paul and Barbara Berbiers, Yew Tree, Higham Lane.

* * *

St Mary's Church, Patricxbourne was the setting for the wedding on 3rd November of **Gillian Doré**, Waterfall Cottage and **Nicholas Cole** of Worth. We wish them every blessing in their life together.

* * *

We record the recent death of **George Setterfield**, 8 Churchill Close and assure his widow and family of our prayers. Mrs Olive Knight, in a brief tribute, writes: '*Mr Setterfield, who died in October after a long illness bravely borne, was caretaker at Bridge Primary School from January 1971 until July 1977. He is remembered with affection by past pupils and staff for his kindness and good humour in the execution of his duties*'.

The death also occurred in October of **John Westcott Townsend**, 34 Conyngham Lane. John was for many years churchwarden of St John the Baptist's Church, Barham, when he and his wife Betty lived in the village. After moving to Bridge John's health began to deteriorate but his interest in the church never waned. He and Betty regularly received the communion at home until he entered hospital for the last time. His dual church allegiances were recognized in his funeral service which I conducted in Barham Church on 8th November.

At the time of going to press the death has occurred of **Jim Lockley**, Brickfield Cottage, Mill Lane. Jim was a devoted family man, sorely missed by his devastated wife Marie and children Emma and Christopher. He was also a good friend to the community, performing many kind acts, for which he preferred to keep a low profile. The funeral service in Bridge Church, conducted by the Vicar, was followed by cremation at Barham. His ashes will

ultimately be laid to rest in Bridge churchyard.

Following the death of Leonard Flynn, acknowledged in November's *On The Nail*, his widow Gladys has sent the following note of thanks: *'I would like to say a heartfelt thank you for all the cards, flowers, offers of help, and all the love and prayers that have surrounded me since the death of my husband. The lovely service at the crematorium, taken by the Vicar, and his loving words which struck just the right chord. To Penny and David Spencer who have been a tower of strength to me, Thank you, and God bless you all. Gladys Flynn'*.

Church Urban Fund News

Friendships made and strengthened with St Aidan's, Sheffield

At the beginning of October a party of visitors from St Aidan's, Sheffield, led by their rector, the Revd John Packer, joined with us for a Harvest weekend in Patricxbourne and Bridge. New friendships were made between the visitors and ourselves, and visits to the Channel Tunnel Exhibition and the Cathedral were much enjoyed. On the Saturday evening a Harvest Supper took place in the school and on the Sunday morning our visitors joined us in a Harvest Eucharist at St Peter's, Bridge. I would like to thank all who worked so hard to make the weekend a success.

Our visitors brought good news with them. The rebuilt St Swithin's Church (in the same group of parishes as St Aidan's) was completed two months ahead of schedule and was consecrated at the end of October; also the Genesis second-hand clothing shop was now open. Canon and Mrs Packer went to Sheffield the week-end of the consecration and took with them some of our contributions for the Genesis shop.

Betty Frost has written to me and says that the Dedication and opening of the St Swithin's Church Centre took place in a packed church. I have copies of the programme for the week-end and will place them in our two churches. Do read them as they contain a description of the new church, its activities and a history of how it came into being. Thanks have also been expressed for our contributions to the Genesis shop. The shop was opened in the summer and is proving to be a much-needed addition to the Manor Estate. We will supply the shop for the month of May and intend to take our clothing collection to Sheffield in the spring. Thank you for all the donations so far received. Men's clothing seems to be in particular demand, but any further donations of any good and serviceable clothing will be gratefully taken by me or Ann Mummery.

Andrea Nicholson

You've done it again!

For the past two years the Autumn Fayre has astonished us all with the results obtained. This year we hardly dared hope that we would reach last year's figure, but once again we've set a new record! Although the final figure is not yet available it seems that we have reached approximately £1,150, which is about £100 more than last year.

