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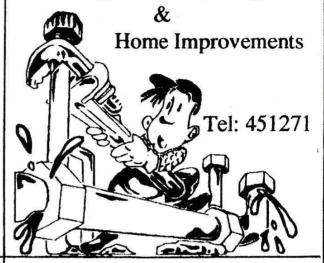
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SUNDAY WORSHIP IN JANUARY

5th 8.00am Holy Communion (*Patrixbourne*)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bekesbourne)

11.00 Family Service (Bridge)

12th 8.00am Holy Communion (Bekesbourne)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bridge)

11.00am Matins (Patrixbourne)

19th 8.00am Holy Communion (*Patrixbourne*)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bridge)

11.00am Matins (Bekesbourne)

26th 8.00am Holy Communion (*Bridge*)

9.30am Parish Communion (Patrixbourne)

11.00am Family Service (Bekesbourne)

6.30pm Evensong (Bridge)

2nd February

8.00am Holy Communion (*Patrixbourne*)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bekesbourne)

11.00am Family Service (Bridge)

6.30pm Evensong (Bridge)

Junior Church welcomes children of 4 year olds and upwards, helping them grow in the faith of the Church, in a secure and caring environment. It meets in Bridge Methodist Church, Patrixbourne Road each Sunday, except the first in the month, from 9.15 to 10.15am. For further details and enrolment parents should get in touch with Mrs Sue Watson (830726).

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: 5th, Covenant Service, The Revd Mary R Teed 12th, Dr Eileen AH Tresidder, BA 19th, Mrs Marjorie Beckwith 26th, The Revd Michael J Walling

Weekdays The Wednesday celebration of Holy Communion in St. Peter's Church, Bridge is suspended until Ash Wednesday; those on Friday mornings are being discontinued until further notice. A brief, informal service is held at The New Close on Wednesdays at 2pm.

FOR '	YOUR DIARY AND PRAYER LIST
1st	Naming of Jesus or Circumcision of Christ
5th	Second Sunday after Christmas
	The 11am Family Service will be on the theme of Epiphany and will be
	conducted by Handley Stevens.
6th	The Epiphany of our Lord
7th	Pray for Bridge School at the start of a new term.
9th	Bridge Parish Council Meeting, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
12th	First Sunday after Epiphany
13th	St. Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, Teacher of the Faith, 367
16th	Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm
17th	St. Antony of Egypt, Abbot, 356
18th	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity until 25th
	Pray for Patrixbourne with Bridge PCC, which meets this morning at
	Riverside Cottage, Patrixbourne.
19th	Second Sunday after Epiphany
21st	St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr, 304
	Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute, Village Hall, 7.30pm
22nd	Pray for the East Bridge Deanery Synod which meets this evening in
	Goodnestone Village Hall, especially for our own representatives: Jane
	Millyard (Bekesbourne), Christine Hoare, Evelyn Andrews and David
	Latham (Patrixbourne with Bridge)
24th	St. Francis de Sales, Bishop, Teacher of the Faith, 1622
	United Service, Bridge Methodist Church, 7.30pm
25th	Conversion of St. Paul
	Friends of Bekesbourne Church Jumble Sale, Bekesbourne Village Hall,
	10.00 - 12 noon.
26th	Ninth Sunday before Easter: Septuagesima
27th	St. John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, Teacherof the Faith, 407
28th	St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Teacher of the Faith, 1274
	Nailbourne Horticultural Society AGM, Bridge Village Hall, 7.30pm

Rosemary and Raymond Gilbert thank all who sent Christmas greetings and who give so much support.

Charles I, King & Martyr, 1649

29th

30th

Pray for Bekesbourne PCC meeting this evening at School House.

FROM THE VICAR, AS RURAL DEAN

This time last year the Turnbull and Gadd reports were hot off the press. Since then little has happened with Turnbull, except that the General Synod wants the National Council to be called the Archbishops' Council and the Church Commissioners are unhappy at the threat to clip their financial wings.

Discussion continues with the Gadd report, one outcome being the creation of the Deanery Review Group, whose questionnaire your PCC was asked to discuss and respond to. To date the group hasn't finished work but we in this deanery are already doing some thinking, particularly in the light of the interregnum in the Aylesham/Adisham benefice.

I'm sure we all knew Andrew Yates wouldn't be with us much longer, though none of us relished his going. In the end his move to Dudley caught all of us on the hop, coming in the holidays when it wasn't possible to give him a proper send off. If ever a priest was in the right place at the right time it was Andrew, whose ministry touched not only the church communities but every inhabitant of Aylesham and Adisham and it was only after he'd gone that the full measure of his impact on the benefice and wider community became apparent.

Andrew is also a great loss to the deanery, not least for his enthusiastic input to our adult education and lay training programme, particularly in the area of joint confirmation preparation. His getting-to-know-one-another sessions just before Deanery Confirmations showed Andrew the teacher at his most skilful. After initial hesitancy a replacement is now being sought and hopefully the right person will emerge before too long.

1997 is a landmark, marking as it does the 1400th anniversary of the arrival at Ebbsfleet of St. Augustine. Rumour has it he settled at Canterbury because he feared what might await him further inland. However, here he stayed, here we are, and plans for the 597 Experience are well under way. Watch for further announcements as the excitement mounts!

May God richly bless you in your witness for him in 1997 and please pray for one another via the deanery Calendar of Intercession, for as St. James said, "The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects'.

* * *

What you've just read - assuming you have - was written with my Rural Dean hat on and is my annual New Year's magazine article for the deanery. However, I want to append a few words in my role as vicar, beginning with a note of special thanks to the stalwart band that makes sure you get your copy of *On The Nail*.

Once I've produced each issue and Rosemary's careful proof-reading has flushed out the inevitable typing errors, Laurence Dunderdale takes it to *Prontaprint* for them to photocopy and assemble. He then collects the finished article and he and Pat, Andrea Nicholson and Jill Gillanders make up bundles of both *On The Nail* and *Outlook* which they pass on to the individual distributors. These last see that you get your copy each month, all for the bargain price it has been for many years of 25p a copy or £3 a year. To all the aforementioned our grateful thanks.

However, I want to give a special vote of thanks to Mrs Effie Johnson who retired as a magazine distributor after taking round the December issue. She clocked up a staggering 32 years service, all that time covering the same area of Bridge Down. Those with sufficiently long memories of the locality can work out that Effie has been the one and only distributor in that section of Bridge Down since that's how old the 'estate', if residents will pardon the expression, has existed. Very many thanks, Effie, for an important piece of Church work well and truly carried out!

* * *

I'm writing on a bright, sunny Saturday morning the other side of Christmas, and what a relief to have the sun back after what seems like weeks of dark, overcast skies pressing down on us. It's at times like today when we appreciate the precious nature of light and give thanks for it.

In the bleak midwinter the Christian Church takes every available opportunity to celebrate light, doing so at Advent and Christmas, next month at Candlemas and this month on the Epiphany (January 6th). The Epiphany is a much neglected feast, partly due to its proximity to Christmas but also because what it commemorates by and large is included in the Christmas festivities, i.e. the coming of the wise men from the east.

In an effort to keep to the biblical script we here try as far as possible at Christmas to focus on the coming of the shepherds to the manger and leave the wise men till later, which is how it must have been if the star marked the birth and the magi had a really long journey ahead of them. No wonder St. Matthew's Gospel, the only source of the story, has them enter 'the house', not the stable, which must have reverted to its proper use long before their arrival.

To give Epiphany due recognition the Family Service on 5th January will concentrate on the story of when

'by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far'.

BEKESBOURNE NEWS

Jane Shorrock, for the Friends of Bekesbourne Church, writes:

Our warmest thanks to all those who worked so hard for our Christmas Bazaar - and to those who came and supported us - and thereby raised the splendid sum of £480 for our funds. Well done, everyone!

At the time of writing we are looking forward to another happy evening at The Unicorn when Clive and Cheryl have organised an evening of Carols in aid of Bekesbourne Church.

We wish all our members and supporters a very Happy and Healthy New Year and look forward to seeing you all at our next event - a JUMBLE SALE on Saturday, 25th January, from 10am to 12 noon in Bekesbourne Village Hall. All offers of good quality Jumble will be gratefully received, as will help on the day: please phone Zan on 830238, Gill on 832134, or me on 832133, if you would like someone to collect from you or if you can help in any way.

* * *

Family Services at Bekesbourne don't at present draw the crowds, which is a great pity because they are most interesting and original. If you think it will be the same boring old stuff come along and be proved wrong. Each service is specially prepared according to a theme and geared to all-age worship. As an example Romany Cowans has sent in this report of the November service, so read on.

The stained glass windows in our church give us a fascinating insight into the ideas of Christianity portrayed by the windows during the late nineteenth century. Dr Sebastian Ströbl, local specialist in ecclesiastical glass, kindly took us around the church and explained the stories depicted in the windows, and when and by whom they were designed and made. The windows are part of an extremely valuable heritage and I am sure all the people present at the service went away with a clearer understanding of the stories shown and the work involved in their construction.

Obituary: Elsie Turner

Elsie, as she was known to so many of us, died on 29th November. This was following an operation, which she was recovering from, and was sudden and unexpected.

Elsie came to Bridge as a young married woman and with her husband Norman ran the High Street greengrocer's for many years. When not in the shop, she could be found in the gardens behind the house, working away amongst the vegetables, flowers and chickens, producing some of the first class produce for the shop. There was always a smile, no matter how busy, nothing was ever too much trouble. Those who had the privilege of her friendship knew that she was steadfat and discreet.

In these last few years she found it difficult to get about, but maintained an independence, true to her nature, of never wanting to make a fuss or be a bother. Her cremation service on 9th December was a quiet, simple one, as befitted a quiet, gentle lady.

B.A.

Nailbourne Horticultural Society

The AGM of the Nailbourne Horticultural Society will be held on Tuesday, 28th January at 7.30pm in Bridge Village Hall. As well as the business part of the evening, the President, John Anderson, will give a talk on some of his experiences as a Chief Hotels Inspector for the RAC.

Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute

Looking forward to the summer holidays, this month a representative from THOMAS COOK will show a film on travel experiences and the competition is a holiday memento. Visitors and new members will be made very welcome on Tuesday, 21st January at 7.30pm in Bridge Village Hall.

MY PACK HOLIDAY

by Charlotte Murphy, 1st Bekesbourne Brownies

On the Brownie Pack Holiday in October, we went to Wye Village Hall and our theme was Winnie the Pooh. We had a rest hour every day and one day we went swimming. We also made frustration pencils and a pin cushion. Every day we played at the recreation ground in the field outside the hall. The meals were really nice and I also really enjoyed the entertainment we had. I made friends with some Brownies from the 8th Canterbury Pack who came with us. I had a really good time.

Ed: I'm told Bekesbourne Brownies have plenty of room for recruits, so potential Brownies, now's your chance to join in the fun. Perhaps also they'll teach you what a frustration pencil is.

Parish of Patrixbourne with Bridge

November's Coffee Morning in Bridge Village Hall made a total of £515.72 for the funds of St. Mary's and St. Peter's Churches and we would like to thank all staged and patronized it.

Also for church funds there will be a parish Wine and Wisdom Evening, also in Bridge Village Hall, on **Saturday, 8th February**, starting at 7.30pm. It will be for teams of eight at a cost of £4 per person. We shall serve a light meal in the interval but you will need to bring your own liquid refreshment. Come and join us for the evening and pit your wits and knowledge against your friends and neighbours. Tickets are available from Kath Pierce (830844), Sheila Fenn (830284) or Pauline Pritchard (830685).

A parish GRAND SPRING FAYRE is to be held at Bridge School on Saturday, 22nd March at 2.00pm. As well as a variety of stalls, there will be quality raffle prizes, competitions and afternoon teas.

A collection of useful items such as toys, books, bottles & cans (full of course!), bric-a-brac, jewellery, etc. will be announced later, so start collecting now! Offers of help or raffle prizes, books ring John Anderson, 830260.

BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

by Margaret Church, Parish Council Clerk

At its last meeting of 1996 the Parish Council heard reports from councillors on tree planting in the Recreation Ground, planning applications, and arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting.

Councillors Joan Monk and Emily Shirley have planted several trees of native species in the Recreation Ground along the boundaries. The Parish Council is looking for other sites in the parish to plant further trees in a long-term project to enhance the environment. Following a survey of trees in the village by Men of the Trees, the Parish Council will be pressing Kent County Council to clear shrubs from the base of trees in Western Avenue and Ford Close, as the shrubs are damaging the trees.

Planning applications considered include a single storey extension at 43 Bridge Down and alterations to rear and side windows at 14 High Street. The City Council has given permission for extensions to 41 Bridge Down, and the application for a conservatory and rear extension at 38 High Street has been withdrawn. The Parish Council has made an application to put up a village sign, hand-carved by Councillor John Hill, in the High Street close to the junction with Conyngham Lane. New copies of the City Council's Planning Handbook are available free of charge from the Military Road offices.

The budget for the year was confirmed with £4840 to be raised by precept and £7825 under concurrent powers. The City Council has been asked to release money already allocated for repairs to the Mill Centre and work should begin shortly.

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Thursday, 17th April at 7.30pm and the speaker will be Jon Shelton of the Kentish Stour Countryside Project. Light refreshments will be served after the meeting.

PATRIXBOURNE VISITORS BOOK 1986 - 1996

by John Williamson

There are over 2000 entries from 17 countries in the Visitors Book at Patrixbourne Church and the signatures bear an overwhelming sense of gratitude to the fact that the Church is always open, unlike the majority which are shut. In the comments there is also an appreciation of the few moments of 'utter peace' that can be enjoyed by a visitor. There are also many references to relatives who have been associated with St. Mary's Church: typical are David and Veronika Pilcher, whose great grandfather lived at Bifrons Cottage and was estate manager to the Marquis of Conyngham; Paul Bowtell, Vicar of Spitalfields, descendant of John Bowtell, Rector of the Church and Vicar for 55 years, who died in 1752; Monica Anderson from Sheffield, grand-daughter of William Kemp, who was married in 1897, and perhaps most intriguing of all a Mr Pain whose ancestors left the parish in 1701, descendant of Elizabeth Champneys buried in 1518, widow of Richard Champneys, herald to Richard III.

The former vicarage next to the church is not forgotten by Peter Bursey evacuated in 1939 a few days before war was declared and Bob Scragg from Broadway Worcester of the Queen's West Surrey Regiment who stayed also at the vicarage in the spring of 1941.

Some of the visitors have come across the church while walking the North Downs Way or training for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, while others are not without a sense of humour, especially the person who noticed the bees in the roof in 1965 and laments that they were still there in 1989, or students from the Prince of Wales Institute of Architecture who are willing to help repair the doorway.

We may question some of the epithets like 'This is England at its best' or 'a superb testament to Christian civilization' but there is undoubted thankfulness not only for the glory of this Norman Church but her stained glass, which those who live in its midst sometimes take for granted. Perhaps the last word should go

to the person who wrote from Psalm 133, verse 1 'Behold, how good and joyful a thing it is: brethren to dwell together in unity'.

OWLS IN BIBLE LANDS

Owls are very popular in Britain. There are documentaries on television, displays of owls' silent flight and acute hearing at country shows, and pictures on posters and tea cloths.

However owls in Bible times were thought of as unclean birds or signs of despair and desolation. Isaiah 34:11,15 speaks of God's judgement against the nations, "the land will lie desolate, owls will possess it". Micah 1:8 says, he will "howl like a jackal and moan like an owl". There are several similar references.

Most owls are night hunters. The low frequency of their eerie screeches or hoots means they are carried over long distances.

A human look

The unblinking stare of an owl can be disconcerting, and the frame of feathers like ears, give a human look. Owls cannot move their eyes in their sockets, so they have to move their heads to change their field of vision. Some can turn their heads through 270 degrees.

Owls do not make nests. Eggs are laid in hollows in the ground or aband-oned nests, in hollow trees or under the eaves of roofs. In hot dry areas they even nest in rodents' burrows. While the female incubates her eggs, the male supplies the food. He may pile up a larder of 30-40 rodents for her.

Barn owls are quite common in populated areas of the Holy Land now, and the Eagle Owl is not unusual. Short-eared Owls and Scops Owls are seasonal visitors. Until recently the same could be said of the Long-eared Owl, but it is now breeding in small numbers all over the country. The Tawny Owl is fairly rare and more often heard than seen. It has the typical to-whit, to-whoo call.

Dancing on a Pole

The Little Owl is now found all over the Holy Land. It may be seen perched on a telegraph pole, piping musically and bowing solemnly to its own music.

From 'The Star in the East', the magazine of Life and Work in Bible Lands.

BEKESBOURNE CHURCH Cleaning & Flower Rota

4th, Pam Farbrace, Christine Ash and Rosy Mount to clear out the Christmas decorations. 18th & 25th, Jill Gillanders

Vicar The Revd Raymond Gilbert, AKC, 23 High Street, Bridge (830250) Reader Mr Handley Stevens, MA, 6 Bridgeford Way, Bridge (831376)

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

Churchwardens Mr HPM Lawrence, 72 Bridge Down, Bridge (830472)

Dr AM Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patrixbourne (830947)

Hon Secretary Mr MF Leggatt, 20 Riverside Close, Bridge (830251)

Hon Treasurer Mr K Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patrixbourne (830947)

Covenants Officer Mr NC Francis, 54 Riverside Close, Bridge (830945)

Organist (Bridge)

Organist (Patrixbourne) Mrs RM Stacey, Joslet, Keepers Hill, Patrixbourne (830205)

Virger Mr Jack Hopkins, Station Cottages, Bishopsbourne

BEKESBOURNE

Churchwardens Mrs J Millyard, School House, School Lane, Bekesbourne (830256)
Mr IG Gillanders, Cala, Aerodrome Road, Bekesbourne

Hon Secretary Mr JW Cowans, Distant View, Adisham Road, Bekesbourne (831029)

Hon Treasurer Mr D Millyard, School House, School Lane, Bekesbourne (830256)

Organist Mrs RM Stacey, Joslet, Keepers Hill, Patrixbourne (830205)

Captain of the Ringers Mr D Farbrace, 3 Downside, Adisham Road, Bek'ne (830659)

On The Nail Advertising: Mr HPM Lawrence, 72 Bridge Down, Bridge (830472)

On The Nail Editor: The Vicar

Items for On The Nail should reach the editor by the 15th of the preceding month.

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9.00am - 12noon

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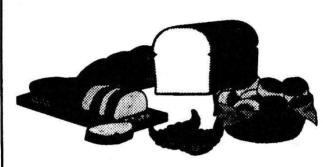
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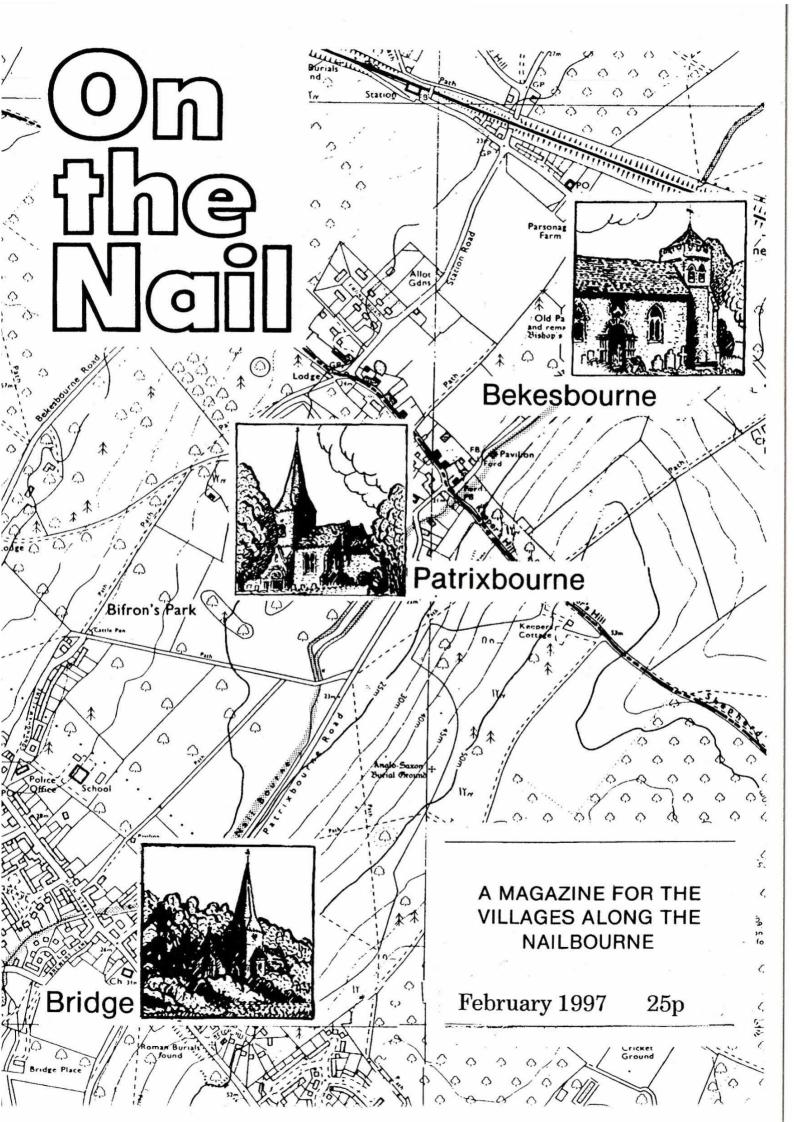
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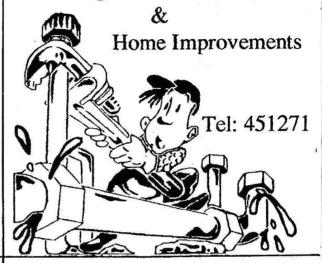
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SUNDAY WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

2nd 8.00am Holy Communion (*Patrixbourne*)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bekesbourne)

11.00 Family Service with Baptism (Bridge)

6.30pm Evensong (Bridge)

9th 8.00am Holy Communion (Bekesbourne)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bridge)

11.00am Matins (Patrixbourne)

3.00pm Holy Baptism (Bekesbourne)

16th 8.00am Holy Communion (Patrixbourne)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bridge)

11.00am Matins (Bekesbourne)

23rd 8.00am Holy Communion (Bridge)

9.30am Parish Communion (Patrixbourne)

11.00am Family Service (Bekesbourne)

6.30pm Evensong (Bridge)

2nd March

9.30am Parish Communion (Bekesbourne)

11.00am Parish Eucharist with TRIO presentation (Bridge)

6.30pm Evensong (Bridge)

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being discontinued until further notice. A brief, informal service is held at The New Close on Wednesdays at 2pm.

FOR YOUR DIARY AND PRAYER LIST

2nd	Presentation of Christ in the Temple
3rd	AGM of Nailbourne League of Friends of Canterbury Hospitals, Bridge
	Methodist Church, 7.30pm
6th	Queen's Accession, 1952
	Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm
8th	Wine & Wisdom Evening, 7.30pm
9th	Seventh Sunday before Easter: Quinquagesima
12th	Ash Wednesday
	Holy Communion, St. Peter's Church, Bridge, 9.30am
	Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am
13th	Bridge Parish Council Meeting, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
16th	First Sunday in Lent
18th	Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute, Village Hall, 7.30pm
20th	Lent Address & Compline, Bridge Methodist Church, 7.30pm
22nd	Bridge Brownies/Rainbows Bring & Buy, Village Hall, 10am-noon
23rd	Second Sunday in Lent
2.7th	Lent Address & Compline, Bridge Methodist Church, 7,30pm

FROM THE VICAR

It's staggering to realize that by the middle of this month we shall be in Lent once again. Before it begins, however, the Church calendar provides one more event in our Lord's infancy for us to celebrate, on 2nd February.

The cause of this celebration is described in St. Luke's gospel chapter 2, verses 22 to 40 where the baby Jesus was taken to the temple in Jerusalem. As you will see from the account, Mary and Joseph didn't take him just to see the sights but for important religious purposes. As good Jews and because Jesus was their first-born, two ceremonies were required of mother and son, both of them strange to our way of thinking.

Religiously speaking having a baby made a woman unclean so to purify herself she had to make a pilgrimage to the temple, and if her child was male and the first-born, like Jesus, sacrifices had to be offered as a sign of giving the child to God. This last was a throwback from the days when all first-born sons were given to God to serve as priests. That's what happened in Samuel's case, as recorded in the quaintly beautiful tale in 1 Samuel 3.

Because of the twin ceremonies the Christian festival marking the occasion has two titles: 'The Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary' and 'The Presentation of Christ in the Temple'. It also has a third name derived from the words of the old man Simeon who took the child Jesus in his arms and foretold him as a light to lighten the gentiles, and to be the glory of Israel(Luke 2.32). In view of those words the Church long ago adopted the practice of bringing extra candles into the church for Mass on the Feast of the Purification, leading to the popular title of 'Candlemas', which happily falls on a Sunday this year.

TRIO 2

The time has come round again for the parish of Patrixbourne with Bridge to look to its laurels and re-run the TRIO (The Responsibility Is Ours) campaign, which was originally held in the summer of 1992.

TRIO, as was said then, isn't about special appeals or urgent repairs but the parish's day-to-day housekeeping which, like everybody else's steadily rises as circumstances change, so occasionally needs looking into. Since TRIO 1 we have benefited greatly from the generosity of church members and friends but four years on some donors have sadly either died or moved away and, barring a few exceptions, their contributions haven't been replaced. Furthermore calls on parish income have increased steeply in that time such that we all need to up our present giving simply to make ends meet. 1996 was a deficit year we cannot repeat!

Therefore we're taking action! On 2nd March the parish meets for an 11am Eucharist at Bridge (no 8am at Patrixbourne) at which Su Rennison, Diocesan Stewardship Adviser, will present TRIO 2. Please come along and help us face the facts that will put our house in order for some time to come.

LENT AT BRIDGE: Luke and his Writings

Lent is a season for giving things up and taking things on! What we give up is less important than what we take on, so join us for this year's Lent Addresses.

This year's course at Bridge will look in great depth at two books of the New Testament with a common authorship, Luke and The Acts of the Apostles. There are five sessions; all begin at 7.30pm, four on Thursdays and one on a Friday, and because Lent begins much earlier this year we have kindly been given permission to use Bridge Methodist Church for them. Each evening will conclude with the night service of Compline.

Individual addresses and speakers are as follows: 20th February, The Construction of Luke-Acts (Canon John Packer) - 27th February, The Infancy

Narratives in Luke (The Vicar) - 7th March, The Special Qualities of Luke's Gospel (Canon John Packer) - 13th March, The Growth of the Infant Church (The Vicar) - 20th March, The Mission: Paul's Travels (Canon John Packer)

CONFIRMATION 1997

Those interested in being confirmed might like to know that this year's Confirmation Service, for all the parishes of the Deanery, will be on the evening of Thursday, 19th June at St. Mary the Virgin's Church, Wingham, with the Bishop of Maidstone confirming.

Potential teenage candidates, who should be at least 12 years old now, are invited to come to a preliminary meeting at the vicarage on Thursday, 13th February at 6.30pm. Adult candidates please also come to the vicarage on the same evening at 7.00pm. Those who can't make the meeting or who would prefer to talk it over one-to-one beforehand please get in touch with me on 830250.

BAPTISMS

CHARLIE DOUGLASS, grandson of Zan Clifford, was baptized by the vicar at St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne on Sunday, 29th December 1996 and ELLEN LENNOX-GURR, grandson of Mr and Mrs Lennox, Aerodrome Road was baptized by the Revd John Shorrock, during the vicar's post-Christmas break, at Bekesbourne on Sunday, 5th January 1997.

OBITUARY

EDITH MAUD BOLTON was a long-time resident of Bridge and lived in Union Road for 46 years, where she will be greatly missed by her neighbours. She was the eldest girl in a family of eight children and with her two sisters joined the Land Army during the war. Her husband was a major in the Indian Army and Edith was often alone when he was in India.

A widow for some ten years, Edith was well supported by the families of her brothers and sisters at home and abroad. Her funeral service at Barham on 7th January was well-attended by family and friends and recorded for those living abroad. In the vicar's absence it was conducted by Canon John Packer and Edith's nephew, Kevin Abell, added his personal memories of his aunt's happy, welcoming home, during the service.

PAT KUSEL WRITES ON

DECEMBER'S FAMILY SERVICE AT BEKESBOURNE

The Family Service at Bekesbourne on 22nd December was centred on the theme of giving. The service began with the lighting of the fourth Advent candle,

marking the final week in Advent. The music in the service consisted of both familiar and unfamiliar Christmas carols and some recorded music too.

The first part of the service was devoted to practical giving. Members of the congregation who had been hiding mysterious packages and bags under their pews brought them out to the front of the church. They contained food, clothing and some toys for the destitute people of Chernobyl. The agency *British Humanitarian Aid* uses the Bekesbourne aerodrome as one of its collection depots and these gifts were destined for the next convoy, which was due to leave for Chernobyl on 2nd January. We were reminded that the Chernobyl radioactive explosion that so horrified the world occurred ten years ago but has left its legacy today in polluted soil, deformed children, unemployment and generally much hardship and distress.

In the middle of the service children told us about some of the Christmas traditions of children from other countries. For example, we learnt that in France, our nearest neighbour, children put out slippers and not stockings for Father Christmas, and in their churches the nativity plays are often done with puppets.

As the service drew to a close, the theme turned to the importance of giving oneself, over and above the giving of material goods. We have our lives to devote to Christ and the work we do for our families, friends and communities is a form of giving that Jesus taught us through example.

BRITISH HUMANITARIAN AID

Many thanks to those who generously donated goods for the Chernobyl convoy. I was able to pack six large boxes of goods, which were gratefully received.

The collection continues as the next convoy is early in March. The same goods are needed, including blankets and warm clothes but in addition children's clothes for summer and the beach. The children of Chernobyl suffering from cancer are taken to the Black Sea resorts for three weeks holiday at a cost of about £70 per child. This holiday can give them two or three more years life. Cash donations towards this special effort are also needed.

FUTURE FAMILY SERVICES

Always on fourth Sundays at 11am, the following programme is in preparation: 23rd February, Bekesbourne Brownies are taking part and the dramatic Story of Noah will provide the theme - 23rd March, is Palm Sunday and a service beginning with a palm procession into church is being planned - 27th April, Bekesbourne's first ever Pets Service, of which further details when available.

BEKESBOURNE AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR

David Millyard writes: I have had some copies printed of the booklet which I have written and called *Bekesbourne and the Second World War*. They are available from me price £1.50 each. Any profits will go to *The Friends of Bekesbourne Church*.

Editor: This is a fascinating account of local wartime activities and people and provides a valuable history of the period in a Kent village. Illustrated it contains some intriguing colour and black and white photographs and is a must for anyone interested in how Bekesbourne folk coped during the war.

FRIENDS OF BEKESBOURNE CHURCH

Carol Singing at the Unicorn raised £97 for Bekesbourne Church and was very well supported - many thanks to Clive and Cheryl.

Our next event will be a WINE & WISDOM EVENING on Saturday, 1st March at 7.30pm in Bekesbourne Village Hall, when we look forward to another fun evening. Please book your table (for 6 or 8) with Zan Clifford on 830328.

CHRISTMAS '96 PARTING SHOTS AND THANKS

On the Saturday before Christmas a band of carol singers congregated on the corner of Western Avenue. Their aim - to raise funds for Demelza Children's Hospice and both Bridge and Patrixbourne Churches. They sang for nearly an hour and a half: it would have been longer if the bitterly cold weather hadn't got the better of them.

Thank you to Bridgeway Stores for providing warming cups of tea, which were much appreciated, and thank you to all who dropped money in the bucket. They raised £58.

Penny Spencer

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The Christingle Service on Christmas Eve at St. Peter's Church, Bridge raised the splendid sum of £152.15 for *The Children's Society*. Many rather belated thanks to all who made this possible, with special thanks to our kind provider of the oranges and to Junior Church and helpers at the service.

The total sum raised in Bridge for *The Children's Society* during 1996 amounted to £1079.27 from various activities. Unfortunately the need for funds becomes greater each year, to enable the Society to continue with its work in helping needy children and families and also in trying to provide safe accommodation for teenagers at risk on city streets. We are most grateful for your support.

Kathy Eynon

BRIDGE RAINBOWS and BROWNIES

There will be a combined Blue Peter Bring & Buy and Cake/Biscuit Sale organised by Bridge Rainbows and Brownies on Saturday, 22nd February, 10am-

12 noon, in the Village Hall. The money raised will be divided between the Blue Peter Leprosy Appeal and the Guide Thinking Day Fund, which is used to support the growth of Guiding throughout the world.

If you have any items such as books, toys or good quality bric-a-brac (NO JUMBLE) please bring to a Rainbow meeting (Tues, 5-6) or Brownie meeting (Fri, 5.30-7) both held in the Village Hall or phone 830318.

Please come and support your local Rainbows and Brownies and have a cup of coffee!

Sarah Wetherell

Rainbow Guider

Sue Williams

Brownie Guider

Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute

Following the holiday ideas from the January speaker this month our local expert Mr A Jarvis will give a talk on *Photography*, in the Village Hall on Tuesday, 18th at 7.30pm. The monthly competition is a snapshot of a landscape.

J.H.

A BANK IN BRIDGE

by Laurie Shirley

In one of the survey results of the recent Bridge Village Appraisal 1995-96, more than half those questioned expressed a wish for a bank in the village. In fact there already is one - at the Post Office - the National Girobank.

Girobank is a proper bank, open six days a week, with long opening hours, including Saturdays. The bank, one of the biggest in the country, provides all normal facilities associated with a clearing bank, including cheque and cash deposits and withdrawals, with cheque books provided for private individuals or business customers.

Building Society deposits and cheques are dealt with as well.

NAILBOURNE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF THE CANTERBURY HOSPITALS

The AGM of the Nailbourne group will be on 3rd February at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church, Patrixbourne Road, Bridge.

Anybody interested in the work of the League is most welcome. Nail-bourne is a small and friendly committee that would welcome more supporters.

Rosy Green

IN READINESS FOR THE PARISH SPRING FAYRE a collection of useful items such as books, toys, jewellery, bric-a-brac, full bottles and cans, groceries will be announced shortly. Offers of help or raffle prizes and to obtain books of raffle tickets ring John Anderson on 830260.

BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

The monthly meeting was held on Thursday, 9th January.

A new Village Diary for 1997 has been put in the newsagents, Bridge News. Organisers of local events are asked to enter details of meetings, coffee mornings, etc in the diary to avoid clashes of dates.

An inspection of the public rights of way in the parish has been carried out and, although some minor work needs to be done, the paths are in good order. The inspection took place during snowy weather, which had revealed how widely used the paths now are in contrast with ten years ago.

Following a further rise in bus fares from the village to Canterbury, the Council has written to Stagecoach East Kent to complain. Efforts are also being made to persuade Stagecoach to improve the service.

Margaret Church, Clerk

FISH NEWS

The next Coffee Pop-In will be on Wednesday, 11th February - as always the second Wednesday of the month - from 10.15am in Bridge Village Hall. Newcomers are very welcome!

Organization of the annual Blossom Tour on 7th May is now in the kind hands of Mrs Mavis Parsons. Please ring her (832042) if you would like to go. The cost of the tea at Hythe has risen slightly to £2.75 but, as before, the cost of the coach will be met from Fish funds.

We do need more volunteer drivers for the Chiropody Clinic. The commitment is not too great - just one half day every eight weeks or so. If you can possibly help please ring Mrs Joan Warren (830233).

A.R.

Bekesbourne Church Cleaning & Flower Rota

1st & 7th, Cheryl Barker & Vicki Mcpherson 14th, Jane Millyard

LAW CHIEF'S EARLY DAYS IN BRIDGE

by Tony Girling

Last July I won a contested election to become the first Kent solicitor ever to be President of The Law Society of England and Wales. During my year in office I have had to leave my colleagues at Girlings, solicitors, and live in London and I am responsible for governing the affairs of 80,000 solicitors.

It could be said that I owe my success to 60 Western Avenue, Bridge! It was there that Lynne and I made our first home after being married in March 1965 at Barham Church. At the time I was still studying at the College of Law and many hours were spent in our bungalow with Lynne testing me on all the law that I was revising for my examinations in 1966! Happily our joint efforts led to me qualifying as a solicitor, subsequently becoming a partner and now Chairman of Girlings, and finally the great honour of the national presidency.

We lived in Bridge for three years. Lynne worked as a medical receptionist for Dr Graham Miles in Canterbury and I was fully occupied with my studies and sadly we had little time for community life. Close neighbours and friends were Malcolm Mitchell (then with the *Kentish Gazette* in Canterbury) and Judith. We also knew quite well Norman Fowler, the distinguished veterinary surgeon. The major excitement during our time in Bridge was probably the arrival of Mike Loveday and Peter Malkin with their proposals to turn Bridge Place into a Club. None of us at the time knew just what this might mean but I was shown round the premises and I remember being very impressed with the care being taken over the conversion of the old building.

Editor: We have local historian John Williamson to thank for encouraging the President of The Law Society to reminisce about his brief time in Bridge. There must be other ex-residents of our villages who achieved prominence. If you know of such do drop me a line so that we can tell their tale in a future 'On The Nail'.



ELHAM VALLEY TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Bridge village EVTA rep, Yvette West gives notice that the Association is holding a MAD HATTER'S PARTY on Saturday, 8th March from 7 till 10.30pm in Barham Village Hall. Non-members are welcome and she invites those interested to ring her for further information and to book on 830438.

Vicar The Revd Raymond Gilbert, AKC, 23 High Street, Bridge (830250) Reader Mr Handley Stevens, MA, 6 Bridgeford Way, Bridge (831376)

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

Churchwardens Mr HPM Lawrence, 72 Bridge Down, Bridge (830472)
Dr AM Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patrixbourne (830947)

Hon Secretary Mr MF Leggatt, 20 Riverside Close, Bridge (830251)

Hon Treasurer Mr K Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patrixbourne (830947)

Covenants Officer Mr NC Francis, 54 Riverside Close, Bridge (830945)

Organist (Bridge)

Organist (Patrixbourne) Mrs RM Stacey, Joslet, Keepers Hill, Patrixbourne (830205) Virger Mr Jack Hopkins, Station Cottages, Bishopsbourne

BEKESBOURNE

Churchwardens Mrs J Millyard, School House, School Lane, Bekesbourne (830256)
Mr IG Gillanders, Cala, Aerodrome Road, Bekesbourne

Hon Secretary Mr JW Cowans, Distant View, Adisham Road, Bekesbourne (831029) Hon Treasurer Mr D Millyard, School House, School Lane, Bekesbourne (830256) Organist Mrs RM Stacey, Joslet, Keepers Hill, Patrixbourne (830205)

Captain of the Ringers Mr D Farbrace, 3 Downside, Adisham Road, Bek'ne (830659) On The Nail Advertising: Mr HPM Lawrence, 72 Bridge Down, Bridge (830472)

On The Nail Editor: The Vicar

Items for On The Nail should reach the editor by the 15th of the preceding month.

"It's getting near!"

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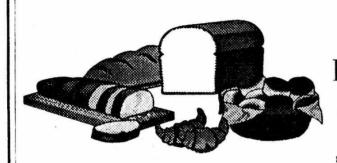
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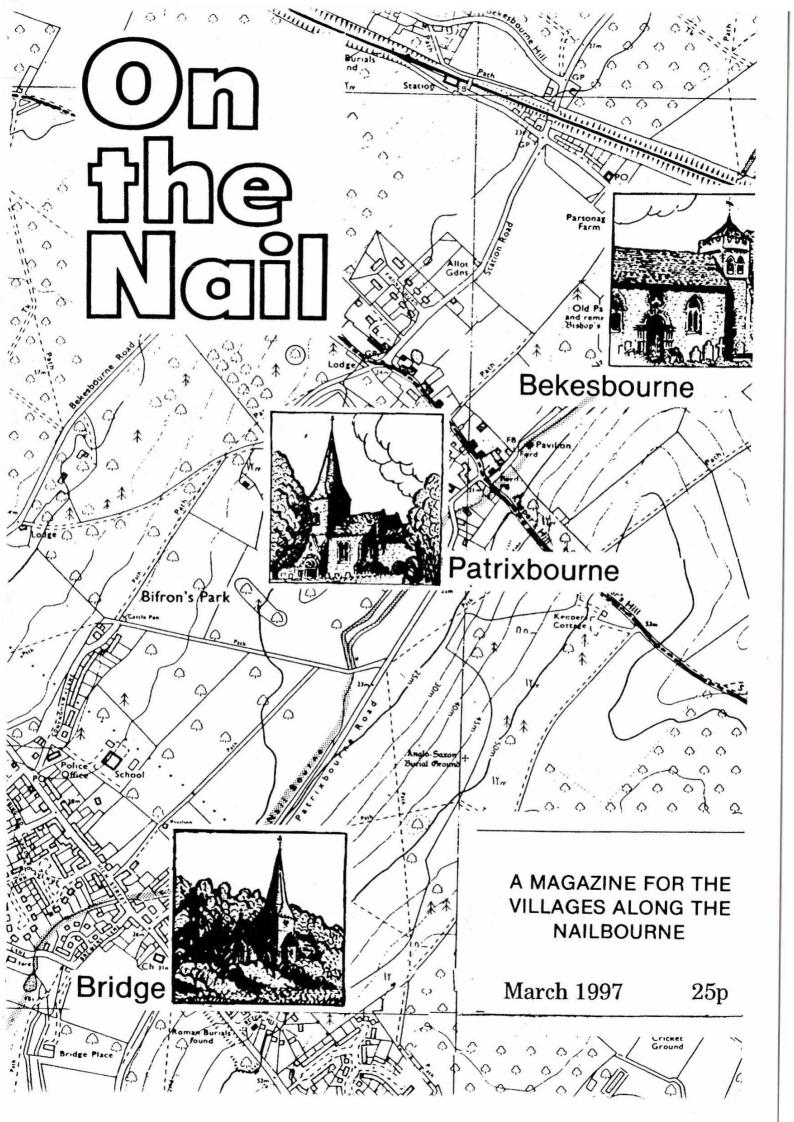
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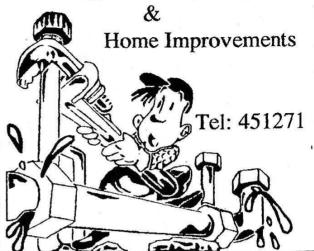
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AROMATHERAPY ~ R. Q. A. REFLEXOLOGY ~ M.A.R.

SUNDAY WORSHIP IN MARCH

2nd 9.30am Parish Communion (Bekesbourne)

11.00am Parish Eucharist with TRIO presentation (Bridge)

11.00am Junior Church (Woodpeckers, Bridge School)

9th 8.00am Holy Communion (Patrixbourne)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bridge)(Preacher: Mr Handley Stevens)

11.00am Mothering Service (Bekesbourne)

16th 8.00am Holy Communion (Bekesbourne)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bridge)

9.30am Junior Church (Woodpeckers, Bridge School)

11.00am Matins (Patrixbourne)

23rd 8.00am Holy Communion (Bridge)

9.30am Parish Communion (Patrixbourne)

11.00am Family Service (Bekesbourne)

6.30pm Evensong (Bridge)(Preacher: Mr Handley Stevens)

30th: EASTER DAY

8.00am Holy Communion (Bekesbourne)

9.30am Parish Communion (Patrixbourne)

11.00am Easter Eucharist (Bridge & Bekesbourne)

6th April

8.00am Holy Communion (Patrixbourne)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bekesbourne)

11.00am Family Eucharist (Bridge)

6.30pm Evensong (Bridge)

Children are welcome at all services, but especially at Family Services. Junior Church welcomes children of 4 years old and upwards, helping them grow in the faith of the Church, in a secure and caring environment. For further details and enrolment, parents should get in touch with Mrs Susanne Leggatt (830251).

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: 2nd, Mrs Christine Bence 9th, The Revd Albert Ball 16th, Holy Communion, The Revd Mary R Teed 23th, Miss Leah Turner, BSc 30th, The Revd Howard Skinner

Weekdays Holy Communion is celebrated in St. Peter's Church, Bridge every Wednesday at 9.30am. A brief, informal service is held at The New Close on Wednesdays at 2pm.

FOR YOUR DIARY AND PRAYER LIST

- 1st St. David, Bishop, Patron Saint of Wales, c601 Wine & Wisdom Evening, Bekesbourne Village Hall, 7.30pm
- Third Sunday in Lent
 The Parish of Patrixbourne with Bridge has its very important TRIO 2
 presentation during a special Parish Eucharist in St. Peter's Church at
 11.00am, when Mrs Susan Rennison, Diocesan Stewardship Adviser, will
 help to guide our financial thinking. Invitations to this service have been
 sent out to church members and friends but all with a concern for the dayto-day housekeeping of the parish are most welcome. To encourage a
 good attendance there won't be Holy Communion at Patrixbourne or
 Evensong at Bridge.
- 5th Pray for Bridge School Governors who meet this evening.
- Of the Deanery Clergy Chapter, meeting with the Archdeacon this morning.

Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm Nailbourne Horticultural Society, Bridge Methodist Church, 7.30pm

7th St. Perpetua & her Companions, Martyrs, 203
Women's World Day of Prayer Service, Bridge Methodist Church,
2.00pm

Address & Compline, Bridge Methodist Church, 7.30pm

- 9th Fourth Sunday in Lent: Mothering Sunday
 NOTE Change in service pattern at Bekesbourne and Patrixbourne to allow for the traditional Mothering Service at Bekesbourne.
- 12th Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am Patrixbourne with Bridge PCC meets, Bridge Methodist Church, 7.30pm
- 13th Address & Compline, Bridge Methodist Church, 7.30pm
- 16th Fifth Sunday in Lent
 NOTE Change in service pattern at Bekesbourne and Patrixbourne.
- 17th St. Patrick, Bishop, Patron Saint of Ireland, c460
- 18th Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 19th St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 20th St. Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, 687
 Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 6.30pm
 Address & Compline, Bridge Methodist Church, 7.30pm
 PARISH SPRING FAYRE, Bridge School, 2.00-4.00pm
 Palm Sunday
- Bekesbourne's Family Service will be a special one beginning with a palm procession. Assuming it's fine, please assemble near the lychgate.
- 24th Monday in Holy Week
- 25th Tuesday in Holy Week
 Holy Communion, St. Mary's Church, Patrixbourne, 9.30am
- 26th Wednesday in Holy Week
 Holy Communion, St. Peter's Church, Bridge, 9.30am
 Bridge Methodists' Easter Play, Methodist Church, 2.45pm
- 27th Maundy Thursday
 Eucharist in commemoration of the Last Supper and Stripping the Altars,
 Bridge Church, 7.30pm
- 28th Good Friday

 The Way of the Cross' devotional pilgrimage from Bridge to
 Bekesbourne Churches, via Patrixbourne Church, leaving St. Peter's,
 Bridge at 10.00am.
- 29th Easter Eve 'Service of Light', St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne, 7.30pm
- 30th EASTER DAY
 8.00am, Holy Communion, Bekesbourne (*The Vicar*)
 9.30am, Parish Communion, Patrixbourne (*The Vicar*)
 11.00am, Easter Eucharist with Lighting the Pascal Candle and Renewal of Baptismal Vows, Bridge (*The Vicar*)
 11.00am Easter Eucharist, Bekesbourne (*Canon John Packer*)
- 31st Monday in Easter Week

EASTER COLLECTIONS

Easter Day collections at Bridge and Patrixbourne will again be given to St. Luke's Hospital for the Clergy in London. The hospital provides free though not private medical treatment to the clergy of the Church of England and is able to call on over 100 top London consultants who all give their services to St. Luke's in their spare time and entirely free, treating it as their gift to the Church. Even so hospital costs are heavy and our contribution will be gladly received.

FROM THE VICAR, BUT MAINLY THE READER

The bulk of what follows was written by Handley Stevens at my request, to explain the revised monthly programme with the needs of our children very much in mind, offering an exciting new look to the church's worship and Junior Church. Helping our children to grow up in the faith is an important responsibility which all church members share, as we are reminded at every baptism. For the past year or so, Sue Watson has been running Junior Church more or less single-handedly, for which we have all been extremely grateful, but a team has now been formed to share the responsibility more widely. Sue Watson remains part of the team but Susanne Leggatt has taken on the responsibility for co-ordinating a new children's programme.

We have also been very grateful to our Methodist friends for allowing us to use their church, but we are now moving up to the Woodpeckers premises at Bridge School, where greater space and better facilities will allow us to run a more varied programme for separate groups of older and younger children.