It is impossible to thank everyone individually but our thanks must go to all the village traders who so generously supported us with draw prizes, as well as to those individuals who made donations or gave a lot of their time and talents beforehand or on the day. As you know, it costs a lot to maintain our churches and this event is a vital source of funds. Thank you one and all. *Stephen Pike*

On The Nail Noticeboard

Junior Church 'Blue Peter' Sale

Bridge Junior Church will be holding a *Blue Peter* Bring and Buy Sale in December (The time, date and place have still to be arranged.) We would be grateful for any items that we will be able to sell, *i.e.* cakes, tins of food, toys, records, books. The list is endless, SO PLEASE HELP US TO HELP THE ORPHAN CHILDREN OF ROMANIA. To find out where and when look out in the village for *Blue Peter* posters.

James Hopkins

P.S. Please come and support us!

Kent Trust for Nature Conservation Christmas Sale

The Kent Trust for Nature Conservation is holding its annual Christmas Cards and Gift Sale from 3rd to 9th December at 9 High Street, Bridge, between the hours of 2 and 6pm.

D Whittaker

Friends of The New Close

The Annual Christmas Coffee Morning at The New Close will be on Saturday, 8th December from 10.30 to 11.45am. There will be various stalls and a raffle. Gifts will be very much appreciated.

O. I. K.

Nailbourne Horticultural Society

This month's meeting is in the Methodist Church, Patricxbourne Road on Thursday, 6th at 8pm and will consist of an illustrated talk by Mrs Pat Davidson entitled *The Flora of South Africa*.

Rajini Dasan

Nailbourne Cubs and Scouts

To raise funds the Nailbourne Cubs and Scouts are planning a scrap metal collection from people's homes. Items can include old pieces of car, copper piping, redundant domestic appliances etc, and a skip will be provided by Reclamat for the week-end 23rd/24th February. Early notice is given in the hope that readers will hold back on any metal that they would otherwise take to the Council tip.

Make an orange speak

Christingle Service on behalf of The Children's Society

St Peter's Church, Christmas Eve, 4pm

When the disciples rebuked parents for bringing their children to be touched by Jesus, he spoke out for them, saying: "Let the children come to me; do not try to stop them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these". (Mark 10, 14)

Today, The Children's Society is speaking for children and young people through its work throughout England and Wales. In court, for example, the Society speaks for children in custody disputes by making sure their views are heard. For young people who have run away from home, the Society helps them to rebuild a relationship with their families. Where children are given no choice by the care system, The Children's Society intervenes on their behalf.

So, what's all this about oranges? Here's a clue! When is an orange like a caring Christian? Answer — when it's a Christingle!

A Christingle is a powerful symbol of the Light of Christ in the World; a Moravian Church custom dating back to the 18th century and introduced into the Anglican Church by The Children's Society in 1968.

At our Christmas Eve Christingle Service all the children will be given their own Christingle and invited to offer money they have raised for The Children's Society. That money, along with all the money raised at thousands of other Christingle Services in churches, schools and cathedrals this Christmas, will help The Children's Society to continue its important work, speaking on behalf of children and young people; and making lives worth living. That's how you can make an orange speak!

Contributed



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- All our usual bargains
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The Christmas Gift

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given;
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute

Patchwork or any needlework on the first Monday in the month, at 2.30pm Churchill House. Non-WI members are welcome.

* * *

Twenty-eight members were welcomed to Bridge with Patrixbourne's annual meeting. Next year's programme was discussed at length. Mrs S. Collingwood gave a report on the Seventy-first Half-yearly Council meeting. Mrs E. Stewart gave her report on the group meeting.

In the annual report, a full year of meetings, outings and speakers was outlined. Mrs D. Watson won the competition cup and Mrs J. Hopkins the darts cup.

Mrs E. Stewart was elected president for a second term of office. Mrs M. Jones proposed a vote of thanks to the committee members.

* * *

The next meeting, on Tuesday, 11th December, will be a Christmas special. The competition is for a filled cracker. All welcome.

S. Collingwood

PARISH PUMP

Parish Council
News



Bridge Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Thursday, 8th November.