There will in future be three teams of two adults, assisted by one or two young people - Handley Stevens and Sue Watson; Martin or Susanne Leggatt and Jean Higson; Jane Martin and Christine Beer. Each team will look after Junior Church for one month at a time. Other members of the team with special responsibility for Family Services include Pat Kusel and Susan Legge, and of course the Vicar. You can see why we need Susanne Leggatt to co-ordinate our efforts, and to act as the single enquiry point for parents who would like to enrol their children or lend a hand.

An important feature of the new arrangements is the balance to be struck between services in church and the programme of worship and instruction at Junior Church. In future Junior Church will normally meet on two Sundays every month, at the same time as the 9.30am Parish Communion at Bridge on second and third Sundays. There are Family Services, on the fourth Sunday at Bekesbourne, and on the first Sunday at Bridge, both at 11.00am, so the needs of families will be conveniently catered for every Sunday, either separately or together. Your presence at both of these services will be welcomed: you'll find they are invariably enjoyable and instructive occasions. On the occasional fifth Sundays there will be no activities specifically aimed at children, in view of the Benefice Eucharist, which has now become an integral part of the growing together of our three churches.

Starting in April, the Family Service at Bridge on the first Sunday of the month will take the form of a Eucharist. It is important that our children should

become familiar from an early age with this central act of Christian worship, but the service will be adapted to make it easy for everyone to enjoy taking part, including adults as well as children who have not yet been confirmed.

The pattern described here will be the normal pattern, but it will have to be varied to take account of special circumstances from time to time. This month, for example, there will be no Junior Church on the second Sunday (9th) because that is Mothering Sunday, when families are invited to take part in the annual Mothering Service at Bekesbourne, but instead Junior Church will meet at 11.00am on the first Sunday (2nd), so that parents can leave their children there while they come to the special Parish Eucharist at Bridge, which is to be the occasion for the TRIO presentation. As ever, you will need to check the details week by week on page 4 of *On The Nail* where Junior Church will be listed along with the other services.

Bridge Methodist Church

This year's Women's World Day of Prayer service takes place in Bridge Methodist Church on Friday, 7th March at 2.00pm.

On Wednesday, 26th March at 2.45pm the Women's Fellowship of St. Peter's Methodist Church, Canterbury are presenting an Easter Play in our church. We warmly invite all our friends to share this afternoon with us and there will be refreshments to follow.

Mabel Harrison, Chapel Steward

JOYS & SORROWS

Holy Baptism

In the course of a glorious Candlemas Family Service on 2nd February KEIRON ALISTAIR MALLYON WATT, 1 Police House, Conyngham Lane was baptized in St. Peter's Church, Bridge. The following Sunday afternoon at Bekesbourne the Vicar officiated at the baptism of CHARLES GEORGE BARKER, 2 Chalkpit Cottages, Adisham Road.

The Dear Departed

The vicar officiated at Hawkinge crematorium for the funeral of PETER LEE HUBBLE, 5 Ford Close, Bridge who died on 11th January aged 71 years.

Billie and John Anderson would like to thank all those who offered their prayers and condolences on the sad loss of their son IAN. It has given them great support during a very sad period.

Saxon Lodge Residential Home has a Coffee and Bring & Buy morning on the first Tuesday of every month. The next is on 4th March. ALL WELCOME!

GETTING READY FOR EASTER

Viv Brasier writes: Preparations for decorating St. Peter's Church, **Bridge** for Easter are under way. Anyone wishing to contribute towards Easter lilies is asked to contact me on 830981. The price for each bloom has not been finalised yet, but it is thought to be about £3.

All help will be greatly appreciated on Saturday, 29th March at 10.00am to arrange the flowers. As always newcomers are welcome, as the number of arrangers is still falling. No special talents are needed and as little as two weekends (i.e. one vase to be arranged for two consecutive Sundays) are required.

Christine Ash calls for all hands to work decorating **Bekesbourne** Church on Easter Eve, 29th March at 10.30am. She will be delighted to receive cash donations with which to buy Easter lilies.

Bridge Church Cleaning Rota

Week ending 15th March, Pat Hulyer and 29th March Kathy Eynon and Vera Ford. Brasses, Kath Pierce and Gladys Lemar.

The ladies would be glad of more help, if only an hour or so once a month. Please contact any of them for more information.

WINE & WISDOM IN PERFECT HARMONY

Many thanks to all who supported the Wine and Wisdom evening on 8th February in Bridge Village Hall. The quiz was ably compered by Pauline Pritchard, assisted by Vi and Megan and friends, and a splendid supper was organised by Kath Pierce and Sheila Fenn. Congratulations to the winning team led by Tony and Kathy Walder. £305 was raised for PCC funds, but the evening scored most points for being a truly good-hearted, enjoyable event. Thank you, Pauline, for all your efforts in arranging the quiz, and lets hope we can repeat the success sometime in the future.

Andrea Nicholson

PARISH SPRING FAYRE, Saturday, 22nd March, 2.00pm

Hope you've made a note of Patrixbourne with Bridge's first ever SPRING FAYRE, at which there will be something for everybody, including a Grand Raffle, Stalls, Teas, etc. John Anderson, the organiser-in-chief, appeals for offers of help - ring him on 830260 - and he can also supply raffle tickets. Over to you!

COME RINGA DEM BELLS!

Bekesbourne Church is ap-'peal'-ing for more bell ringers, young or old, from any nearby village. We do not have enough regular ringers and would like to be able to ring at least once a month for services.

We have good ringing friends from Littlebourne, Wingham and Thannington but at times like Easter and Christmas they have their own church bells to ring. So if you fancy having a go come along any Monday evening at 7.30, or ring me, Gill Moon (832132) or Dave Farbrace (830659).

FRIENDS OF BEKESBOURNE CHURCH

Many thanks to all those who helped at and supported our Jumble Sale, which made a profit of £176 - a good start to our fund-raising this year.

* * *

Brian Skinner writes: St. Peter's Churchyard, Bekesbourne - If you have walked past our church or attended services recently, you may well have wondered what was going on!

It was decided some time ago that we should tidy up the churchyard wherever practicable, by removing the nettles, brambles and light undergrowth and carrying out some judicious pruning, in order to expose the hidden beauty of the snowdrops which are now showing up to delight us all, and to reveal the tombstones which were completely hidden. An additional project was to remove a number of self-sown sycamore trees which had grown into the headstones and caused cracking and splitting of the stonework. In doing this we have reduced the risk of more self-sown trees, and made the task of removing leaves in the autumn much easier. We will shortly be rejuvenating the Yew (Taxus) by the lychgate, which has been forced badly out of shape by the sycamore beside it, which has now been removed. It may look a bit sorry for itself for a year or so, but in due course will refurbish itself. Our place is to carry out more general tidying of the churchyard, leaving enough undergrowth to provide an attractive and safe habitat for insects, butterflies and small mammals which naturally inhabit the area, and opening views of the church from Old Palace Road, as revealed in old photos from the early 1900s.

The entire project has been completed with the permission of the required authorities and has been executed by qualified experts where applicable. We sincerely hope you will come and enjoy the peaceful and pleasant surroundings of our churchyard conservation area.

Nailbourne Horticultural Society

There was an excellent turn-out of more than 40 members for the AGM of the Nailbourne Horticultural Society in the Village Hall in Bridge on 28th January. The committee remains the same for the coming year, as do the officers, i.e. Roger Austin, Chairman; Mrs E Cartwright, Vice-Chairman & Outings Organiser; Mrs K Walder, Secretary; Mrs B Anderson, Show Secretary and Mrs A

King, Treasurer. Those present heard that the Society had generally enjoyed a good year, although it would be nice to see more people entering both the Spring and Summer Shows.

After the business of the meeting the President, John Anderson, entertained everyone with an account of some of his more humorous experiences as a Chief Inspector of Hotels for the RAC.

Several interesting talks and outings are already arranged for this year. The first of these is an illustrated talk by Matthew Shepherd of the White Cliffs Experience Project on Samphire Hoe, the newest part of Kent, which will be held in the Methodist Church on Thursday, 6th March at 7.30pm. Members and nonmembers alike will be most welcome. It was decided at the AGM that a small charge of 50p, to include refreshments, will be made for evening meetings.

The SPRING SHOW will be held in Bridge Village Hall on Tuesday, 1st April. The hall will be open at 6.00pm to allow members to stage their exhibits in time for the judging, which will take place at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be served. Anyone wishing to enter should obtain a show schedule either from Mrs Cartwright at the Post Office or from the Show Secretary, Mrs B Anderson, tel

Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute

On Tuesday, 18th March at 7.30pm members and visitors can learn about Keeping yourself fit at any age from Mrs Lynne Clark. The competition is your oldest coin. Poets should get to work, please, on a five line poem relating to the sea for the April competition, the winner to go forward to the group meeting. J.H.

BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL: February's meeting

Withdrawal of bus services Great concern was voiced at the cuts to evening and weekend bus services recently announced by Kent County Council. Councillors felt strongly that the service provided to the village was no longer adequate, particularly for those returning from work in Canterbury, and every effort will be made to have services

Planning matters No new planning applications have been received since the January meeting. Consent has been given for the conversion of outbuildings to a residential unit at 61 High Street and a Public Inquiry will be held on 18th March in the Guildhall to consider an appeal against the Compulsory Purchase Order on 43 High Street. The Parish Council supports the Order and intends to be represented at the Inquiry.

Environmental Week To mark BT Environmental Week from 10-18 May, the Parish Council will be organising a walk along parish footpaths on Sunday 18 May. It is also planning a clean-up of the allotments on Station Road, where rubbish has accumulated.

The Council has been told that work on the Nailbourne has been put off while discussions with KCC about the culverts under the High Street are held. The stream is

now flowing at Elham.

Lighting Following discussions with Canterbury City Council, it was decided, following a vote, not to make any addition to lighting provisions since lighting levels in general

were felt to be adequate for a village environment.

Engineers have again been working on the village clock, after its failures to keep time in recent weeks. A new signalling unit and new back-up batteries will be fitted. The problems have been made worse by the various powercuts which continue to plague the village. The Parish Council will continue its complaints to Seeboard and, in addition, to the Office of Electricity Regulation in Tonbridge.

Parish Appraisal Reg Franklin, Chairman of the Parish Council, and Mr Loughlin, Chairman of the Parish Appraisal Committee, recently attended a meeting of the Planning Services Committee of Canterbury City Council. The Parish Council has begun its debate Margaret Church, Clerk on the recommendations.

FISH NEWS

What on earth is the Fish Scheme? It's simple!

Some years ago an Oxford GP, Dr Donald Richards, his wife and the local vicar recognised two needs in their parish and community of Old Headington. There were those who were ill or lonely and needing help. There were also those who needed to help. Their scheme married up the two. It was called 'Fish' after the ancient Christian symbol. The idea spread around the country and in 1983 Mrs Joan Warren introduced it to Bridge and the neighbouring villages.

So, if you have a need - a need to help - you telephone Ann Medhurst on 830762 and she makes the link. There is no society to join formally and no subscription. If, for example, you need a lift to the hospital, you pay the driver an agreed sum to cover the

petrol.

There is no outside funding and so no KCC cuts to worry about. Bridge Parish Council has been very generous and the annual bring-and-buy (May 17th this year please remember it!) covers expenses such as the telephone calls. Fish was left a generous legacy which pays for the coach on the Blossom Tour, which this year is on May 7th. Please telephone Mrs Parsons on 832042 if you would like to join it.

There will be a Chiropody Clinic from March 17th to 21st, so please telephone Mrs Joan Wareen on 830233 to arrange transport and for general information about the

clinic.

As always the Coffee Pop-In in Bridge Village Hall will take place on the second Wednesday of the month and Ann Medhurst (830762) arranges the transport for that. A.R. Vicar The Revd Raymond Gilbert, AKC, 23 High Street, Bridge (830250)

Reader Mr Handley Stevens, MA, 6 Bridgeford Way, Bridge (831376)

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

Churchwardens Mr HPM Lawrence, 72 Bridge Down, Bridge (830472)
Dr AM Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patrixbourne (830947)

Hon Secretary Mr MF Leggatt, 20 Riverside Close, Bridge (830251)

Hon Treasurer Mr K Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patrixbourne (830947)

Covenants Officer Mr NC Francis, 54 Riverside Close, Bridge (830945)

Organist (Bridge)

Organist (Patrixbourne) Mrs RM Stacey, Joslet, Keepers Hill, Patrixbourne (830205) Virger Mr Jack Hopkins, Station Cottages, Bishopsbourne

BEKESBOURNE

Churchwardens Mrs J Millyard, School House, School Lane, Bekesbourne (830256)
Mr IG Gillanders, Cala, Aerodrome Road, Bekesbourne

Hon Secretary Mr JW Cowans, Distant View, Adisham Road, Bekesbourne (831029) Hon Treasurer Mr D Millyard, School House, School Lane, Bekesbourne (830256) Organist Mrs RM Stacey, Joslet, Keepers Hill, Patrixbourne (830205)

Captain of the Ringers Mr D Farbrace, 3 Downside, Adisham Road, Bek'ne (830659) On The Nail Advertising: Mr HPM Lawrence, 72 Bridge Down, Bridge (830472) On The Nail Editor: The Vicar

Items for On The Nail should reach the editor by the 15th of the preceding month.

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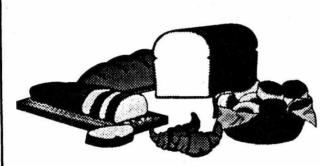
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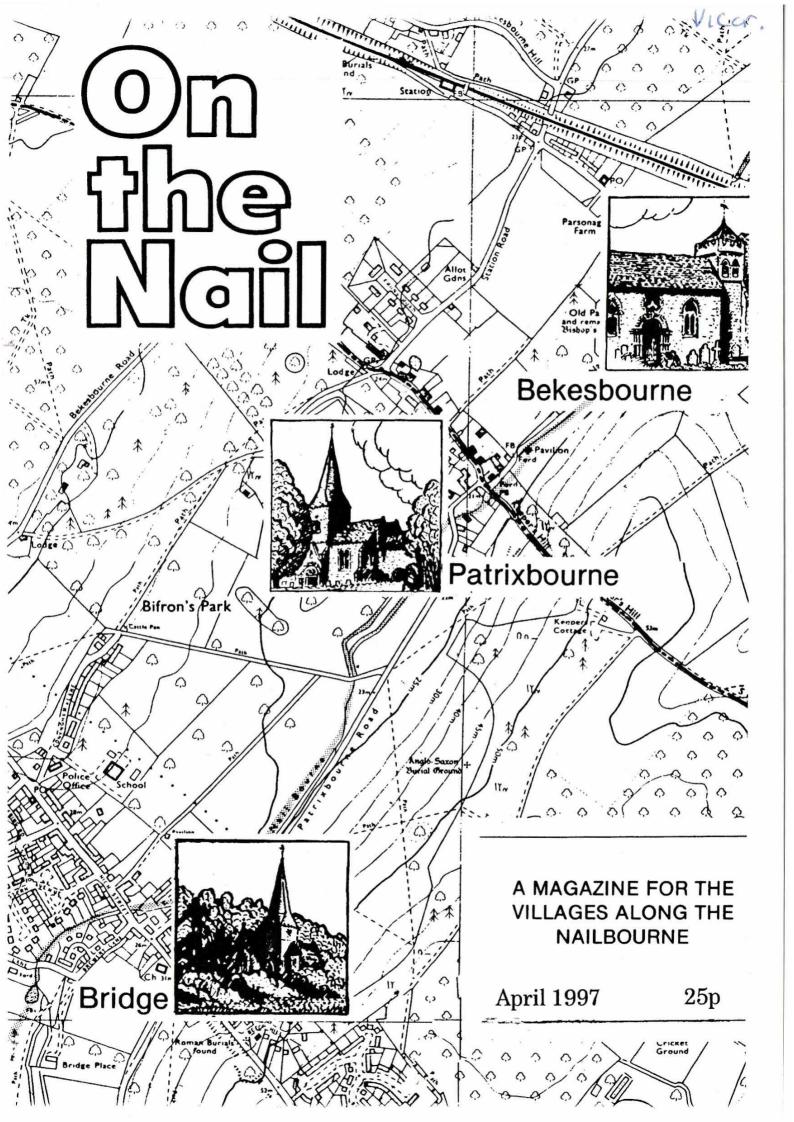
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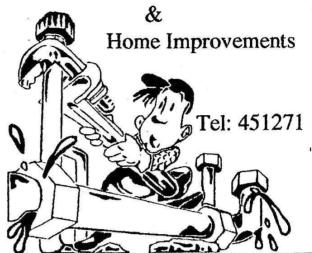
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AROMATHERAPY ~ R. Q. A. REFLEXOLOGY ~ M.A.R.

SUNDAY WORSHIP IN APRIL

6th 8.00am Holy Communion (*Patrixbourne*)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bekesbourne)

11.00am Family Eucharist (Bridge)

6.30pm Evensong (Bridge)

13th 8.00am Holy Communion (Bekesbourne)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bridge)

9.30am Junior Church (Woodpeckers, Bridge School)

11.00am Matins (Patrixbourne)

20th 8.00am Holy Communion (Patrixbourne)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bridge)

9.30am Junior Church (Woodpeckers, Bridge School)

11.00am Matins (Bekesbourne)

27th 8.00am Holy Communion (Bridge)

9.30am Parish Communion (Patrixbourne)(Pr: Handley Stevens)

11.00am Pets Service (Bekesbourne)

6.30pm Evensong (Bridge)(Preacher: Mrs Anne Robertson)

4th May

8.00am Holy Communion (Patrixbourne)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bekesbourne)

11.00am Family Eucharist (Bridge)

6.30pm Evensong (Bridge)

Children are welcome at all services, but especially at Family Services. Junior Church welcomes children of 4 years old and upwards, helping them grow in the faith of the Church, in a secure and caring environment. For further details and enrolment, parents should get in touch with Mrs Susanne Leggatt (830251).

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: 6th, The Revd Mary R Teed 13th, The Revd George Baugh 20th, Mr E Ron O'Mahony 27th, Holy Communion, The Revd Stuart Ward

Weekdays Holy Communion is celebrated in St. Peter's Church, Bridge every Wednesday at 9.30am. A brief, informal service is held at The New Close or Wednesdays at 2pm.

FOR YOUR DIARY AND PRAYER LIST

lst	Tuesday in Easter Week
	Saxon Lodge Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy, 10.15am
	Nailbourne Horticultural Society Spring Show, Bridge Village Hall,
	7.30pm
2nd	Wednesday in Easter Week
3rd	Thursday in Easter Week
4th	Friday in Easter Week
5th	Saturday in Easter Week
	The Children's Society Coffee Morning, Bridge Village Hall, 10.00 -
	noon
6th	First Sunday after Easter
7th	Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (translated from 25 March)
9th	Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am
10th	Bridge Parish Council Meeting, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
13th	Second Sunday after Easter
15th	Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute, Village Hall, 7.30pm
17th	Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm
	Bekesbourne Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Parsonage Farm, 7.30pm
19th	Nailbourne League of Friends of Canterbury Hospitals indoor table 'Boot'
	Sale, Bridge Village Hall, 10.00am
20th	Third Sunday after Easter
21st	St. Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, Teacher of the Faith, 1109
23rd	St. George, Patron Saint of England, Martyr, 4th century
24th	Nailbourne Horticultural Society, Bridge Methodist Church, 7.30pm
25th	St. Mark the Evangelist
	Patrixbourne with Bridge Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Bridge
	School, 7.30pm
27th	Fourth Sunday after Easter
	N.B. The 11am Family Service at Bekesbourne will be a pets service at
	which all pets will be welcome. We anticipate some will have to be left

outside in the churchyard, though they won't be forgotten.

The preacher at Evensong will be Mrs Anne Robertson of Wingham, who is a Reader-in-training. Anne, daughter of former Vicar of Wingham the Revd Henry Voller, is under the personal supervision of Handley Stevens with respect to her preaching.

29th St. Catherine of Siena, Mystic, 1380

FROM THE VICAR

597 and all that

You may have seen it in On The Nail, the diocesan newspaper Outlook or you perhaps have heard about it on another grape vine! Whatever, 1997 is the 1400th anniversary of the arrival in Kent of St. Gregory the Great's emissary St. Augustine and in that event our Christian heritage has its roots.

Such a key moment in our history isn't going unnoticed, hence the decision to stage a colossal diocesan celebration over three days in September.

Thursday 18th will be marked by an assembly of school children from all over the diocese at Ebbsfleet, where St. Augustine landed. They will greet the archbishop in a re-enactment of the arrival of the gospel on these shores. On Friday 19th a celebratory service will be held in the cathedral, then on Saturday 20th the festivities are open to everybody in the diocese when the centre of activity switches to the county showground at Detling. Read on!

The 597 Experience

The 597 Experience is a mammoth all-day diocesan event, with addresses throughout the day from such leading personalities as Olympic triple jump medallist Jonathan Edwards, Steve Chalke and Terry Waite, worship led by the Archbishop and with musicians and a chorus of over 1000 voices (singers from this benefice who would like to join in let me or Mrs Lizzie Hopthrow of Kingston, tel 830070, know as soon as possible), seminars, continuous Bible studies, It's a Knockout, the World Village of eight marquees each offering an experience of sight, sound, touch and taste of a different part of the world, a chance to hone in on your circus skills and a bandstand - in fact something for everyone.

In the evening at 7.30pm there will be COUNTDOWN 2000, a youth event with live music from well-known Christian rock bands, speakers, dancing.

Not surprisingly with a celebration on this scale there has to be a charge. Admission for the day event is £6 per person (children 12 and under FREE accompanied by parents) but with reductions of 20% for group and parish bookings of at least 25 people before 14th June. Tickets for the evening youth

event cost £5 per person. Leaflets about the 597 Experience are available in all three churches and it might be possible to arrange a group booking within the benefice for the day event. Watch next month's On The Nail!

Cathedral Prayers

Canterbury diocese publishes a Calendar of Intercession that provides us with a scheme of daily prayer covering a diocese of the worldwide Anglican Communion and a benefice in this diocese. Canterbury Cathedral is most diligent in using it, including prayers for the appropriate diocese and benefice in its daily worship and sending a card to the diocese concerned signed by the Dean and whoever celebrated the morning Eucharist, telling them that they were prayed for in the mother church of the Anglican Communion.

In advance of a benefice being prayed for the Dean sends the incumbent a card to put on the church notice board and a covering note inviting incumbent and people to attended Evensong that day. From the church noticeboards you will see that our three churches are being prayed for by the diocese as a whole and in the cathedral on Monday, 21st April and if anyone is free and would like to attend Cathedral Evensong that day it is at 5.30pm.

OBITUARIES

DORIS CLARA MATCHAM lived in Bekesbourne and Bridge for most of her long life. Her husband, Dennis, was a foreman fruit farmer in Bekesbourne, where Doris also worked on the farm. When they moved to Bridge they lived in Churchill Close and there celebrated their Diamond Wedding in January 1991. Dennis's health deteriorated much in his last years and Doris was well known in the village pushing him around in his wheelchair, when their walks together were no longer possible.

Their family was always a very devoted one and suffered much when one of their two sons. Robin, died in a road accident some twenty years ago. The other son, Roy, lives with his family in Australia and fortunately came to visit his mother not long before she died. Doris relied much in her later years on her daughter, Wendy, from Kingston and her neighbour, Pam Clark, was a regular visitor. Sadly Doris never saw her five great-grandchildren in Australia but was very happy when Wendy's grandson, Nicholas, was born eighteen months ago.

Doris was a delightful lady, whose friendly smile was a joy to all she met. She will be greatly missed in the village. Her funeral at Barham on 28th February was taken by Canon John Packer.

* * *

A warm tribute to the long and very active life of MICHAEL LOVELAND

LAWRENCE, who died at Lower Lodge, Patrixbourne, on 11th March, was paid by a friend of the family, the Revd. William Mowll, who officiated at a special Service of Thanksgiving in Patrixbourne Church in the afternoon of 19th March. The Vicar officiated at Barham crematium earlier in the day.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK, 11-17 MAY

by Handley Stevens

"Freedom to Live" is the theme of Christian Aid Week this year, which focuses on India as it celebrates 50 years of independence. Although the freedom which India has enjoyed for half a century is a cause for celebration, the relief and development work done by Christian Aid's partner organisations among some of

the world's poorest people is still vital.

Christian Aid depends on the annual house-to-house collection for about one third of its revenue, so you can see how important it is. In our area we have raised about £500 in each of the last three years, but it used to be more when with more collectors we were able to call at every house. It is a lovely time of year to admire your neighbours' gardens while giving them the chance to contribute to a really worthwhile cause. Those of you who have collected in the past should by now have received an invitation to do so again this year, but if there is anyone else out there who could spare an hour or two to collect from even a few more houses than we have managed to cover in the recent past, please call Handley or Anne Stevens on 831376.

NAILBOURNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Spring Show to be held in Bridge Village Hall on Tuesday, 1st April will be open at 6.00pm for those exhibiting and judging will start at 7.30pm. During judging tea will be served.

On 24th April there will be a talk and demonstration on hanging baskets and containers, to be given by Mr M. Browning in Bridge Methodist Church at 7.30pm.

B. Anderson

Saxon Lodge Residential Home

Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy Sale

Tuesday, 1st April from 10.15am

Every 1st Tuesday of the months to follow. All welcome!

BRIDGE WITH PATRIXBOURNE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

New members and visitors will be made very welcome at 7.30pm on Thursday, 15th April to hear Mr Martin Newcombe explain the difference between mushrooms and toadstools.

There will be two competitions - a herbal remedy old or new and a five line verse relating to the sea. The winning poem will go forward to the group meeting.

J.H.

NAILBOURNE LEAGUE of FRIENDS of CANTERBURY HOSPITALS

The League is holding an indoor table 'Boot Sale' in Bridge Village Hall on Saturday, 19th April at 10.00am, with books, bric-a-brac, cakes, toys and much much more. To book a table to sell your own goods or to donate BOOKS, CAKES or NEARLY NEW for the League of Friends tables please phone Rosy Green on 830204. Please support the League of Friends who aid your local hospitals!

BEKESBOURNE FAMILY SERVICE

by Romany Cowans

Members of Bekesbourne Brownies were invited to take part in our service on 23rd February and they chose as their theme the story of Noah. We enjoyed a short play, which was brightly illustrated with a long freize, which the children had drawn and painted, gradually revealed as the story unfolded.

We all know the story of Noah, but what is its message for us today? Noah had put his trust in God and built a ridiculous boat on dry land. He obeyed God's will without question and when the flood came Noah, his family and the animals were safe. God's promise to Noah, that he would never send a flood again, was marked by a beautiful rainbow.

Let us learn from Noah and be more trusting in God.

BRIDGE BROWNIES & RAINBOWS

The joint Blue Peter Bring and Buy Sale and 'The Big Crunch' cake and biscuit stall for The Thinking Day Fund, plus raffle, games and coffee raised an amazing £330. We would like to thank all parents and friends who supported this event in any way. We are very grateful!

Maggie Field

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

This year's APCMs take place this month and all who are on the appropriate parish's Electoral Roll (not to be confused with the Electoral Register of voters) are eligible to attend and vote in the elections to the PCCs.

PLEASE NOTE these are purely church meetings, to do with the worship and work of the respective parishes in this benefice: they have nothing whatever to do with the General Election, I'm glad to say.

Prior to the meeting the Electoral Roll is annually adjusted, membership of it being open to any lay person over the age of 16 who is an habitual worshipper at the church concerned. If you know you aren't at present on the ER but should be please contact either Rosemary Whatley (Patrixbourne with Bridge) or Jonathan Cowans (Bekesbourne) or pick up an application form from church. It's important to do this at the earliest opportunity as the updated ER has to be ready in time for presentation at the APCM. MOST IMPORTANTLY OF ALL do come to the meeting to hear what is happening in the church and lend your support to the rest of us.

APCMs take place as follows:

Bekesbourne - 17th April in Parsonage Farm at 7.30pm Patrixbourne with Bridge - 25th April in Bridge School at 7.30pm

FRIENDS OF BEKESBOURNE CHURCH

by Jane Shorrock

We had a splendid time at our Wine & Wisdom Evening last month - all tickets were sold and we even had to refuse some VIPs who applied too late! Our thanks to Brian and Jenny who challenged us so cleverly and to all who supported us and raised the excellent sum of £313 for our funds. Owing to the popularity of this event we hope to hold another in the Autumn.

Sunday, 4th May

We are now planning our Rogationtide Walk for the third year, when we walk round the boundaries of the Parish and ask God's blessing on the crops and farms and gardens and all enjoy a pleasant springtime outing, ending as usual at The Unicorn for lunch and the *Guess the Distance we Walked* competition. Walkers of all ages are welcome, as are dogs on leads. There will be a Parish Communion at Bekesbourne church at 9.30am, after which the walkers in the congregation will meet up with those who have started from the Village Hall at 10.30am.

BRIDGE VILLAGE PLAYGROUP is situated in the Village Hall on the High Street in Bridge and runs Playgroup sessions from 9am to 12 noon on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, with a 4s session on Monday mornings between 9am and 11.30am. If your child will be 2½ years old soon and is dry then put his/her name down on the waiting list now for the limited places which are available in

September 1997 and January 1998, by phoning Anne Tapley on 830473 for more details.

The Playgroup offers a large area to play in with structured activities and outings throughout the year, so if you are interested phone now and reserve your child's place to avoid disappointment. Nursery vouchers will be accepted from April '97 from 4 year olds.

Will you carry on caring?

Many of our parish churches are fine historic buildings where we meet to worship and take part in local community activities. The churches are legacies from the past which we all hope will be there for future generations. In the same way The Children's Society has been working in the past with the most vulnerable children, is currently working in over 90 projects with young people and plans to continue being there for youngsters in the future.

The Children's Society recognises that supporters may also wish to plan for the future, continuing to care for their family and friends as well as other young people who are experiencing difficult times. Through newly appointed Regional Legacy Officers, advice is now available on the sensitive subjects of Will making, executorship and legacies. Personal help is available for you to discuss issues which need to be considered in relation to making and administering a Will. The assistance comes from a Society that values and respects people and wishes to help at a difficult time.

If you would like to know more about this service then please contact the Southern Regional Legacy Officer, Bronagh C Liddicoat, PO Box 2625, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1QR tel: 01273 488098, who will also be pleased to arrange a private home visit at a mutually convenient time.

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Instead of a house-to-house collection this year a COFFEE MORNING will be held in Bridge Village Hall on **Saturday**, **5th April** from 10.00am till 12 noon. All proceeds will go to the Children's Society, and your support will be greatly appreciated!

There will be a Raffle, Cakes table, Bring & Buy, etc. Any contributions will be gratefully received either on the day or beforehand by helpers - Kathy Eynon, 19 Bridge Down (830466), Kath Pierce, 7 Windmill Close, Mavis Parsons, 26 Western Avenue, Pat Dunderdale, 37 High Street.

FISH NEWS

If you would like to go on the Blossom Tour on the afternoon of Wednesday, 7th

May please contact Mrs Parsons on 832042. The cost of the tea at Hythe is £2.75 but the coach ride is free,

Please remember to rear a few extra plants for the Annual Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy on Saturday, 17th May in Bridge Village Hall. It is a great opportunity for a plant exchange and it benefits the village.

The monthly Coffee Pop-In will be on 9th April in Bridge Village Hall.

A.R.

ADVANCED NOTICE of an important date for your summer diary!

THE VILLAGE FETE

Saturday, 21st June

Grand opening by Postman Pat at 12 noon.

Lunches, teas, games, stalls and a Bumper Raffle, pony rides and lots more exciting activities for all the family to enjoy. Raffle tickets and Lucky Programmes available from Committee Members or from School.

Lots of help will be needed in the run up to the fête and also on the day. If you can help please ring Bridge 830276. We look forward to seeing you all.

Barbara Beinder

BEKESBOURNE CHURCH

Flowers & Cleaning

5th Vicki McPherson & Cheryl Barker

12th Christine Ash

19th Joy Smith & Jane Shorrock

26th Joan Atkins

There are several occasions when many people like to remember loved ones by placing flowers on the graves.

At Bekesbourne, over the years several requests are made for flowers to be put in the Church as memorials. Because it is a simple village church, there for the villagers, passing visitors and anyone with or without any association with it, we welcome any donations throughout the year and will happily accept arrangements placed in a relative's memory. If you would like to contribute this way do contact Christine Ash or any of the flower arrangers listed in *On The Nail*.



Vicar The Revd Raymond Gilbert, AKC, 23 High Street, Bridge (830250) Reader Mr Handley Stevens, MA, 6 Bridgeford Way, Bridge (831376)

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

Churchwardens Mr HPM Lawrence, 72 Bridge Down, Bridge (830472)

Dr AM Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patrixbourne (830947)

Hon Secretary Mr MF Leggatt, 20 Riverside Close, Bridge (830251)

Hon Treasurer Mr K Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patrixbourne (830947)

Covenants Officer Mr NC Francis, 54 Riverside Close, Bridge (830945)

Organist (Bridge)

Organist (Patrixbourne) Mrs RM Stacey, Joslet, Keepers Hill, Patrixbourne (830205) Virger Mr Jack Hopkins, Station Cottages, Bishopsbourne

BEKESBOURNE

Churchwardens Mrs J Millyard, School House, School Lane, Bekesbourne (830256) Mr IG Gillanders, Cala, Aerodrome Road, Bekesbourne

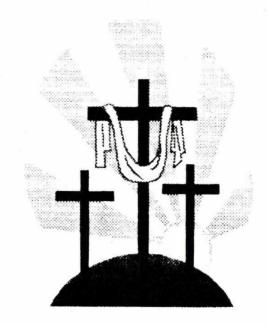
Hon Secretary Mr JW Cowans, Distant View, Adisham Road, Bekesbourne (831029) Hon Treasurer Mr D Millyard, School House, School Lane, Bekesbourne (830256) Organist Mrs RM Stacey, Joslet, Keepers Hill, Patrixbourne (830205)

Captain of the Ringers Mr D Farbrace, 3 Downside, Adisham Road, Bek'ne (830659)
On The Nail Advertising: Mr HPM Lawrence, 72 Bridge Down, Bridge (830472)
On The Nail Editor: The Vicar

Items for On The Nail should reach the editor by the 15th of the preceding month.

ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!

HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!





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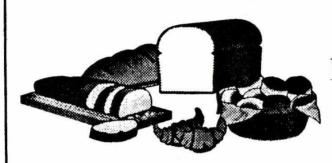
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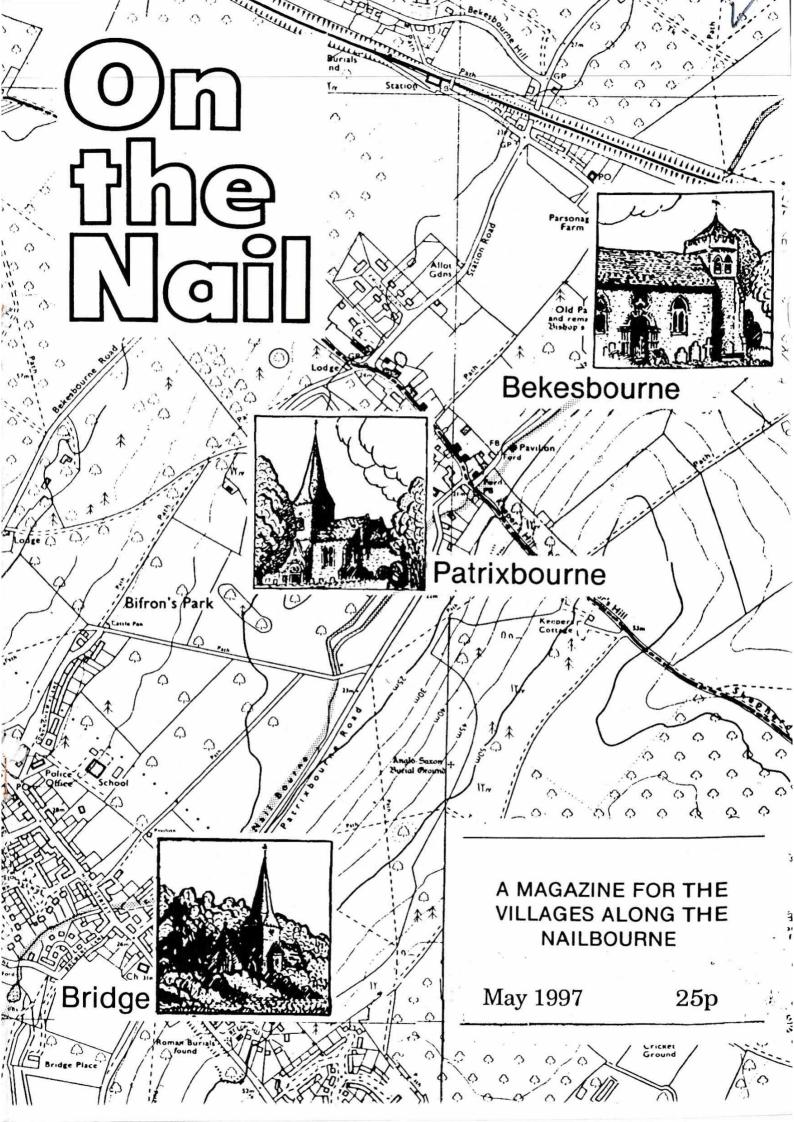
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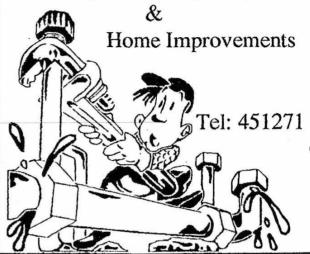
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AROMATHERAPY ~ R. Q. A. REFLEXOLOGY ~ M.A.R.

SUNDAY WORSHIP IN MAY

4th 8.00am Holy Communion (*Patrixbourne*)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bekesbourne)

11.00am Family Eucharist (Bridge)

6.30pm Evensong (Bridge)

11th 8.00am Holy Communion (*Bekesbourne*)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bridge)

9.30am Junior Church (Woodpeckers, Bridge School)

11.00am Matins (Patrixbourne)

18th: PENTECOST

8.00am Holy Communion (Patrixbourne)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bridge)

9.30am Junior Church (Woodpeckers, Bridge School)

11.00am Eucharist (Bekesbourne)

25th 8.00am Holy Communion (*Bridge*)

9.30am Parish Communion (Patrixbourne)

11.00am Family Service (Bekesbourne)

6.30pm Evensong (Bridge)

1st June

8.00am Holy Communion (Patrixbourne)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bekesbourne)

11.00am Family Eucharist (Bridge)

6.30pm Evensong (*Bridge*)

Children are welcome at all services, but especially at Family Services. Junior Church welcomes children of 4 years old and upwards, helping them grow in the faith of the Church, in a secure and caring environment. For further details and enrolment, parents should get in touch with Mrs Susanne Leggatt (830251).

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: 4th, Mr F Jim Allen 11th, Mr Stan Kentish 18th, The Revd Mary R Teed 25th, Mrs Marjorie Beckwith

Weekdays Holy Communion is celebrated in St. Peter's Church, Bridge every Wednesday at 9.30am. A brief, informal service is held at The New Close on Wednesdays at 2pm.

rok	I OUR DIAKT AND FRATER LIST
1st	St. Philip and St. James, Apostles
	Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm
2nd	St. Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, Teacher of the Faith, 373
4th	Fifth Sunday after Easter
	After the Parish Communion at Bekesbourne the traditional Rogation
	Sunday walk begins from the Village Hall at 10.30am.
5th	Rogation Day
6th	Rogation Day
7th	Rogation Day
8th	Ascension Day
	The Eucharist, St. Peter's Church, Bridge, 7.30pm
	Bridge Parish Council Meeting, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
11th	Sunday after Ascension Day
13th	The annual Archdeacon's Visitation for Churchwardens, Sidesmen and
	PCC members takes place in the Quire of the Cathedral at 7.30pm.
14th	St. Matthias the Apostle
	Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am
15th	Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm
16th	Pray for the Deanery Clergy who meet this lunchtime at Wingham.
17th	Fish Scheme Bring & Buy Coffee Morning, Bridge Village Hall, 10.00am
18th	PENTECOST: Whitsunday
	On this major festival that marks the Christian Church's birthday the
	11.00am service at Bekesbourne will be a Eucharist instead of Matins.
19th	St. Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury
20th	Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute, Village Hall, 7.30pm
21st	Pray for the School Governors who meet this evening.
24th	John & Charles Wesley, Priests, Poets, Teachers of the Faith, 1791, 1788
	Pray for Sarah Martin and Tom Jobson marrying today at Patrixbourne.
25th	Trinity Sunday
26th	St. Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury, 605
28th	East Bridge Deanery Synod, Bridge Methodist Church, 7.30pm
29th	Day of Thanksgiving for the Institution of the Holy Communion
31st	The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

FROM THE VICAR

Once upon a time this country had only one public holiday in the spring and it was

known as the Whit Monday Bank Holiday for the obvious reason that it always took place on Whit Monday, i.e. the day after Whit Sunday.

Nowadays, as we're all well aware, there are two Spring Bank Holidays. The first marks 1st May (Labour Day to olde worlde socialists) but is always kept on the first Monday in May - except on one occasion when 1st May fell on a Monday and for some curious reason the Bank Holiday was transferred to the following week - and the other comes at the end of May and is designated the Spring Bank Holiday, though some people still can't get out of the habit of calling it Whit Monday.

A number of eyebrows were raised in Church circles when this latter change was first brought in, feeling that in some way Whit Sunday was being side-lined and everybody would concentrate on the holiday and forget the Christian festival around which it had been created. In fact it made very little difference where church attendance was concerned for the modern tendency to hive off for an extra week's holiday (it invariably coincides with the school half term break) that robs the churches of their congregation, doesn't happen if, as this year, the holiday is the day after Trinity Sunday. So we can usually anticipate a good attendance at church for what is, after all, one of the major festivals of the Christian year.

In point of fact Whit Sunday (or Pentecost as it is now more often known) has never gained such widespread support as have Christmas and Easter, due in no small measure to the fact that it doesn't have a strong and popular secular side to it as do the others due to certain pagan accretions. However, the importance of Pentecost cannot be overstated, celebrating as it does the first coming of the Holy Spirit of God into the lives of the first believers, changing them from a timid, fearful bunch of individuals into a courageous, fearless community whose avowed aim was to bear witness for Christ in the world around them. From being despirited disciples they became spirited apostles, men and women stimulated and powered by God's Spirit to proclaim the good news far and wide. That particular Day of Pentecost (a Jewish festival) marked the beginning of the Church's life and those of us who have proudly surrendered ourselves to the Lord stand foursquare in that tradition and, in our own day, carry on their work, empowered by the self-same Spirit that sent them out to live and work to God's praise and glory.

JOYS & SORROWS

Baptism

It all began with a phone call to the vicar from the Hungarian city of Budapest! It

ended with an Easter afternoon family gathering in St. Mary's Church, Patrixbourne with the vicar officiating at the baptism of MAX ELLIOT ADRIAN KENT, the firstborn son of Michael and Susan Kent, currently domiciled in Hungary for Michael's work purposes but very much of local origin. It was indeed a large family assembly and a most happy occasion for all concerned, Max included.

Obituaries

On Easter Tuesday, 1st April a congregation of family and friends met in St. Peter's Church, Bridge for the funeral of a well-known and popular Bridge resident, ARTHUR PUNYER of 27 High Street, who had lived there since he and his late wife married and came to Bridge at the end of the war. He was 80 years old when he died in Nunnery Fields Hospital.

For most of his working life Arthur was a career soldier, having served with considerable distinction as a wireless operator in the Eighth Army in North Africa. After the war he joined the construction industry, working on the erection of the hovercraft ramps at Dover harbour.

In retirement he made quite a name for himself locally as a gardener and he also made an art of the business of marking out the football pitches on the village recreation ground and at Bridge school. He was a keen member of the Royal British Legion and it was fitting that the Bridge & District standard should be paraded at his funeral. He was also a regular at The Plough & Harrow.

Arthur was a thoroughly delightful chap, quiet and unassuming, and after a service in church his body was laid to rest with that of his wife in the church-yard.

* * * *

The death of Mrs VERA CATHERINE DAWSON, 21 Windmill Close, on 13th April at the age of 90 ended a life of loving care and devotion to her family, and of friendship and a concern that embraced many people, particularly via her committed membership of Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute. The Vicar officiated at a cremation service at Barham Crematorium on 22nd April.

'Ben', as she was universally known, was an accomplished watercolour artist, but is chiefly remembered for her long association with the WI, being President of Bridge with Patrixbourne WI in 1954, 1957, 1958, 1962, 1966 and 1967 and Vice-President many times between those years. She remained a paid-up member and was in touch with events and activities of the WI up to this year.

Her artistic skills gained her a wide reputation and were put to good use when she drew a pen and ink picture of the house in Beer Cart Lane which was bought as the new County Office in 1976. This sketch was used on notelets which were on sale until recently. Two years ago the Executive Committee of the East

Kent Federation of Women's Institutes asked Ben's permission to use her house drawing as a logo for various document headings.

FUND-RAISING RESULTS IN BRIDGE

HOME BOXES, emptied in March, yielded a total of £266.29 for the Society, mainly from small change, proving once again how it mounts up! Many thanks to the box holders for this result.

* * *

COFFEE MORNING held on 5th April raised, including donations, the excellent sum of £466.75. Again grateful thanks to all who made this possible with their support. In case you wondered, the doll's name was Lucy - won by Hannah, aged 2, and 'Ted' found a good home for a bid of £10.

* * *

David Burns of Sittingbourne once again ran in the London Marathon on behalf of The Children's Society, and was hoping to beat his last year's sponsorship total of £2000.

* * *

ON 31st May a Craft Fair is being held at Torry Hill, near Sittingbourne, entrance £2 for adults. Leaflets will be available for anyone interested. Contact Kathy Eynon (tel 830466)

Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute

On Tuesday, 20th May at 7.30pm the annual resolutions will be discussed, followed by a fun quiz. The competition is a most unusual glass article. J.H.

ADVANCED NOTICE

The annual fund-raising event in aid of the Royal College of Radiologists' Appeal for the early detection and treatment of cancer will be on Thursday, 5th June at 18 Conyngham Lane, Bridge. Do come along between 10.00am and noon or 2.00 to 3.30pm. There will be the usual Bring & Buy and other stalls.

M.E.J.

BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL - March & April meetings

Parish Walk: As part of BT Environment Week, Meriel and Joe Connor will lead a short walk along parish footpaths on Sunday, 18th May. The walk will last about 1½ hours and the group will leave from the Recreation Ground, Patrix-bourne Road at 11.15am.

Recycling Collections: Canterbury City Council is anxious for more people in Bridge to use green wheelie bins to collect Paper, cardboard and cans. The present collection is on a monthly basis, but if more people were in the scheme it

would be more frequent. If you would like a free green recycling bin then telephone the Environment and Health Department of Canterbury City Council on 763763 extension 4520.

Bus services: Kent County Council has withdrawn its subsidy from a large number of rural bus services, including those serving Bridge. For the moment Route 16 is unaltered. Route 17 will continue to have evening and Sunday buses with some minor alterations, but Route 15 has been withdrawn. A Kent Compass bus will run between Canterbury and Dover, onwards to Deal, Sandwich, Margate and Ramsgate, but will travel straight down the A2 by-passing Bridge. Stagecoach East Kent have made it clear that Service 17 can be retained only on a use-it-or-lose-it basis. New timetables should be available shortly.

Nailbourne stream: Work is still awaited on the Nailbourne stream bed and the Parish Council has asked the project leader at the Environment Agency to come along to the May Parish Council meeting to discuss the proposals, including a suggestion that the bus shelter would be removed and the bus stop re-located.

Play equipment: Repair work is to be carried out on play equipment in the Recreation Ground, and until it is completed, parents are advised not to let their children use the slide at all. The rocking horse is to be modified in line with current safety recommendations.

Planning matters: The Public Inquiry into proposals to build a hotel on the A2 between Canterbury and Bridge will take place on 30th April in the Guildhall. The Parish Council opposed the proposals and will attend the inquiry to put their case again. Detailed plans have been submitted for a detached house and garage on land adjacent to Bridge Hill House (CA/97/0296/BRI). The Council raised no objections. Planning applications can be inspected at Canterbury City Council offices in Military Road; those within the parish are avaiable prior to the monthly meeting in the Hunter Room and can be inspected between 6.45 and 7.00pm.

Ramblers' anniversary: The fiftieth anniversary of the Ramblers' Association will be marked on 1st May, when 600 French ramblers will converge on Canterbury from various points around the city. One group, fifty or so strong, will be leaving from the lay-by on Town Hill around 10.00am.

Village sign: The village sign, carved by John Hill, will be put in position at the junction of Conyngham Lane and High Street in early May. Made of solid oak, the sign depicts the church, the Nailbourne stream and the old bridge over it.