Thanks The Chairman, Cllr John Hill, thanked all those Councillors who had helped with planting the bulbs alongside the Recreation Ground in Patrixbourne Road. He also thanked Cllr Reg Franklin for pruning two of the trees in the Recreation Ground.

Achievements The playpark safety surfacing has now been put around the

swings and the Vice-Chairman, Cllr Mervyn Gulvin and Cllr Mrs Billie Anderson have kindly offered to rake it until such time as a new street cleaner is appointed.

The new street name plate for Bifrons Path is now in place as promised and the City Council have been busy replacing old name plates or putting up new or more informative ones throughout the village.

After long negotiations between Highland Investments and the Department of Transport, direction signs for Highland

Court Farm have now been erected on the Bypass and hopefully will be effective in stopping lorries bound for the Farm from coming through the village.

Coming soon The Vice-Chairman and Cllr Mrs Meriel Connor are making good progress with their preparation of a footpaths leaflet for the parish and presented a draft of it to the meeting for comment.

The Nailbourne Scout Group are arranging for a scrap metal skip to be sited in the village for one week-end only during the month of February as a fund-raising exercise. Please start saving your scrap metal now for collection by green-capped 'Steptoes' wearing woggles!

Concerns The Council were most concerned to learn that an ambulance had had difficulty in finding Riverside Mews to answer an emergency call. It was therefore decided as a matter of priority to inform all the emergency services of the new development before making enquiries to find out what procedure existed for notifying the emergency services of new streets or developments.

Although the Council had, to date, taken no action over the lengthy mainten-

ance being carried out on the Bridge Bypass, it was agreed that, as the work had lasted much longer than was initially expected, causing pollution, inconvenience and danger to residents from increased traffic, as well as damage to trade, a letter registering the Council's protest should now be sent to Martin Vye, the local County Councillor.

Planning The Council had objected to an application for a conservatory at Saxon Lodge, Saxon Road on grounds relating to the need to find a way of unifying the existing structure and concern for the amount of remaining garden area. The City Council have granted planning permission for a two-storey rear extension to 28 Bridge Down.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall on Thursday, 13th December at the earlier time for this meeting only of 7.00pm.

If anyone has any matter relating to parish affairs that they wish to have raised or discussed at any Parish council meeting, it would be helpful if they would inform the undersigned (tel: 830057), preferably a week prior to the meeting.

K Walder, Clerk

Fish News



Luncheon Club Christmas Arrangements

17th December	Christmas Dinner
24th December	No meeting
31st December	No meeting
7th January	First meeting of the new session

* * *

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

Joan Warren, 830233

Magazine Distributors

The unsung heroes (mainly heroines, in point of fact) of most parishes are those who regularly and in all weathers take round the parish magazine. Where these villages are concerned I doubt whether *On The Nail* would be anything like so popular as it is if everyone had to collect their own copy from a central distribution point, rather than have it slipped through their letterbox each month by a friendly neighbour from the church. Let me therefore take this opportunity of saying a public thank-you to all our magazine distributors for the valuable work they do, and at the same time invite them to the annual meeting, which this year is on Thursday, 13th in the Vicarage at 2.30pm.

As usual it would help me enormously to have a copy of the names on each

round, if possible before the meeting. I know I ask this of you every year, but changes occur quite frequently and it enables me to keep abreast of any that may have escaped my notice.

St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne

Most of the month being in Advent there are no church flowers, but all hands are asked to help decorate for Christmas on 22nd December from 10.30am.

Vicar: The Revd Raymond Gilbert, A.K.C., 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 T. J. Flisher, 52 Riverside Close, Bridge CT4 5TN (830871)

Hon Treasurer: Mr K. Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patricxbourne CT4 5BU (830947)

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

Organist (Bridge): Mr A. Wills, 10 Brooklands Close, Fordwich, Canterbury CT2 0BT (711278)

Organist (Patricxbourne): Mrs R.M. Stacey, Joslet, Keepers Hill, Patricxbourne CT4 5BT (830205)

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: Mrs R.M. Stacey, Joslet, Keepers Hill, Patricxbourne CT4 5BT (830205)

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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