FISH NEWS

Please remember plants and cakes for the fund-raising Coffee Morning for the Fish Scheme on Saturday, 17th May in Bridge Village Hall from 10am onwards.

Telephone Mrs Parsons on 832042 if you would like to go on the Blossom Tour on the afternoon of Wednesday, 7th May.

The monthly Coffee Pop-In will be on Wednesday, 14th May in Bridge Village Hall.

We have news of an excellent new service from Canterbury City Council. Called *Lifeline*, it provides help at the touch of a button for £2.50 a week - a great improvement on the cost of the similar commercial service. So if you are elderly, alone, vulnerable or suffering from chronic illness or you know someone who might benefit from *Lifeline* contact Canterbury 763763 and ask for extension 4567 or 4534.

Friends of Bekesbourne Church

by Jane Shorrock

REMINDER: The Rogationtide Walk on Sunday, 4th May, will depart at 10.30am sharp from Bekesbourne Village Hall, to meet the walkers who attend the Parish Communion at 9.30am at Bekesbourne Church. Prayers to bless the fields will again be offered at various stages along the way and since the vicar regrettably won't be able to take part this year as, being a first Sunday, he will be needed at Bridge's Family Eucharist, these will be led by Handley Stevens, the Licensed Reader.

The Friends of Bekesbourne Church would like to thank all who have contributed to our funds over the past year and supported our events. This is the time of year when our Link people will be calling on you again for your subscriptions and we hope for your usual generous contributions. Thanks to the support we have already had we have been able to repair the church roof and pay for the tree felling that has vastly improved the appearance of the churchyard and fittingly made the church more prominent. Our next project is to waterproof the outside of the vestry and re-decorate the inside of it. Further Churchyard Working Parties have been arranged, at which anyone with a few hours to spare will be most welcome these will be from 10.00am on Saturdays, 17th May and 28th June. Do come and help!

FUTURE DATES:

Saturday, 5th July -

Annual BOOT FAIR

Sunday, 6th July

STRAWBERRY TEA at The Old Palace, by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Fry

Become a Pilgrim

Follow in the footsteps of SAINT COLUMBA

and

SAINT AUGUSTINE

between 26 May and 9 June 1997

The Pilgrim Saints

1997 marks the twin 1400th anniversary of the death of Saint Columba, who brought the Christian Gospel from Ireland to Iona, and the arrival of Saint Augustine in Canterbury, who became England's first Archbishop.

A pilgrimage, leaving Rome on 18 May, will be the start of an ecumenical initiative by four nations, England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, to commemorate and celebrate these early pilgrim journeys, and to pursue the same aims of mission and reconciliation which motivated these Pilgrim Saints.

Pilgrims' Way 1997

Some 50 pilgrims (including the Bishop of Dover) will travel from Rome by foot, coach, train and boat to arrive in Canterbury in time for Saint Augustine's Day on 26th May, and they will be joined by 400 more for various journeys to reach Derry on 9 June, Saint Columba's Day.

There is an opportunity to join the Pilgrimage from Canterbury, or to be involved as it passes through your area along the main routes shown below.

There are 150 places available for the route from Canterbury to Derry via Oxford and South or North Wales, 150 via Lincoln, Lindisfarne and Iona, and 100 via Coventry, Lancaster and Belfast. In addition, there are 50 places each on routes starting from Bradwell and Penzance, making 500 in total.

About being a Pilgrim

By joining the pilgrimage you will be taking your own place in mission history.

This is a unique event, and imaginative activities have been planned along each of the routes, with accommodation being provided at all the main starting points. It will be an exceptionally stimulating experience, enabling you to share your faith with those from churches and traditions other than your own. An immense amount of planning has gone into this venture, so you can be sure of a very worthwhile outcome from such a personal involvement.

The main opportunity will be to take part in the full journey from Canterbury, Bradwell or Penzance to Derry, for which the inclusive cost will be around £250. However, local pilgrims will be very welcome on most days, and there will be an opportunity, through the local co-ordinators, for you to join the pilgrimages for a day or more's journey. In every instance it will be essential for local pilgrims to register locally, for planning and insurance reasons.

Places are necessarily limited, so please contact without delay:-

The Pilgrims' Way 1997 Office, 12, The Close, Norwich NR1 4DH Telephone 01603 666900 Fax: 01603 766032

This pilgrimage is being supported by all the main Christian churches in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. It is a particularly significant collaborative venture.

Bekesbourne Church Cleaning & Flower Rota

3rd & 10th May - Rosie Mount 17th - Zan Clifford 24th - Pam Farbrace 31st - Jane Millyard

This month's *Outlook* has an article and photo (p.2) concerning the Bishop of Dover's new honorary chaplain, Canon Ronald Diss. The article says he has relatives in Bridge, which indeed he does, since his late brother was married to none other than our very own Kath Diss, from Ford Close.

Vicar The Revd Raymond Gilbert, AKC, 23 High Street, Bridge (830250) Reader Mr Handley Stevens, MA, 6 Bridgeford Way, Bridge (831376)

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

Churchwardens Mr J Anderson, Aunt Betsy's Cottage, Dering Road, Bridge (830260) Dr AM Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patrixbourne (830947)

Hon Secretary Mr MF Leggatt, 20 Riverside Close, Bridge (830251)

Hon Treasurer Mr K Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patrixbourne (830947)

Covenants Officer Mr NC Francis, 54 Riverside Close, Bridge (830945)

Organist (Bridge)

Organist (Patrixbourne) Mrs RM Stacey, Joslet, Keepers Hill, Patrixbourne (830205) Virger Mr Jack Hopkins, Station Cottages, Bishopsbourne

BEKESBOURNE

Churchwardens Mrs J Millyard, School House, School Lane, Bekesbourne (830256)
Mr IG Gillanders, Cala, Aerodrome Road, Bekesbourne

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Organist Mrs RM Stacey, Joslet, Keepers Hill, Patrixbourne (830205)

Captain of the Ringers Mr D Farbrace, 3 Downside, Adisham Road, Bek'ne (830659)

On The Nail Advertising: Mr HPM Lawrence, 72 Bridge Down, Bridge (830472)

On The Nail Editor: The Vicar

Items for On The Nail should reach the editor by the 15th of the preceding month.

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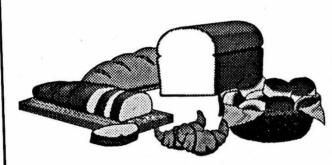
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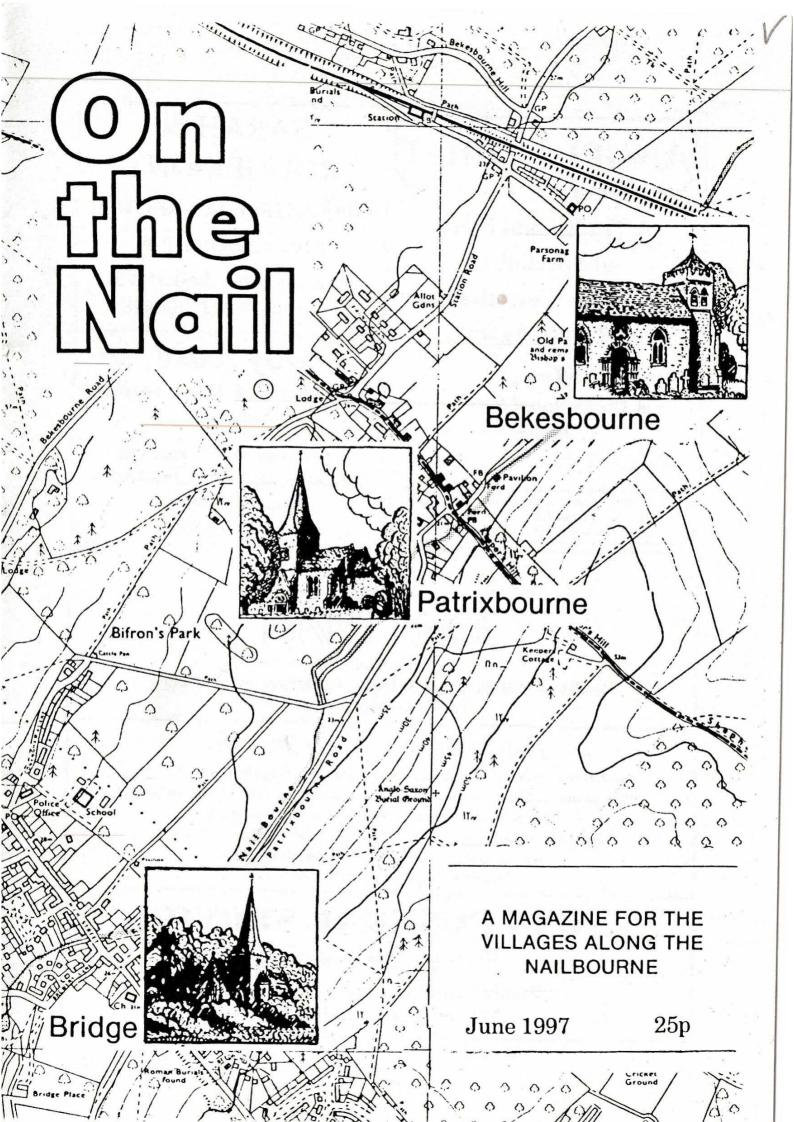
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SUNDAY WORSHIP IN JUNE

1st 9.30am Parish Communion (Bekesbourne)

11.00am Family Eucharist (Bridge)

6.30pm Evensong (Bridge)

8.00am Holy Communion (Bekesbourne)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bridge)

9.30am Junior Church (Woodpeckers, Bridge School)

11.00am Matins (Patrixbourne)

15th 8.00am Holy Communion (*Patrixbourne*)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bridge)

9.30am Junior Church (Woodpeckers, Bridge School)

11.00am Matins (Bekesbourne)

22nd 8.00am Holy Communion (*Bridge*)

9.30am Parish Communion (Patrixbourne)

11.00am Family Service (Bekesbourne)

3.30pm Baptism (Patrixbourne)

6.30pm Evensong (Bridge)

29th 10.30am Benefice Eucharist (*Bekesbourne*)

6th July

8.00am Holy Communion (Patrixbourne)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bekesbourne)

11.00am Family Eucharist (Bridge)

6.30pm Evensong (Bridge)

Children are welcome at all services, but especially at Family Services. Junior Church welcomes children of 4 years old and upwards, helping them grow in the faith of the Church, in a secure and caring environment. For further details and enrolment, parents should get in touch with Mrs Susanne Leggatt (830251).

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: 1st, Mrs Hazel Colyer, BA, MA 8th, Dr John Rogers 15th, Holy Communion, The Revd Mary R Teed 22nd, Church Anniversary, The Revd George Baugh 29th, Miss Leah Turner, BSc

Wednesday Communion Due to minimal support for a very long time it has reluctantly been decided to discontinue the longstanding Wednesday morning celebrations of Holy Communion in St. Peter's Church, Bridge with immediate effect.

FOR YOUR DIARY AND PRAYER LIST

1st Second Sunday after Pentecost

5th St. Boniface, Bishop, Missionary, Martyr, 754
Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, 8 Ford Close, 7pm

8th Third Sunday after Pentecost

9th St. Columba, Abbot of Iona, 597

11th St. Barnabas the Apostle

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

12th Bridge Parish Council Meeting, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm Nailbourne Horticultural Society, Bridge Methodist Church, 7.30pm

14th St. Basil the Great, Bishop, Teacher of the Faith, 379

15th Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

19th Deanery Confirmation Service, St. Mary's Church, Wingham, 7.30pm

21st BRIDGE VILLAGE FETE

22nd Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

24th Birth of St. John the Baptist

29th St. Peter the Apostle

Bridge and Bekesbourne's joint Patronal Festival will be celebrated in the course of the Benefice Eucharist at Bekesbourne, after which the congregation is invited to share in a bring-it-yourself barbecue in the garden of School House.

FROM THE VICAR

It must be fairly uncommon, though in these days by no means unique, to find a benefice of three churches in which two of them are dedicated to one saint.

How it came about that near neighbours Bridge and Bekesbourne were both dedicated to St. Peter is a mystery, but it would be hard to find a more tantalizing dedication, since not only has St. Peter been a key figure throughout Christian history, he is more thoroughly documented than any other saint, in or out of the Bible.

In the sacred pecking order Peter must inevitably rank below Patrix-bourne's St. Mary, nevertheless in the pages of the New Testament and principally

the Gospels the big fisherman, as the American writer Lloyd Douglas called him, towers over all other characters. That not only speaks volumes about this leading member of Christ's original team of disciples - those called by the rest The Twelve - but his well-chronicled life provides an abundance of good examples that serve as useful guides in our own personal discipleship. In this respect Peter's sainthood is particularly appropriate: he exhibits all the right attributes of a saint and at the same time came from a quite simple, undistinguished background and showed it. If Simon Peter could do it, so can we, is the message!

It's to celebrate the glories of a joint Patron Saint that on his feast day, 29th June, which happily this year clashes with one of our Benefice Eucharists, we shall gather for it in St. Peter's Church at Bekesbourne. Do join us, whichever of our three churches you're more closely allied with; and don't forget, the service starts at 10.30am!

BEKESBOURNE PETS SERVICE

Jonathan Cowans writes: The animals went in one by one ...

Bekesbourne's Family Service in April, led by the Revd John Shorrock, was a first for St. Peter's. A full church including six dogs, three cats, two guinea pigs, a rabbit and a gerbil heard the stories of two saints, St. Modo and St. Mungo, both early keepers of animals, illustrating how we should care for our pets and how they would repay our kindness.

The vicar accompanied the singing of hymns old and new on the organ, there was an amusing reading of David Kossoff's 'The Creation' by Paul Kusel and finally each pet received a blessing at what had been a most delightful service of thanskgiving to God for all animals and especially our pets.

All the pets behaved impeccably ... I wonder what's in store for us at the next Family Service? Do come and find out!

Take care

The prayer used as each pet was brought to the front could not have been more appropriate:

God bless (pet's name)! May you (addressed to the owner) take care of N as God takes care of you.

NAILBOURNE PROTECTION SOCIETY

by Gerald Baker

The Nailbourne Protection Society was formed in 1971 specifically to oppose a Pop Festival planned to be held in the Bishopsbourne area. It was later expanded to help protect the environment generally along the Nailbourne valley.

Members of the society are invited to attend an Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 26th June at 7.30pm in Bishopsbourne Village Hall mainly to discuss the future of the society, which has been inactive for nearly ten years.

The current Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer all intend to relinquish their positions at the AGM. If the society is to continue therefore nominations will be needed from current or potential members. Seven additional members will also be required to serve on the committee. Failure to elect the three officers will inevitably lead to the winding up of the society and the distribution of its remaining funds to other societies or bodies as provided for in the Constitution.

Nominations for officers and committee, together with the agreement of those proposed, must be in the hands of the Chairman or Secretary by the time of the start of the AGM. They can be sent in advance of the meeting to the Secretary, Mr John Purchese, 11 St. Nicholas Hospital, Church Hill, Harbledown.

ANN YOUNG: Servant & Champion of Bridge

Those who remember her will be sorry to hear of the death of Mrs Ann Young, for many years resident in Beech Hill, Bridge and an ardent devotee and supporter of many of the better aspects of village life, some of them as founder. She served the community well and was for long periods on the Parish Council, much of the time as its Chairman or Vice-chairman, during which time she fought tirelessly on the village's behalf.

Amongst the things we have to thank Ann for is the Fish Scheme, which continues to flourish and which she was instrumental in getting off the ground along with Joan Warren.

She was a quiet, praying, communicant member of St. Peter's Church, a participant in the bi-monthly prayer meetings for health and healing concerns and was a leading light together with Ailsa Williamson and Alicia Pentin in the very successful kneeler campaign, many of which were worked to Ann's own design. It was Ann who first suggested the creation of a clear space in the church where people could gather after services (she even produced a plan of how it might be done) though she had left the village before her good idea was put into operation.

Bekesbourne Short Mat Bowls

Would you like to try your hand at short mat bowling at Bekesbourne Village Hall on Friday nights between 7pm and 10pm? We should be pleased to welcome anybody who is interested who would like to come along for a 'roll up', and I feel sure you will find us all very friendly.

Kath Diss

Kingston Playgroup

After 30 years of running the Playgroup Mrs Webb is closing in July. Will any pupils, parents or staff past and present who are interested in marking this sad occasion please ring one of the following, who will give more details: Sally 8305292, Tricia 830828.

P.S. McIntyre

DEANERY CONFIRMATION 1997

At the Deanery Confirmation in St. Mary's Church, Wingham on Thursday, 19th June at 7.30pm Bishop Gavin Reid, Bishop of Maidstone, will officiate at the Eucharist and with candidates from other churches in East Bridge Deanery will confirm Maria Legge and Alex Finney from Bridge and Linda Forrest from Bekesbourne. If possible please support them in person at St. Mary's Church on the night and in the meantime by your prayers.

THE VILLAGE FETE
BRIDGE SCHOOL
Saturday,
21st June
Grand Opening
by Postman Pat
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Fun for everyone!

BRIDGE VILLAGE FETE - 21st June

This year's fête has even more to offer by way of entertainment. As usual it is staged by and held in aid of both church and school and takes place on the school grounds. It will be officially opened at 12 noon by Postman Pat and has lots to interest everyone - games and activities - stalls - lunches and teas - pony rides - special raffles - HM Customs dogs in action - children's dancing display - sea cadets band. Come and enjoy a wonderful day!

BRIDGE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING



The Annual Parish meeting was held in the Village Hall on Thursday, 17th April. City Councillor David Pentin and County Councillor Martin Vye attended, together with some thirty-five parishioners.

Making his report on the Council's activities during the year the Chairman, Cllr Reg Franklin, thanked all the councillors and the clerk for their hard work during the year and commended the Parish Appraisal Committee for the successful conclusion of its activities and the production of its report. The report was presented to the Planning Services Committee of Canterbury City Council in February, and highly commended.

Mr Franklin noted the reduction in reported crime and thanked the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, Mr D. Lancashire, and the co-ordinators for their efforts during the past year. He was pleased to report that the Mill Centre, used by the Scout and Guide organisations, has now been re-roofed; the village sign, designed by Julian Kirk and carved by John Hill, would shortly be put up at Conyngham Lane. Bus services have come under threat, following the withdrawal of the Kent County Council subsidies. Fortunately, Bridge has not been as badly hit as other villages.

Cllr David Pentin congratulated the Parish Appraisal Committee on their report, noting the high response rates indicating the concern of local residents for the future of the village. He drew particular attention to the growth in private transport and the problems which this generated. He felt that more could be done to reduce these problems such as more and lower speed limits, raising the comparative costs of private motoring, more cycle routes and improvements to public transport. The City Council was addressing these issues through the Local

Agenda 21 groups, whose draft strategy will shortly be available for comment. In closing, he reminded the meeting that the Public Inquiry into the proposal to build a hotel on open land near the village would be held in the Guildhall from Wednesday, 30th April.

Cllr Martin Vye was pleased that evening and Sunday services on Route 17 would be run, at least for the time being, on a commercial basis by Stagecoach East Kent. He did not wish to dwell on the problems facing Kent County Council, but noted the considerable expenditure involved in setting up the new unitary authority for the Medway towns. He was pleased that an inaugural meeting has resulted in the formation of a Management Committee for the Kent Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which included Barham Downs. The Committee will be able to give priority to protecting areas from inappropriate developments such as a proposed service station on the A2. Cllr Vye echoed Mr Pentin's concern with traffic problems, and particularly their effects in rural areas.

On behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee, Mr John Round noted a slight drop in income, following the opening of the Mill Centre and a drop in numbers attending the Playgroup, but the hall remained in a sound financial position. He reported that various repairs had been carried out and the recent Public Health and Safety inspection had been successful. He thanked all the members of the Management Committee, reminding the meeting that they were volunteers who served the community.

Representing Neighbourhood Watch, Mr D. Lancashire sought the involvement of young people in the village in crime prevention and proposed a small award or trophy for youngsters reporting problems to the police.

In a discussion on ways to mark the forthcoming millennium, various possiblities were raised including the purchase of the recreation ground, together with adjoining land to create a small wood, the replacement of the existing bridge over the ford in Mill Lane, the renewal and expansion of equipment in the recreation ground and the building of a new village hall. The Chairman suggested that anyone having views on any of the proposals should write to the Clerk as soon as possible.

The meeting closed with an illustrated talk by Mr Jon Shelton of the Kentish Stour Countryside Project.

BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL - May Meeting Report

BUS SERVICES: Timetables are now available for the revised Stagecoach East Kent services on routes 16 and 17. Sunday and evening services on route 17A are retained and now operate via the Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

NEW CHAIRMAN ELECTED: Meriel Connor was elected to serve as Chairman during the coming year, with Emily Shirley serving as Vice-Chairman.

PLAY EQUIPMENT: Repairs to the rocking horse should be completed during the coming week and urgent enquiries are being made about repairs to the slide. In the meantime, the slide is out of use and parents are asked not to allow their children on it.

ALLOTMENTS: A meeting of allotment holders has been held to discuss possible improvements to the site, including the provision of water. It may also be possible to form an association in the village for allotment users and details of meetings will be posted up.

VILLAGE SIGN: The hand-carved village sign now in place, designed by Julian Kirk and carved by John Hill, shows the old bridge over the Nailbourne, with St. Peter's Church.

PLANNING MATTERS: John Hill and Mervyn Gulvin attended and spoke at the recent public inquiry about proposals to build a hotel on green land between the village and Canterbury. The inspector's decision will not be known for several weeks but the Council's objections to the scheme were made clear to the inquiry. Two planning applications have recently been considered by the Parish Council: the first, at Garden Cottage, Meadow Close involves a change of use from residential to a chiropractic office with a new vehicle access on to Bridge Hill. The Council objected to this on grounds of traffic safety. An application to convert a stable block and barn at Middle Pett Farm, together with the building of a new house and garage was also considered. The Council objected to the building of a new house as being contrary to the policies of the Local Plan, and also on grounds of the additional traffic which would result.

Bridge & District Historical Society

The meeting in Bridge Village Hall on Tuesday, 6th May, featured Bishopsbourne in View, a much appreciated slide presentation of photographs by member Fred Atkins. Bishopsbourne and its surroundings were beautifully revealed in all seasons and evocative of all moods of nature, including the aftermath of the great storm of 1987. Taken over several years, many slides were of historical interest.

The meeting opened with a swift AGM when the committee was reelected unopposed and thanked on behalf of the membership by Norman Fowler for all its efforts. Finances were healthy due to increased membership; some events had been subsidised.

The last event of the season is the annual Summer Walk in June. This year Martin Vye leads a gentle stroll through and around Bishopsbourne to point

out some of the sights of historical and social interest. Tickets £2 members, £3 non-members. Meet at the Mermaid Inn, Bishopsbourne 10.30am Sunday, 15th June.

New programmes for the 1997-8 season will be sent out to members during August.

Nailbourne Horticultural Society

The society meets in Bridge Methodist Church on Thursday, 21st at 7.30pm, when Mr Lush will give what promises to be, going on his visit to us last year, an entertaining talk on the ecological aspects of growing and eating.

For those who like to plan well in advance, do remember that the Summer Show is on Saturday, 26th July at the Conrad Hall, Bishopsbourne. If you would like a show schedule please get in touch with either the show secretary, Mrs Billie Anderson on 830260 or see Mrs Ethel Cartwright in the Post Office.

Bridge Village Hall & Hunter Room

Bridge Village Hall, licensed for musical entertainments, and the Hunter Room are for hire daily from 9.00am to 11.00pm. For parties, receptions, meetings, shows, fund raising etc the hall holds up to 100 persons. The Hunter Room holds up to 30 for meetings, discussions etc. Excellent facilities which are presently under used at competitive rates.

In addition to the events featured in the Diary column on page 5 the Playgroup meets in the hall on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, the Rainbow Group on Tuesdays, Dance Classes for juniors and adults on Thursdays, Brownies on Fridays and Ladies Keep Fit Classes on Mondays and Wednesdays.

For information on all events and to book your function telephone Bill Dawson the bookings secretary on 831044.

AND STILL TO COME ...

The Friends of Bekesbourne Church hold their third BOOT FAIR on Saturday, 5th July at Parsonage Farm, by kind permission of John Ash. Admission from 9am and pitches may be booked with Zan Clifford on 830328 or Gill Moon on 832134.

By invitation of Mr & Mrs Fry at The Old Palace, Bekesbourne, the Friends will be holding a STRAWBERRY TEA on Sunday, 6th July from 2.30 to 4.30pm, tickets £2.50, which will include admission to the Garden. There will be a Plant & Produce Stall and a Cake Stall.

Vicar The Revd Raymond Gilbert, AKC, 23 High Street, Bridge (830250) Reader Mr Handley Stevens, MA, 6 Bridgeford Way, Bridge (831376)

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Hon Secretary

Hon Treasurer Mr K Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patrixbourne (830947) Covenants Officer Mr NC Francis, 54 Riverside Close, Bridge (830945)

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On The Nail Advertising: Mr HPM Lawrence, 72 Bridge Down, Bridge (830472)

On The Nail Editor: The Vicar

Items for On The Nail should reach the editor by the 15th of the preceding month.

*******	•
* Bekesbourne Church *	
* Cleaning & Flower Rota	•
** 7th June - Mrs Watson	
* 14th - Cheryl Barker *	
* 21st - Zan Clifford *	
* 28th - Lois Whigham	



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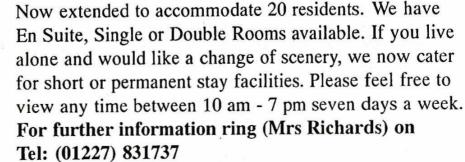
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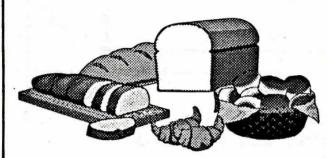
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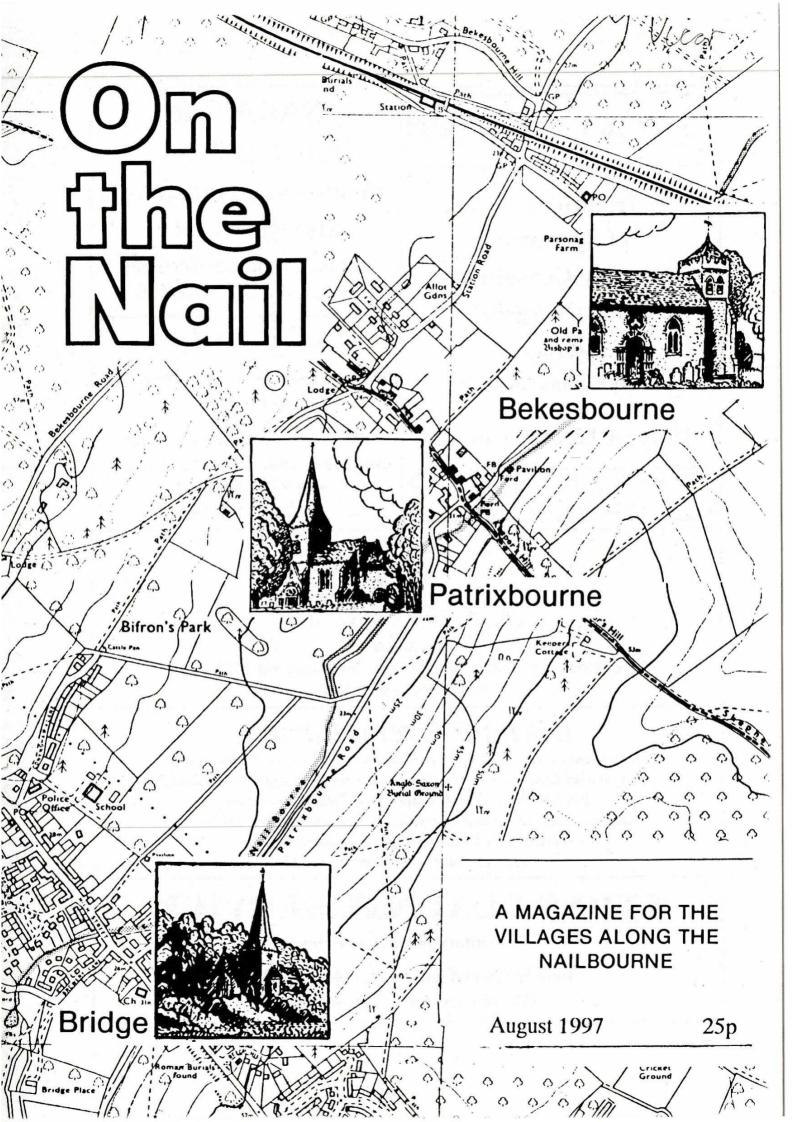
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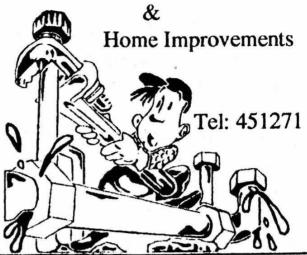
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SUNDAY WORSHIP IN AUGUST

3rd 8.00am Holy Communion (*Patrixbourne*

9.30am Parish Communion (Bekesbourne)

11.00am Family Eucharist (Bridge)

6.30pm Evensong (Bridge)

10th 8.00am Holy Communion (*Bekesbourne*)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bridge)

11.00am Matins (Patrixbourne)

17th 8.00am Holy Communion (*Patrixbourne*)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bridge)

11.00am Matins (Bekesbourne)

24th 8.00am Holy Communion (*Bridge*)

9.30am Parish Communion (Patrixbourne: Preacher: Mr H Stevens)

11.00am Matins (Bekesbourne)

6.30pm Evensong (Bridge)

31st 10.30am Benefice Eucharist (*Bridge*)

6.30pm Evensong (Bekesbourne)

7th September

8.00am Holy Communion (Patrixbourne)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bekesbourne)

11.00am Family Eucharist (Bridge)

Children are welcome at all services, but especially at Family Services. Junior Church welcomes children of 4 years old and upwards, helping them grow in the faith of the Church, in a secure and caring environment. It doesn't meet in August but for further details and enrolment, parents should get in touch with Mrs Susanne Leggatt (830251).

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: 3rd, Mr F Jim Allen 10th, Mr Ron Chadwick, MA, DMS 17th, Holy Communion, The Revd Albert Ball 24th, The Revd David Marshall (Superintendent) 31st, Mr Peter Blakebrough, MA, BEd

FOR YOUR DIARY AND PRAYER LIST

3rd Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

4th St. Dominic, Priest, Friar, 1221

- 5th St. Oswald, King of Northumbria, 642
- 6th Transfiguration of our Lord
- 7th Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm
- 10th Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
- 11th St. Clare of Assisi, Virgin, 1253
- 13th Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am
- 16th 'The Smallest Garden Party in the World' (Details page 7)
- 17th Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
- 19th Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 20th St. Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, 1153
- 21st Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm
- 24th St. Bartholomew the Apostle: Pentecost 14
 For this month only Bekesbourne's Family Service is replaced by Matins at 11am.
- 25th Pray for Thomas Obee and Anne Mackintosh, to be married this afternoon at Bridge.
- 28th St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo in North Africa, Teacher, 430
- 29th Friends of Bekesbourne Church Boules Competition, The Unicorn, 7.00pm
- Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 Today's 10.30am Benefice Eucharist being at Bridge there will be Evensong at 6.30pm in St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne.

FROM THE VICAR

What I've been up to lately

Last month, along with all the clergy of the diocese, I attended a Diocesan Conference at the University of Sussex, which is just outside Brighton. It lasted a little over 48 hours and a lot was packed into it: worship, lectures, a Bible study from John Taylor, former Bishop of St. Alban's, various workshops and activities, not forgetting time set aside for eating, drinking and sleeping. It was also good for the physique, since the university campus is such that getting from A to B and then via C back to A requires a lot of walking - rapid walking, given the tight schedule.

The lectures were given by Dr Elaine Storkey, who you may occasionally hear giving her *Thought for the Day* on Radio 4, and Professor Jürgen Moltmann, a German theologian with a fine command of English, who delivered a profound lecture with enthusiasm and erudition. Bishop Taylor gave a brilliant Bible study

on Jeremiah chapter 1 and we had a stirring address from the Archbishop during the closing act of worship.

There was a choice where the workshops and activities were concerned: for the latter I was lucky enough to get my name down for one of only ten places on a bell-ringing session at St. Mary's, Shoreham. That was a fantastic experience, which leads me to encourage you to try it for yourself at a few lessons at Bekesbourne, which Captain of Ringers, David Farbrace would be glad to supply. We're always looking for ringer recruits: you'll find his phone number on page 21.

My first choice of a workshop (we could opt for three) found a group of us looking into the condition of Rural Landscapes, partly from the present situation in the countryside and partly with a view to the Church's work there. Being already familiar with the subject matter, this session had little to offer, in contrast to my second choice of a session on stress given by the Revd Patrick Jones, who with his wife Pam runs Cautley House at Seabrook. It ended with a quarter of an hour of guided relaxation which, given the hectic conference programme, I grasped eagerly and greatly valued. The third workshop was most fascinating and very informative. Given by Roger Dey, a sound expert, it was on the subject of *Loops for Churches*. As last I understand what a loop system is all about and how it enables anyone with a hearing aid to hear clearly what's being said in a church or public building that has a loop system fitted.

The conference worship was very varied, ranging from an ASB Eucharist presided over by the Archbishop, to a Prayer Book Evensong with the long 'Dearly beloved brethren ...' introduction and sung psalms and canticles, to a most moving Iona style Communion Service celebrated by Archdeacon John Pritchard and a specially concocted closing act of worship, during which we were sprinkled with the water of baptism.

With such a varied programme it's inevitable that certain aspects were more stimulating than others, yet the conference in general was first class. It's good when all the clergy and a large contingent of lay people from the diocese can spend time away together. Watch for the photos in September's *Outlook*!

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

In what some might describe as a marathon, Bridge's Family Eucharist on 6th July included the baptism by the Vicar of five children from two families, none of the children being babes in arms. They were RACHEL and EDWARD BURTON, 19 High Street and COLIN, CARA and CHRISTOPHER WELLS, 1 Pippin Avenue.

Holy Marriage

July has been weddings month in Bridge, the newly re-decorated St. Peter's Church being the venue for the marriages of GILES ROBINSON and JANINE BERRY (5th), ADRIAN JARRETT and NICOLE POOLE (12th), GRAHAM OATES and JULIE EDWARDS, also STEVEN HOPKINS and JOANNE COOK (19th).

DELHI BROTHERHOOD SOCIETY has sent a report on Abida, a 10 year old muslim girl whom Patrixbourne with Bridge PCC is sponsoring. She has passed all her subjects and is now moving from Class III to Class IV. This is very good considering her home situation where there is no one to help or motivate her. If she works a bit more she will be able to do really well.

WHAT A CHALLENGE THE SMALLEST GARDEN PARTY IN THE WORLD!

Next year the Lambeth Conference is being held here in Canterbury, drawing together bishops from every part of the world-wide Anglican Communion. To make it possible for overseas bishops from the poorer countries to attend, the bishops of the Church of England have decided to raise £2000 each to get them here. The Bishop of Dover has reponded to this challenge by giving each parish £10 with the request that they use it to make as much money as they can in whatever way they choose.

For the purposes of this exercise our two parishes of Patrixbourne with Bridge and Bekesbourne have decided to pool their money and at the same time have some fun adding to it - unlike many parishes who have simply taken the more mundane, easier way out of having a whip round.

As a starter Christine Hoare and Tony Curran are hosting, on Saturday, 16th August, what is being billed as and must surely be 'The Smallest Garden Party in the World'. It will take place in the pocket handkerchief-sized garden of 24 The Close, Union Road and operate on a shift basis. Tickets are £2.50, available from Christine, John Anderson or Andrea Nicholson, and you have a choice of three times to attend - 12 noon to 1.30pm or 2.00 to 3.30pm or 4.00 to 5.30pm. There is also a limited number of tickets for each period so book now to guarantee you don't miss out on the social event of the season.

Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute meets in Bridge Village Hall on 19th at 7.30pm, when the ever-popular Mrs Kent pays us a second visit. This time her theme is *Home of our own*, the competition being 'my favourite kitchen gadget'. New members and guests will be made very welcome.

J.H.

FRIENDS OF BEKESBOURNE CHURCH

by Jane Shorrock

The Friends have had splendid support for their recent fund-raising efforts. The Boot Fair raised £405, and our thanks to John Ash for making the field available and to all those who turned up at 7.30am and who worked hard for this event.

We were very fortunate that the weather was so pleasant for the Strawberry Tea at the Old Palace. We are most grateful to Mr and Mrs Fry for allowing us to hold this event, which raised £304, and to the 75 people who supported us and those who manned the Plant and Cake Stalls and the Tea Urn and prepared and served the strawberries.

We are lucky indeed to have such a delightful and friendly pub as The Unicorn in the village, and Clive and Cheryl are great supporters of our fundraising. They kindly dedicated the last Quiz Night of the season to Bekesbourne Church and added a most welcome £40 to our funds.

AND NEXT

Our next event is something new! - a BOULES COMPETITION at The Unicorn, where there is a proper pitch laid out. So get a team together to challenge The Friends, on Friday, 29th August at 7.00pm. Contact Zan Clifford on 830328 or The Unicorn (830210) to make arrangements.

The Royal College of Radiologists' Appeal

A thank-you from Dr Stuart Field

Yet again the Royal College of Radiologists' Appeal has benefited from the extraordinary hard work and generosity of Mrs Margaret Jones - for the third year running!

The object of the appeal is to raise money for further research into improved methods of diagnosis and treatment. Fellows and Members of the College comprise Clinical Radiologists (Radiologists or X-ray Doctors) who spend much of their time diagnosing diseases using X-rays, and Clinical Oncologists (Radiotherapists) who spend all of their time treating patients with cancer. The appeal was launched in 1995 and already over half a million pounds have been raised. Some of the money has been used to "pump prime" a number of research projects which have been approved by the College.

This year Margaret donated the record £833 raised from her very successful fund-raising day to the appeal, making her donations over the past three years a staggering £2000! I know she would like to thank all those in the village who attended, made donations or contributed in other ways.

Continued on p.17

There are now five Fellows of the College living in Bridge/Patrixbourne (Drs Bodger & Coltart - Clinical Oncologists) and Drs Morrison, Entwhistle (Mrs Morrison) & Field (Clinical Radiologists) - this in itself must be some kind of record! All are most grateful to Margaret for her great generosity and thank all those people who supported her successful fund-raising day and so enabled such a generous donation to be made.

Barbecue at the Vicarage

Those who joined in had a whale of a time at the barbecue on 12th July: those who didn't missed a real treat! The weather was kindness itself, the company extremely convivial and the food sumptuous.

In the course of the evening former churchwarden Peter Lawrence was presented with a thank-you cheque, the fruits of many donations from members of the congregations, and his wife Isabel with a bouquet. This was a closely-guarded secret to mark his very long and distinguished service principally at Bridge Church though also Patrixbourne. It took him completely by surprise. As he described in a letter of thanks it was 'a 100% gotcha'!

As a fund-raising exercise the barbecue was also a winner, including the competition Peter had been asked to organize as a ruse to make sure he would be there.

Bekesbourne Family Services

Christine Ash gives them a plug.

How can we manage to encourage more support for the excellent Family Services held at Bekesbourne Church each month? Pat Kusel, ably assisted by Romany Cowans, consistently organizes the loveliest fun service especially for the children to enjoy together with their parents, with only the support of a few loyal children. We have the Junior Church held at Bridge and it would be lovely to welcome them together with their parents on the fourth Sunday each month at Bekesbourne. In fact there is no meeting of Junior Church on fourth Sundays specifically so that they can join the fun at the other St. Peter's Church. We have a few children in our village but they all have friends through the school in Bridge SO DO COME and enjoy the experience with the family. The old expression 'The family that prays together stays together' may be proved right!

On 22nd June the theme was how important it is to build on a firm foundation, dramatically demonstrated by the children. Similarly, a structured life based on good ground rules which all the children experienced at school was discussed, and a list of everyday acceptable rules were matched to the Ten Commandments, which proved a very good test for the parents as well as the

children. Everyone very freely joined in trying to recognise the modern equivalent with the original text.

CHURCH AND SCHOOL FETE

Barbara Beinder reports

In spite of the inclement weather on 21st June the Village Fête was a great success, with everyone enjoying themselves hugely. The profit made was well over £4,000! Well done and thank you to everyone for all your help and support.

NAILBOURNE PROTECTION SOCIETY

Would members of the Nailbourne Protection Society, particularly any who may be life members of the organisation, note that there will be an **Extraordinary Meeting** of the society on Thursday, 14th August at 57 High Street, Bridge at 7.30pm.

The committee will be confirming the winding-up of the society, which used to be very active, but which has done little in the past decade. It is proposed to hand over remaining funds to a local active group fighting to preserve the countryside.

Any enquiries please to the Hon. Secretary, John Purchese, 11 St. Nicholas Hospital, Church Hill, Harbledown, Canterbury, CT2 9AD, tel: 784305.

FISH NEWS

Please remember that the Fish Scheme is here to help anybody in our villages. Useful numbers to note down are Mrs Ann Medhurst (830762) who organises transport, and Mrs Joan Warren (830233) who arranges the quarterly Chiropody Clinic runs.

The next two Coffee Pop-Ins in Bridge Village Hall will be on Wednesday, 13th August and Wednesday, 10th September from 10.15 to 11.45am.

A.R.

Bekesbourne Church
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2nd August - Pam Rees & Joan Atkins
9th & 16th - Jenny Skinner
23rd - Mrs Watson
30th - Pam Rees



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John, Kathy and Lindsay Eynon thank all friends for their prayers and kind sympathy, a comfort to them at this sad time.

BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL NOTES - JULY

from Margaret Church, Clerk to the Council

The small committee set up to discuss ways of marking the Millenium has looked at various projects, including a Street Party, and hopes to involve residents in various schemes to improve the village.

Mr Kim Bennett, of Canterbury City Council's Planning Department, attended the July meeting to discuss planning procedures. Councillors felt that too often the City Council disregarded their views on development applications in the village. Explaining the procedures used by the City Council, Mr Bennett acknowledged that there were shortcomings and hoped that the situation could be improved.

The Interim Report on the District Local Plan supports the construction of a Park and Ride on the A2060 between Bridge and Canterbury. The Parish Council remains opposed to the scheme and will be holding a public meeting in September to discuss the problems which it expects to arise from increased traffic in the Bekesbourne Road/Bekesbourne Lane area with local residents.

The Council also opposed a suggestion from the City's Conservation Department that additional restrictions should be imposed on minor alterations to non-listed buildings within the conservation areas which at the moment did not require planning permission. Councillors felt that the present regulations were sufficient to control inappropriate alterations.

In the Recreation Ground the slide, which has been out of use for some weeks, has been removed. Councillors were disappointed that a new one could not be installed in time for the school holidays but hope it will be in place in early September. Repairs to the rocking horse and to the seats have been completed.

Following a request for financial assistance, the Council is to give £150 to Patrixbourne with Bridge PCC towards the material cost of re-decorating St. Peter's Church; an application by the Venture Scouts for assistance from the City Lottery Fund was also supported. As the City Lottery has been wound up, this is the last grant that can be made from that source.

The annual Audit of Accounts will begin on 1st September and the next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday, 11th September.

Here's wishing you a

HAPPY HOLIDAY

with lots of fun and refreshment!

If you go to church, be sure to
give greetings from the
congregation back home.

Vicar The Revd Raymond Gilbert, AKC, 23 High Street, Bridge (830250) Reader Mr Handley Stevens, MA, 6 Bridgeford Way, Bridge (831376)

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

Churchwardens Mr J Anderson, Aunt Betsy's Cottage, Dering Road, Bridge (830260)
Dr AM Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patrixbourne (830947)

Hon Secretary

Hon Treasurer Mr K Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patrixbourne (830947)

Covenants Officer Mr NC Francis, 54 Riverside Close, Bridge (830945)

Organist (Bridge)

Organist (Patrixbourne) Mrs RM Stacey, Joslet, Keepers Hill, Patrixbourne (830205) BEKESBOURNE

Churchwardens Mrs J Millyard, School House, School Lane, Bekesbourne (830256) Mr IG Gillanders, Cala, Aerodrome Road, Bekesbourne

Hon Secretary Mr JW Cowans, Distant View, Adisham Road, Bekesbourne (831029) Hon Treasurer Mr D Millyard, School House, School Lane, Bekesbourne (830256)

Organist Mrs RM Stacey, Joslet, Keepers Hill, Patrixbourne (830205)

Captain of the Ringers Mr D Farbrace, 3 Downside, Adisham Road, Bek'ne (830659)

On The Nail Advertising: Mr HPM Lawrence, 72 Bridge Down, Bridge (830472)

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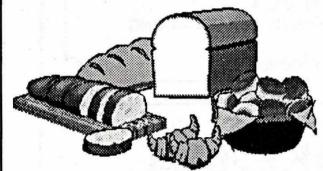
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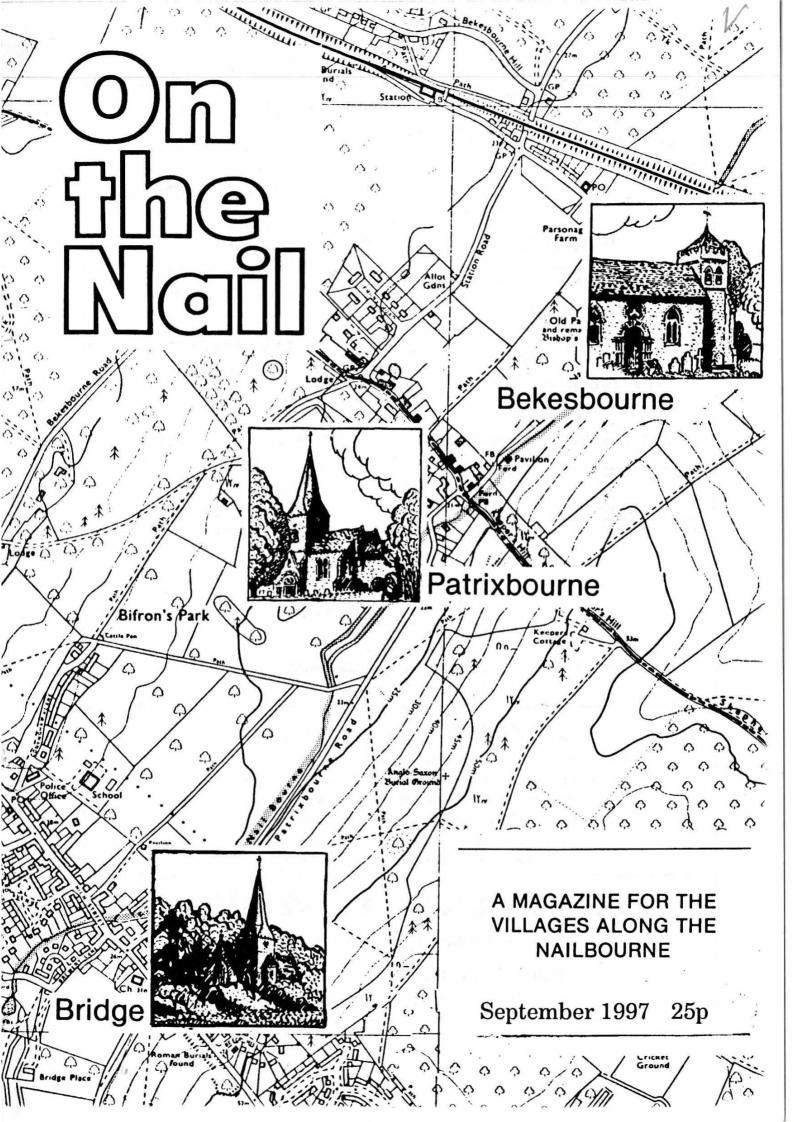
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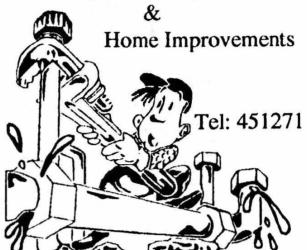
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SUNDAY WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

7th 8.00am Holy Communion (Patrixbourne)(Revd E Alder)
9.30am Parish Communion (Bekesbourne)(Revd R Podger)
11.00am Family Service (Bridge)(Mr Handley Stevens)

8.00am Holy Communion (Bekesbourne)(Revd E Alder)
9.30am Parish Communion (Bridge)(Revd R Podger)
9.30am Junior Church (Woodpeckers)
11.00am Matins (Patrixbourne)(Revd R Podger)

8.00am Holy Communion (Patrixbourne)
9.30am Parish Communion (Bridge)
9.30am Junior Church (Woodpeckers)
11.00am Matins (Bekesbourne)

28th 8.00am Holy Communion (Bridge)

9.30am Parish Communion (*Patrixbourne*)
11.00am Harvest Family Service (*Bekesbourne*)

6.30pm Evensong (Bridge)

5th October

8.00am Holy Communion (Patrixbourne)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bekesbourne)

11.00am Harvest Festival Eucharist (Bridge)

Children are welcome at all services, but especially at Family Services. Junior Church welcomes children of 4 years old and upwards, helping them grow in the faith of the Church, in a secure and caring environment. It meets on second and third Sundays at 9.30am. For further details and enrolment, parents should get in touch with Mrs Susanne Leggatt (830251).

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: 7th, Mr F Jim Allen 14th, Harvest Festival, Mr Michael Baybutt, BSc 21st, Holy Communion, The Revd Michael Walling 28th, Dr Eileen Tresidder, BA

FOR YOUR DIARY AND PRAYER LIST

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

4th Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, 7 Windmill Close, 7pm

7th	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost			
8th	The Blessed Virgin Mary			
11th	Bridge Parish Council Meeting, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm			
13th	St. Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, Martyr, 258			
14th	Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost			
15th	Bridge Methodist Church Harvest Festival Service, 7.30pm, Preacher the			
	Revd Michael Walling			
18th	Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, 7 Windmill Close, 7pm			
20th	Nailbourne Scout Group indoor table Boot Fair, Bridge Village Hall			
21st	St. Matthew the Apostle			
25th	Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop of Winchester, 1626			
27th	St. Vincent de Paul, Founder of the Vincentian Order, 1660			
28th	Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost			
	Bekesbourne's Harvest Festival will be celebrated at the Family Service at			
	11.00am.			
29th	St. Michael and All Angels			

OCTOBER'S ON THE NAIL

Items for inclusion in the October edition of *On The Nail* should be sent by the 15th September to Mr Laurence Dunderdale, 37 High Street, Bridge and not to the Vicarage. This only applies to this one edition.

FROM THE VICAR

A true crowd-puller

In my cathedral days there was a saintly member of the Chapter of whom it was said, 'You never saw him alone.' That was not only a telling tribute to a lovely man but the honest truth, for rarely indeed did you see him entirely alone. On his twice daily walk from home to the cathedral he could never resist stopping to speak to somebody, whether he knew them or not. He daily passed our door and if any of the children were out playing would pluck a bloom from a scented bush that grew nearby, hand it to a small Gilbert and say, 'Take this to mummy!'

From the New Testament records it seems as if Jesus was seldom alone: indeed the number of times he was are few and far between. Invariably his disciples were with him but more often than not he was in the thick of a crowd that tended to follow everywhere. The crowds gathered because Jesus was an ace storyteller and full of surprises, a crowd-puller they couldn't resist!

Several things gave Jesus this reputation, like the way he handled the authorities and religious leaders, never kowtowing to them, always giving as good as he got in verbal exchanges: the common folk would love to have had the courage to do that. Then again, he was a wonder worker and they liked a good miracle, especially if they were on the receiving end. As to his teaching -marvellous, highly entertaining and always pertinent - and to cap it all no one told stories like Jesus of Nazareth.

Clearly lots of things ensured Jesus was seldom alone; but then he wasn't sent to be alone but to get alongside people, the more the merrier. He came to save humankind, and although he achieved that in the isolation of the cross, his life was of necessity immersed in the lives of as many people as possible. For us it may be a compliment to be described as never seen alone, but Jesus came 'to seek and save the lost' and he could hardly have done that by standing aloof from the world he had come to save.

OFF WE GO AGAIN

Now the holiday season's over it's back to normal for the vast majority. For anxious A-levellers the time of waiting for the dreaded results is over: many congratulations to those of you who were every bit as successful as your parents and teachers always knew you would be. Go well in the future!

Church life also is gathering momentum and some events taking place this month deserve attention.

On yer bike!

First on the list, the annual Friends of Kent Churches Sponsored Bike Ride to boost their funds and ours.

It takes place on Saturday, 13th September. All participants (pedal cyclists and walkers) can plan their own route. They can ask their relations, friends and colleagues to sponsor them - so much for each church or chapel that they visit between 10.00am and 6.00pm on the day. Half the money they raise is retained by the FKC and the other half is returned to the church they ride for. The more people from outside church congregations who take part, the more successful we shall be in arousing new interest in, and support for, our heritage of church buildings.

Local contacts for sponsor forms, and to volunteer your services as part of the churches' welcoming parties, are Christine Beer, 62 Western Avenue (830900) for Bridge; Pauline Pritchard, 2 St. Mary's Road (830685) for Patrixbourne and Jill Gillanders, 'Cala' Aerodrome Road (830894) for Bekesbourne.

597 & all that

Just a quick reminder of the diocesan family day of festivities on the County Show Ground at Detling on Saturday, 20th September and the youth event there in the evening, the culmination of the Augustine celebrations.

Safely gathered in

The traditional programme of Harvest Festivities for the four churches of the three villages are detailed on page 20. Do come and give thanks with us for the rich bounty of the earth in terms of our food and clothing.

A Fun Run is a serious affair

We draw your attention to the first ever Church Fun Run on 28th September and hope you will make use of the application form elsewhere in this issue. Apparently someone is already signed up who lives a considerable distance away: Fun Runs seem to be all the rage, which is good for the parish.

The Bishop's Talent Challenge

The Smallest Garden Party in the World was not only a delight but proved a nice little earner, the Bishop of Dover's £20 starter growing to a very useful £132 over the three sessions. Well done Chris and Tony and thanks to all who came along.

BEKESBOURNE FAMILY SERVICE

Pat Kusel and Romany Cowans once again organised a very entertaining and enjoyable Family Service in July. The theme was *friendship* and the important role it plays in our lives. Children from the congregation had great fun acting out the story of the Good Samaritan - costumes and all! Jeanette and her father went on to illustrate the futility of fighting and arguing by performing an amusing dialogue between two schoolboys. The service concluded with the children leading the prayers.

Do come to the Bekesbourne Family Service on 28th September. It's the Harvest Festival and, as always, will be great fun!

Jane Martin

FIRST SUNDAY MORNINGS AT BRIDGE

Starting from September our family worship at Bridge on the first Sunday of each month will alternate between informal services and a specially adapted Family Eucharist.

The first of the informal services is on 7th September when Martin Leggatt and Handley Stevens will be leading A HIKE WITH A DIFFERENCE. Hikers of all ages are welcome and those under 18 are asked to come along with at least one item of hiking equipment - so let's see the favourite head gear, T-shirts and back packs at least one more time as the holiday season draws to a close.

CALLED EARLY BY GOD

The close of the Summer term 1997 will long be remembered in Bridge and district, both school and village communities being numbed by the tragic drowning of Giles and Anne Rooke's greatly loved youngest son Charles at the tender age of 7 years.

Charles had a short but very happy life. He was a lovely little boy and a very popular member of Bridge School. A Requiem Mass in St. Thomas's Church, Canterbury was followed by committal at Barham, conducted by the Vicar, who also officiated at the interment of ashes in Patrixbourne Churchyard in the same plot as those of Charles's grandmother.

The Nailbourne League of Friends of Canterbury Hospitals says a big thankyou to everyone who supported our delightful Coffee Morning at Higham Park. £380 was raised for the League.

For very many years we have conducted a house-to-house collection in September which has been very well supported in the villages. Sadly, due to lack of volunteers, we shall have to suspend it this year but each household will receive a letter explaining how to continue your loyal support of this worthy local charity.

Rosy Green

NAILBOURNE SCOUT GROUP

The Scout Group is holding an indoor table BOOT SALE in Bridge Village Hall on Saturday, 20th September from 10am to 2pm, with books, bric-a-brac, cakes.

To book a table to sell your own goods or to make a donation to the Scout tables please phone Kate Rathmill on 831071.

There are now five sections in the Scout Group and this is to raise funds for maintaining the Mill Centre for many years to come.

FRIENDS OF BEKESBOURNE CHURCH

Many thanks to Brian and Sid for installing our very smart new seat and to all those who worked hard on a very hot Saturday morning in August to strim and tidy up the churchyard.

The AUTUMN DANCE will be held on Saturday, 11th October at 7.30pm in Bekesbourne Village Hall; tickets £3.50 and Bring Your Own Food and

Drink. Book your tickets early with either Zan Clifford (830328) or Gill Moon (832134) for this very popular event.

We will be holding our CHRISTMAS BAZAAR on Saturday, 29th November, so please start preparing now so that we have plenty of 'goodies' to sell. Readers may also like to know that we will be holding a FLOWER FESTIVAL on 26th, 27th and 28th June 1998, and we will need lots of plants to sell, so we ask our gardening supporters to begin planning and propagating in good time!

Jane Shorrock.

RICHBOROUGH CASTLE OPEN-AIR SERVICE

Evensong on 7th September has been cancelled in deference to this invitation from the Revd David Barnes, Vicar of Ash:

By kind invitation of Mrs Ann Ward, the Guardian, we have been permitted in recent years to hold an open-air Service at Richborough Castle, and this year we would like to extend an invitation to members of all local churches to join us.

For this special occasion [the Augustine 1400th anniversary celebration] there is no charge for admission to the Castle, and those attending are welcome to bring a picnic tea to eat in the grounds from 4pm. The Castle shop will be open for any who wish to purchase ice creams or souvenirs, or to borrow the taped guides.

The Service will last about half an hour. Perhaps I should also mention that there are no public toilet facilities at the Castle.

I hope we shall be able to welcome members of your congregation.

Bridge Village Hall and Hunter Room

The Village Hall and the Hunter Room are available for hire, by residents and non-residents of the Village, for Meetings, Parties and other events

The Hall is licensed for Music and Dancing from Monday to Saturday

Bookings can be made with the Secretary, telephone Bridge 830923, until October 1997, thereafter telephone Bridge 830303

BRIDGE

10K & FUN RUNS

In aid of Patrixbourne with Bridge Churches SUNDAY 28th SEPTEMBER

Race 1	10.00am	Over 12s/Under 16s	2 miles	£3.00
Race 2	10.45am	Over 10s/Under 12s	1 mile	£2.00
Race 3	11.15am	Under 10s (with/without parents	800m	£1.00
Race 4	12 noon	10K		£5.00

Goodie Bag to all finishers in Races 1-3 Memento to all finshers in Race 4

Starts from Bridge School, Conyngham Lane, Bridge

Please enter me for Race No I have PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE	
Name	Age
Address	
	Postcode
Signed(Signature of parent/guardian if unde	
Send your entries to: Mr L Dunderdale, 3 Kent. CT4 517.	7 High Street, Bridge, Canterbury,

BRIDGE CHURCH'S UNIQUE FONT

Thanks to St. Peter's Church's recent re-decoration the font can be seen to full advantage. The following letter arrived at the vicarage fifteen of so years ago from Mr V.C. Bosustow, Church Cove, The Lizard, Cornwall. It appeared in ON THE NAIL at the time and is re-produced for those who weren't here then:

My wife and I recently spent part of our holiday near Canterbury and, passing your Church at Bridge, decided to look around it. We thought it was very attractive [Ed: They should see it now] but what delighted us most was the font. Upon inspection I found that it was serpentine stone and was probably made at a serpentine factory which once existed at a tiny cove and hamlet known as 'Poltesco'. The nearest village to Poltesco is Ruan Minor, which is about two miles from here. The Bosustow family have worked in serpentine stone for at least three generations and my grandfather Bosustow was one of the last to work at Poltesco.

The serpentine font is a very outstanding piece of workmanship and I am wondering if there are any other serpentine fonts of such size and quality anywhere? You will probably know that serpentine stone is unique to this part of Cornwall, and stone of the size and quality to make such a font is, to my knowledge, quite unobtainable now.

I understand that such a piece of stone, as was used to make the font, was turned by a water-wheel. These days, of course, we use lathes powered by electricity, for making small ornamental things.

I trust the above will be of interest to you and that it will add to the local people's knowledge of their Church and be of special attraction to those who visit. The font is quite priceless and beautiful and should be recognised and treasured as such. We certainly treasure the two photographs we were able to take of it.

Bekesbourne Church
Cleaning & Flower Rota
6th September - Pam Rees
13th - Cheryl Barker & Vicki McPherson
20th - Christine Ash
27th - Pip Riccini



Vicar The Revd Raymond Gilbert, AKC, 23 High Street, Bridge (830250) Reader Mr Handley Stevens, MA, 6 Bridgeford Way, Bridge (831376)

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

Churchwardens Mr J Anderson, Aunt Betsy's Cottage, Dering Road, Bridge (830260)
Dr AM Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patrixbourne (830947)

Hon Secretary

Hon Treasurer Mr K Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patrixbourne (830947)

Covenants Officer Mr NC Francis, 54 Riverside Close, Bridge (830945)

Organist (Bridge)

Organist (Patrixbourne) Mrs RM Stacey, Joslet, Keepers Hill, Patrixbourne (830205) BEKESBOURNE

Churchwardens Mrs J Millyard, School House, School Lane, Bekesbourne (830256) Mr IG Gillanders, Cala, Aerodrome Road, Bekesbourne

Hon Secretary Mr JW Cowans, Distant View, Adisham Road, Bekesbourne (831029) Hon Treasurer Mr D Millyard, School House, School Lane, Bekesbourne (830256)

Organist Mrs RM Stacey, Joslet, Keepers Hill, Patrixbourne (830205)

Captain of the Ringers Mr D Farbrace, 3 Downside, Adisham Road, Bek'ne (830659)

On The Nail Advertising: Mr HPM Lawrence, 72 Bridge Down, Bridge (830472)

On The Nail Editor: The Vicar

Items for On The Nail should reach the editor by the 15th of the preceding month.

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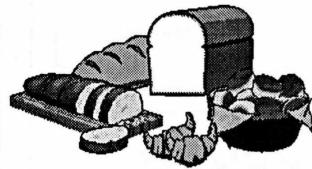
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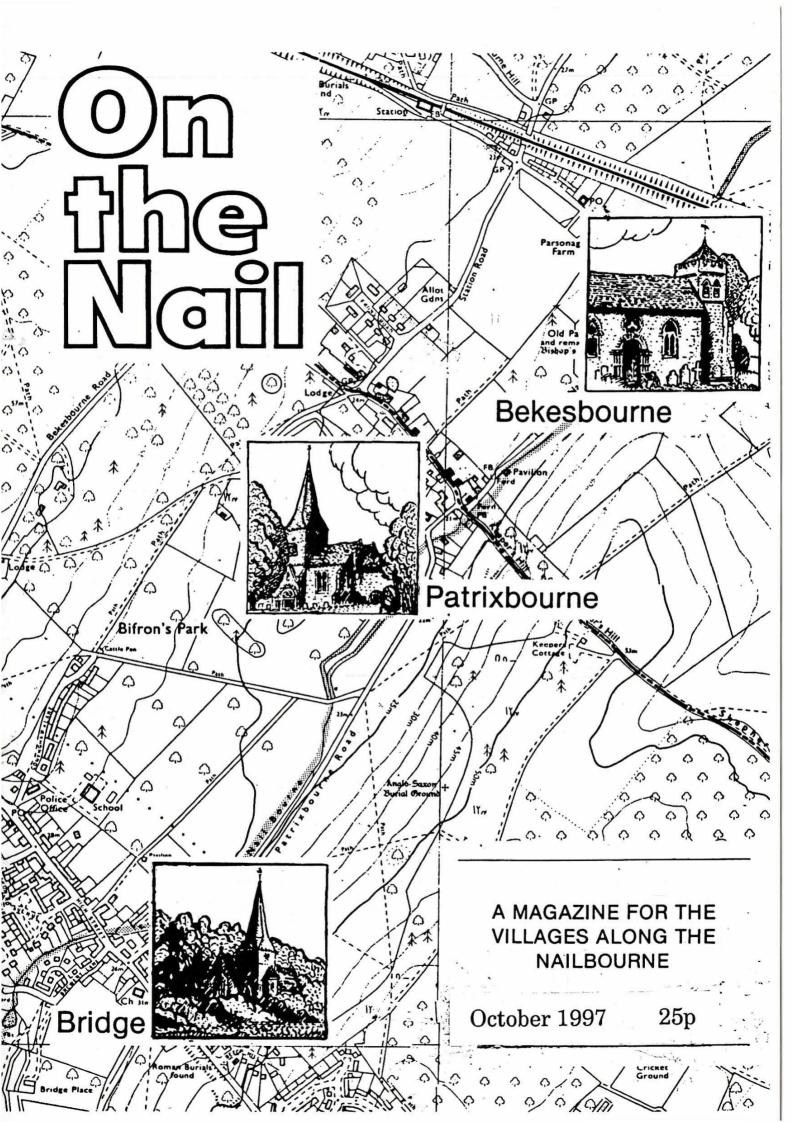
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SUNDAY WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

5th 8.00am Holy Communion (Patrixbourne)

- 9.30am Parish Communion (Bekesbourne)
- 11.00am Harvest Family Eucharist (Bridge)
- 6.30pm Harvest Evensong (Bridge)

12th 8.00am Holy Communion (Bekesbourne)

- 9.30am Parish Communion (Bridge)
- 9.30am Junior Church (Woodpeckers)
- 11.00am Harvest Matins (Patrixbourne)

19th 8.00am Holy Communion (Patrixbourne)

- 9.30am Parish Communion (Bridge)
- 9.30am Junior Church (Woodpeckers)
- 11.00am Matins (Bekesbourne)

26th 8.00am Holy Communion (Bridge)

- 9.30am Parish Communion (Patrixbourne)
- 11.00am Family Service with Baptisms(Bekesbourne)
- 6.30pm Evensong (Bridge)

2nd November

- 8.00am Holy Communion (Patrixbourne)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (Bekesbourne)
- 11.00am Family Service (Bridge)
- 6.30pm Evensong (Bridge)

Children are welcome at all services, but especially at Family Services. Junior Church welcomes children of 4 years old and upwards, helping them grow in the faith of the Church, in a secure and caring environment. It meets on second and third Sundays at 9.30am. For further details and enrolment, parents should get in touch with Mrs Susanne Leggatt (830251).

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: 5th, Dr John Rodgers 12th, Holy Communion Rev. Michael Walling 19th, Rev. David Marshall 26th, Rev. Howard Skinner

FOR YOUR DIARY AND PRAYER LIST

1st Visit of the Bishop of Maidstone to the Benefice.

2nd Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm

4th St. Francis of Assisi, Friar, 1226 Harvest Supper 7.30pm Village Hall

5th Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Bridge Harvest Festival will be celebrated at the 11am and 6.36pm services.

8th Patrixbourne with Bridge PCC meets, 7.30pm

9th Bridge Parish Council Meeting, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm

10th St. Paulinus, Bishop, Missionary, 644

12th Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Patrixbourne's Harvest Festival is celebrated at 11am.

13th St. Edward the Confessor, King of England, 1066

15th St. Teresa of Avila, Mystic, 1582

Bekesbourne PCC, School House, 7.45pm

16th Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm

17th St. Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, Martyr, c107

18th St. Luke the Evangelist

19th Last Sunday after Pentecost

26th Ninth Sunday before Christmas British Summer time ends 01.00

28th St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles

29th East Bridge Deanery Synod meets at Ash.

FROM THE VICAR

Once again I am indebted to Laurence Dunderdale for editing this edition of On The Nail and to the Nicholsons for assembling it ready for 'printing'.

We are very fortunate being able to produce a good quality magazine, and doing so entirely from our own resources means considerable savings on printing costs, such that we've been possible to hold the retail price at 25p for many years. It also means we can include last minute items, retaining control of the contents until the very last minute. Notwithstanding, subscribers please note, the deadline for contributions is still the 15th of the preceding month.

Editorial policy has always been that On The Nail is a magazine for the three Nailbourne villages of Bridge, Patrixbourne and Bekesbourne, and whereas the Churches reserve the prior claim on its editorial contents we always welcome contributions of general village interest, so please keep sending them in.

It may be in some instances that there is not room for particular articles in the next issue, in which case, provided they aren't dated, I file them for future inclusion.

As long as it's been published we have sent out copies of the diocesan newspaper Outlook, which appears every month except August and January. This comes entirely as a freebie to both parishes and readers, and we hope you find it informative and that it meets its declared aim of giving us a wider perspective on Church affairs within Canterbury diocese and beyond.

Modern technology, a great boon in many areas of life, is very useful to the Church in carrying out its divine call to throw a world-wide web of witness around the earth. One of the publicity stands at the recent Diocesan Conference demonstrated a plethora of CD-ROM versions of different Bible translations, programmes offering the chance to down load whole passages of scripture and, if desired, display the same passage in other versions on screen together for purposes of comparison.

The days when a solitary white missionary, clutching a battered King James version of the Bible, ambled round vast jungle wastes on a donkey have long gone. Fears of ending up in a cannibal's cauldron were always apochryphal, yet it was a precarious life he led. Nevertheless, the intention remains much the same, for the Church in whatever environment it operates is pledged to the same cause of bringing the good news of Jesus and his love to a world and society denuded of it. Everything our three churches do today ought to stand in the same line of witness and service to God, On The Nail included.

JOINED TOGETHER BY GOD

A non-Saturday wedding is a rarity, so it was a particular joy to have the marriage of THOMAS OBEE, Laleham, Bekesbourne Road and ANNE MACKINTOSH of Chillenden on Bank Holiday Monday in St. Peter's Church, Bridge.

WILL YOU CARRY ON CARING?

Many of our parish churches are fine historic buildings where we meet to worship and take part in local community activities. The churches are legacies from the past which we all hope will be there for future generations. In the same way The Children's Society has been working in the past with the most

vulnerable children, and is currently working in over 90 projects with young people and plans to continue being there for youngsters in the future.

The Children's Society recognises that supporters may also wish to plan for the future, continuing to care for their family and friends as well as other young people who are experiencing difficult times. Through newly appointed Regional Legacy Officers, advice is now available on the sensitive subjects of Will making, executorship and legacies. Personal help is available for you to discuss issues which need to be considered in relation to making and administering a Will. The assistance comes from a Society that values and respects people and wishes to help at a difficult time.

If you would like to know more about this service then please contact the Southern Regional Legacy Officer, Bronagh C Liddicoat, PO Box 2625, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1QR tel: 01273 488098, who will also be pleased to arrange a private home visit at a mutually convenient time.

BRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

We shall be holding our Annual Coffee Morning and Sale on Thursday, October 16th at 10.15am.at the Methodist Church, Patrixbourne Road. We extend a warm invitation to all and shall be grateful for your support.

BRIDGE WITH PATRIXBOURNE WOMENS INSTITUTE

October 21st at 7.30pm in Bridge Village Hall.

The subject of the monthly competition will be a Harvest Platter, the winning entry to go on to the Group Meeting the following day. Miss Gray will be speaking on "The Straight and Narrow". Guests will be made most welcome.

J.H.

BRIDGE AND PATRIXBOURNE SCHOOL PFA

Wine and Wisdom

Saturday 11th October at 7pm for 7.30pm. Ploughman's Supper but please bring your own wine and glasses.

Fireworks Display

Saturday 8th November.

May we respectfully ask you <u>not</u> to dump household and garden rubbish for the bonfire in Church Meadow until the <u>day of the display</u>.

Sue Thompson

NAILBOURNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

There are two interesting evenings arranged for the next two months. On <u>Thursday 16th October</u> at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church, Mr Martin Newcombe, naturalist and wildlife and countryside management consultant, will be giving what I can promise will be a most informative and amusing talk on Fungi, hopefully with examples of what we can and cannot eat.

Then on <u>Thursday 27th November</u> at 7.30pm, this time in Bridge Village Hall, as part of our annual Social Evening, Mr Derek March will be giving a seasonal presentation on Port and stilton with, needless to say, a chance to sample and savour. In order to know numbers and to cover costs, as with previous social evenings, we will be selling tickets at £2.50 each, available from Mrs E. Cathwright at the Post Office, Mrs B. Anderson (Tel 830260), Mrs K. Walder(Tel 830057) or any other committee member. There will also be a raffle for - yes you have guessed - a Bottle of Port and Stilton.

Kathy Walder

FRIENDS OF BEKESBOURNE CHURCH

The AUTUMN DANCE will be held on <u>Saturday 11th October</u> at 7.30pm at Bekesbourne Village Hall. Music provided by Jimmy Lennox. Great fun was had by all age groups at last years dance, so book your tickets from Zan Clifford(830328) or Gill Moon(832134) and come along. Tickets £3.50 but bring your own food and drink

BOULES COMPETITION. A very enjoyable evening was arranged by Clive and Cheryl from the Unicorn Pub, Bekesbourne. 44 people took part in the Boules, which was won by Peter and Celia Morris from Patrixbourne. Many thanks to Clive and Cheryl for arranging the evening and £160 was raised for church funds.

Our CHRISTMAS BAZAAR will be held on <u>Saturday 29th November at 10.00am</u> in Bekesbourne Village Hall. So book this date

The Rooke family thanks all friends and neighbours in the Parishes for their prayers and for the many kind messages, flowers and letters which they have received since the death of Charles, and from which they have had much comfort.

THE CHILDREN SOCIETY

Christmas cards, Advent Calendars etc., are being printed on behalf of the Society again this year and will be available for sale in due course. For more details please contact Kathy Eynon. (Tel 830466) or Kath Pierce (Tel 830844)

FISH NEWS

We always welcome new volunteer drivers. It is a very pleasant way to be of help in the village and is always greatly appreciated. If you would like to hear about the Fish Scheme come to the AGM on <u>Tuesday 14th October</u> in the Methodist Church in Patrixbourne Road at 8pm.

The next Coffee Pop-In will be, as always, on the second Wednesday of the Month, Wednesday October 8th, in Bridge Village hall.

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE PCC

HARVEST SUPPER SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER BRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

Tickets: £3.50, or for children under 12 £2.00 Please bring your own plates, cutlery glasses and drinks.

AUTUMN FAYRE AND COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY 15TH NOVEMBER BRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

Please note this date in your diary now and help us to make this event a success by giving your donations of raffle prizes, groceries, preserves, home-made cakes, gifts etc., to Sheila Fenn(830284) or any other PCC member.

Thank you for your help.

HARVEST DECORATIONS AT ST. PETER'S BRIDGE

Decorating St.Peter's Bridge for Harvest will commence at 10.00am on Saturday 4th October. All flower arrangers are welcome, especially newcomers. Any queries contact Viv Brazier.(Tel. 830981)

CHURCH REPAIRS

Every five years all churches are subject to a thorough investigation by the church architect and any repairs deemed necessary to keep the churches in good repair are reported to the relevant P.C.C. Once the necessary permission, known as a Faculty, has been granted and funds have been gathered, the required repairs can then take place.

At the end of September builders moved in to St. Mary's Patrixbourne to commence some of the works recommended in the last Quinquennial report. The work will entail strengthening the buttresses on the rear West wall, adding internal supports to the tower so that the unsightly external band can be removed

and various other works including renewal of stoneworks around windows, repointing, replastering and painting. The work will take up to six to eight weeks. This long time span is because great care has to be taken in the restoration of such an old building. The use of modern power tools is not appropriate in many instances and old versions of mortar and paint have to be used to marry in with what is already there. All this means a lot of careful work by hand.

Services are planned to continue at Patrixbourne as usual, but please be prepared for the presence of dust covers on the unused pews and over most of the organ. Harvest decorations will only be of a modest nature too.

We are very grateful to various charities, such as the Friends of Kent Churchesthis is where Bike Ride money goes - and to Canterbury City Council, for help with the costs of this work, and also to all those who have contributed to Patrixbourne Fabric Fund.

The medieval Swiss stained glass at Patrixbourne is also in need of attention, some of the panels in the South window are bowing and cracking and are losing pigmentation due to the effects of condensation and the weather. We are currently applying for a Faculty and for grants to help us save and protect this magnificent old stained glass.

Repairs are also necessary at Bridge, most urgently to the roof, to stop the leaks at times of heavy rain. Vandals have recently caused considerable damage to a window in the Chancel and efforts are being made to repair this as soon as possible. Repairs to the clock face are also in hand.

All this work takes time to arrange and money to accomplish the task. Please bear with us if this causes any disruption but it is necessary to do this to preserve our two churches and the treasures they contain for generations to come.

This isn't by all means all the work we would like to carry out. At some time in the future it will be necessary to renew the lighting in each church, for safety and comfort and also to enhance the interior of our churches. Have you ever looked at the interior roof span and marvelled at the workmanship, in the case of Patrixbourne church there for so many centuries!

Andrea Nicholson



Bekesbourne Church
Cleaning & Flower Rota
4th October - Rosie Mount
11th - Joy Smith & Jane Shorrock
18th - Pam Farbrace
25th - Joan Atkins

Vicar The Revd Raymond Gilbert, AKC, 23 High Street, Bridge (830250) Reader Mr Handley Stevens, MA, 6 Bridgeford Way, Bridge (831376)

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

Churchwardens: Mr J Anderson, Aunt Betsy's Cottage, Dering Road, Bridge (830260)
Dr AM Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patrixbourne (830947)

Hon Secretary

Hon Treasurer Mr K Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patrixbourne (830947)

Covenants Officer Mr NC Francis, 54 Riverside Close, Bridge (830945)

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On The Nail Advertising: Mr HPM Lawrence, 72 Bridge Down, Bridge (830472)

On The Nail Editor: The Vicar

Items for On The Nail should reach the editor by the 15th of the preceding month.

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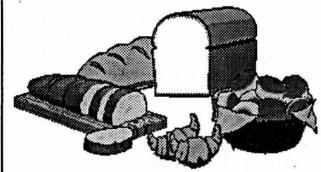
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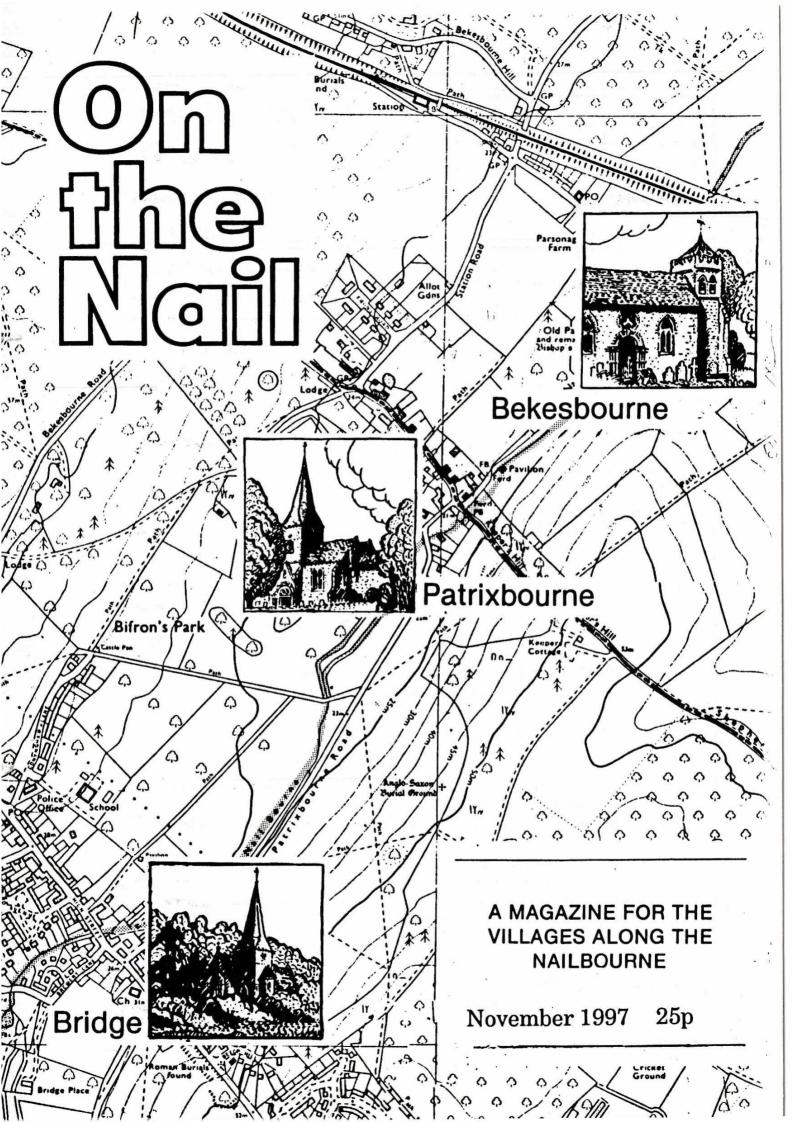
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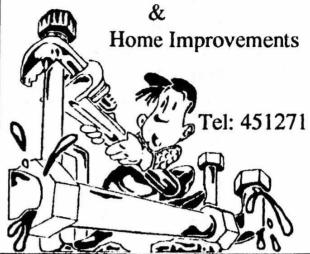
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SUNDAY WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

2nd 8.00am Holy Communion (*Patrixbourne*)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bekesbourne)

11.00am Family Service with Baptism (Bridge)

4.00pm Memorial Service (Bridge)

9th 8.00am Holy Communion (Bekesbourne)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bridge)

9.30am Junior Church (After School Club)

11.00am Service of Remembrance (Patrixbourne)

16th 8.00am Holy Communion (*Patrixbourne*)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bridge)

9.30am Junior Church (After School Club)

11.00am Matins (Bekesbourne)

23rd 8.00am Holy Communion (*Bridge*)

9.30am Parish Communion (Patrixbourne)

11.00am Family Service with Baptism (Bekesbourne)

6.30pm Songs of Praise (Canterbury Cathedral)

30th 10.30am Benefice Eucharist (*Patrixbourne*)

6.30pm Advent Carol Service (Bridge)

7th December

8.00am Holy Communion (Patrixbourne)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bekesbourne)

11.00am Family Eucharist & Gift Service (Bridge)

6.30pm Evensong (Bridge)

Children are welcome at all services, but especially at Family Services. Junior Church welcomes children of 4 years old and upwards, helping them grow in the faith of the Church, in a secure and caring environment. It meets on second and third Sundays at 9.30am. For further details and enrolment, parents should get in touch with Mrs Susanne Leggatt (830251).

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: 2nd, Mr Martin Bax 9th, Holy Communion, The Revd Michael Walling 16th, Mrs Susan Sigfrid 23rd, Mrs Hazel Colyer, BA, MA 30th, Dr John R Butler, MA

FOR YO	OUR DIARY AND PRAYER LIST
1st	All Saints' Day
2nd	Eighth Sunday before Christmas All Souls' Day
	4.00pm Memorial Service for all our departed, Bridge Church, 4pm
3rd	Richard Hooker, Teacher of the Faith, 1600
	Pray for the Christian community at Bishopsbourne and Alan Duke their
	priest - Richard Hooker was Rector of Bishopsbourne.
6th	Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm
	Bridge & Patrixbourne School Governors meet this evening.
7th	Pray for the Deanery Clergy, meeting in chapter this lunchtime.
	'Meet the New Lectionary', a presentation by the Vicar in Bridge
	Methodist Church at 7.30pm
8th	Shortened Evensong for visiting bell-ringers, Bekesbourne, 4.30pm
	School PFA Bonfire display, Church Meadow, Brewery Lane
9th	Seventh Sunday before Christmas Remembrance Sunday
	There will be a Service of Remembrance at Patrixbourne, commencing
	with the two-minutes silence at 11 o'clock and attended by the Nailbourne
	Scout Group.
11th	St. Martin, Bishop of Tours, 397
12th	Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am
13th	Bridge Parish Council Meeting, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
15th	PATRIXBOURNE with BRIDGE AUTUMN FAYRE, Bridge
	Village Hall, 10.00am - 12 noon
16th	Sixth Sunday before Christmas
17th	St. Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, 680 & St. Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, 1200
20th	St. Edmund of East Anglia, King & Martyr, 870
	Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, 7pm
23rd	Fifth Sunday before Christmas
	There will be no Evensong at Bridge, due to 'Songs of Praise' in the
	Cathedral at 6.30pm.
26th	Patrixbourne with Bridge PCC meeting, Bridge Methodist Church,
	7.30pm
27th	Nailbourne Horticultural Society, Bridge Village Hall, 7.30pm
29th	BEKESBOURNE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR, Bekesbourne Village
	Hall, 10.30am
30th	First Sunday in Advent
	The benefice Eucharist will be celebrated in St. Mary's Church

Patrixbourne at 10.30am. In St. Peter's Church, Bridge at 6.30pm there will be an Advent Carol Service.

FROM THE VICAR

I want to tell you of three special events taking place this month and one that comes at the beginning of next.

All Souls and our dear departed

Every year on 2nd November throughout the Church a commemoration is made of all who died, 'both those who have confessed the faith and those whose faith is known to God alone'. These are the ordinary Christian men, women and children who, in their earthly life, were our family and friends, and with whom we still have fellowship via the communion of saints (i.e. all the holy people of God).

Since this time round the 2nd November is a Sunday it has been decided to replace the normal Bridge Evensong with a Memorial Service to all those who have died, particularly members of our own families and others we would wish to commemorate. I would hope we can also call to mind and pray at the service for those who loved and served God in our three villages over the centuries, those whose influence for good framed our own lives and, perhaps most of all, those who we never knew who have no one to remember them. There is no limit to this commemoration and it is proposed to mention by name in the course of the service those who died this year and any others whose names people would like including.

This is a service for all three churches and we hope it will prove helpful and reassuring to all the bereaved, recent or otherwise.

Remembrance Sunday

The annual Sunday when the whole nation remembers the fallen in battle invariably occurs on the second Sunday in November. Last year a Service of Remembrance in St. Mary's Church, Patrixbourne received lots of support, notably from the Nailbourne Scouts and their families, and so will be repeated this year.

The full programme of remembrance begins with a Wreath-laying ceremony and Act of Remembrance at Bridge War Memorial in the churchyard. Like last year this will occur during the regular 9.30am Parish Communion. Precise timing is difficult but we shall probably come out of the church at round about 10.00am. The service at Patrixbourne begins with an Act of Remembrance and the Two-minutes Silence in church at 11 o'clock.

Changing the Calendar

In the diary column the various feast, festivals and other commemorations of the month, that go to make up the Church's year, are recorded. From the last day of

this month some changes will begin to appear in that monthly list, for on Advent Sunday this year the Church embarks upon a new calendar, and with it new Sunday prayers (called 'Collects') and choices for Bible readings.

As this change is quite considerable a few words of guidance are called for, so that in using the new Calendar we shall be able to appreciate the riches it has to offer us, and our worship will be yet more inspiring and enjoyable.

To find out what's being proposed come to a *Meet the New Lectionary* introductory session at 7.30pm on Friday, 7th November in Bridge Methodist Church.

Family Gift Service

For many years now the December Family Service at Bridge has provided an opportunity for families to bring along a gift-wrapped Christmas present for one of the elderly residents of The New Close, and this year will be no exception. The presents are received by someone from the home and after the service are stowed away ready for the grand opening on Christmas morning.

If you would like to take part in this greatly valued scheme please indicate on the outside of the parcel whether the contents are for a woman, man or could be either. The suggestion has been made that you don't put a label on your gift as it can be worrying for some of the less confused residents to receive a gift from someone they don't know and so cannot thank.

The December Family Service will be a Eucharist, but please don't be put off by that. The communion only forms a small part of what is designed as a truly family occasion: non-communicants are warmly welcome to come and kneel at the altar for a blessing.

HOLY BAPTISM

At a special service on Sunday, 28th September, twin sisters COURTENEY ANNE and GEORGIA KATHERINE Harlow were baptized in St. Peter's Church, Bridge. Their proud parents, Roy and Susan (née Foster) were married at Bridge, though live now at Herne Bay.

BROWNIES & GUIDES

Bekesbourne Brownies have a new flag, thanks to a donation from Bekesbourne Parish Council's Canterbury Lottery Fund, and the flag was blessed by the Vicar at the Harvest Family Service in St. Peter's Church on 28th September. The Brownies meet on Tuesday evenings at 6.15pm in the Village Hall and would welcome new members aged 7-10 years. Brown Owl is Lucy Hawkes, tel: 711481.

Bridge Guides need another adult helper aged between 18-60 years as their numbers are growing. They meet in the Mill Centre on Friday evenings from 7-8.30. If you are interested call in and visit or ring me on 830224. It's not all give - there's plenty in it for you too!

Maggie Field

BRIDGE & PATRIXBOURNE SCHOOL PFA

Thank you to everyone who supported the Craft Fair in the school back in September - either by donating prizes and cakes, or by coming along on the day. We raised £800 - which is a marvellous result! We will divide the money between Bridge School and the Kent Air Ambulance, or nominated charity.

Come to the Grand Firework Display on 8th November at Church Meadow. Food will be available from 5.30pm, the bonfire will be lit at 6.00 and the fireworks begin at 6.30. It promises to be another spectacular evening - do please tell your friends! N.B. Please do NOT bring any material for the bonfire UNTIL THE DAY!!

Sue Thompson

BRIDGE CHESS CLUB

The new season for the Club began with the AGM on 29th September. The Club, which meets at the Plough & Harrow on Monday evenings at 7.30pm, has been active in the village for the past 31 years and one of the original members is the current chairman. Unfortunately numbers have declined in the last two years and new members would be welcomed. If you would like to play chess in a friendly atmosphere please join us on Monday evenings. Alternatively, for further information please contact the secretary, John Sullivan, on 830385.



BEKESBOURNE AT HARVEST-TIME

by Gill and Sid Moon

The ringing of Bekesbourne church bells greeted the congregation on a lovely autumn Sunday morning for the Harvest Thanksgiving.

Members of Bekesbourne Brownie pack and their families joined us and the service began with the dedication of the pack's new flag by the vicar.

A dramatic presentation showed the diversity of both the agricultural and industrial harvests of today, with members of the congregation dressed as shoppers, fishermen, bakers and farmers. Romany Cowans, as a tea picker, looked particularly striking dressed in a sari.

Traditional and modern harvest hymns were sung, contributing to a splendid service which was much enjoyed by all.

FORTHCOMING FAMILY SERVICES AT BEKESBOURNE

The only thing I'm prepared to give away about the 11am service on 23rd November is its theme, SURPRISES - the Riddle of the Three Shoe Boxes. Come and see for yourself what it's about!

On 21st December we shall be joined by members of Junior Church, who will present a short play to begin the Christmas celebrations. As last year, during this service there will be a collection and presentation of gifts for the people of Chernobyl. Please do not wrap your gifts, which may include dry food, basic toiletries, stationery, pens, pencils and warm winter clothing.

Friends of Bekesbourne Church CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Saturday, 29th November 10.30am Bekesbourne Village Hall

FRIENDS OF KENT CHURCHES CYCLE RIDE

Pauline Pritchard reports a splendid outcome of the September cycle ride, when £251.70 was raised in Patrixbourne - grateful thanks to the sponsors, those who manned the church or expended their energies pedalling round. The Bekesbourne riders (and a solitary walker) comprised Clive, Cheryl and Laura Barker from the Unicorn, Sid and Gill Moon, Joan Atkins, Hugh and Eva Pearson who, together with a foot-slogging Jill Gillanders, managed to raise £390. Thanks to them and in addition to the sponsors, church minders and refreshment servers (Tony Forrest, Mrs Watson and Ralph Barnes).

Nailbourne Horticultural Society

The Nailbourne Horticultural Society's annual social evening is on Thursday, 27th November at 7.30pm in Bridge Village Hall and includes a presentation by Mr Derek March on Port and Stilton, with an opportunity to taste and savour. Tickets priced at £2.50 each are available from Mrs E Cartwright at the Post Office, Mrs B Anderson (Tel 830260), Mrs K Walder (Tel 830057) or any other committee member.

K. Walder, Secretary

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Letters of application, together with brief CV and the names and addresses of two referees, to The Chairman, Bridge Parish Council, Bourne Lodge, Bridge, Canterbury by 1 November 1997.

BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL NOTES - SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

1

Celebrating the Millennium The Parish Council is hoping that the Millennium will be celebrated in style in Bridge with a street party as well as some permanent reminders. So that as many people as possible can be involved, the Council is contacting every household in the parish for suggestions.

Park & Ride - Dover Road The City Council is to go ahead with proposals for a Park & Ride site between Bridge and Canterbury for 600 cars. Local groups, including the Parish Council, are worried about the effects of all the additional traffic on local lanes and roads and are awaiting the outcome of the recommended traffic impact study. In a letter to local residents, the Council is asking for individuals to make their views known to the City Council before the application is formally approved. Letters should be addressed to The Director of Planning,

Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW, quoting ref. CA/96/0030/CAN.

Streets and pavements A temporary order closing part of Brewery Lane to traffic from the High Street junction to Bridgeford Way to allow work to be carried out has been made by Kent County Council. The order will come into force on or after 20th October and last for approximately two weeks.

Fly-tipping has become a problem around the recycling skips on Town Hill; domestic refuse is being left alongside the skips. Since this creates a health hazard, Canterbury City Council is making efforts to trace the culprits.

New Clerk The Council is looking for a new clerk to succeed Margaret Church, with effect from 1st January. Skills required include experience of committee work, word processing and book-keeping. Letters of application should be sent to the Chairman, Bourne Lodge. Bridge Hill, Bridge.

Planning Recent planning applications which have been granted consent include: 100 High Street - single storey extension together with rear conservatory; 12 Beech Hill - conservatory extension, and 12 Bridge Down - conservatory.

FISH NEWS

Would you like to go to the pantomime? The Fish Scheme has booked some seats for the matinée performance of *Beauty & the Beast* at the Marlowe theatre in Canterbury on FRIDAY, 9th JANUARY. The tickets are £7 each and 'Fish' will provide free transport by coach. If you would like to go - and *everyone* is welcome, not just Fish Scheme users - either book at the Coffee Pop-In or telephone Jean Johnson on 766182.

The next Coffee Pop-In will be on Wednesday morning, 12th November, in Bridge Village Hall.

The next Chiropody Clinic will run from Monday, 17th to Friday, 21st November. Please telephone Mrs Warren (830233) for further details of this ervice.

A.R.

Bekesbourne Church
Cleaning & Flower Rota
1st & 8th November - Lois Whigham
15th - Christine Ash
22nd - Jane Millyard
29th - Advent: no flowers

BRIDGE CHURCH AWAITS MAJOR REPAIRS

Despite what the eye sees, St. Peter's Church, Bridge has come to the stage where a lot must be spent on it - and we haven't got the money!

BUT - we're not asking for donations - NOT YET! A thorough survey of the situation is in progress preparatory to drawing up a schedule of works that *must* be done to preserve this important place of worship and, since it belongs to the whole village community, we promise to keep you fully posted.

The FRIENDS OF GUIDING (Canterbury Rural District), to drum up support, would like to explain that they are a group of people (parents, friends, supporters, members etc - of both sexes) who support the Guide units in all the villages around Canterbury. 'We are a self-supporting group under the aegis of the District Commissioner with our own committee and constitution.

'Our *support* is largely financial and can cover assistance with uniforms, camping equipment, travel expenses etc. where these may be a difficulty, and, through our links with lay people, can provide professional help and/or advice with badge-testing. Not all members were themselves once Guides (or Scouts!) and anyone interested in the Movement would be very welcome, and should get in touch with Miss K.H. McIntosh, 1 Sturry Hill, Sturry, Canterbury, CT2 0NG, tel: 710406.'

Children's Society Christmas Cards are now available and can be obtained at the Autumn Fayre and Coffee Pop-In, or from Kath Pierce, 7 Windmill Close or Kathy Eynon, 19 Bridge Down.

FRIENDS OF BEKESBOURNE CHURCH

by Jane Shorrock

Everyone who attended our Autumn Dance on 11th October had a great time and many thanks are due to Jimmy Lennox for getting us all in party mood and providing such enjoyable music. Thanks to all the organisers and those who came for enabling us to raise a very welcome £176.50 for our funds.

Cheryl and Clive Barker at the Unicorn are once again organising a CONKER COMPETITION in aid of Bekesbourne Church - on Sunday, 2nd November - so phone 830210 to take part in this very enjoyable event for young and not so young (and to book lunch).

Our CHRISTMAS BAZAAR will take place at 10.30am on Saturday, 29th November, when all contributions of items for sale will be most welcome, and we hope all our readers will support this annual event, which will have Christmas gifts and bargains galore.

Vicar The Revd Raymond Gilbert, AKC, 23 High Street, Bridge (830250) Reader Mr Handley Stevens, MA, 6 Bridgeford Way, Bridge (831376)

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

Churchwardens Mr J Anderson, Aunt Betsy's Cottage, Dering Road, Bridge (830260)
Dr AM Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patrixbourne (830947)

Hon Secretary

Hon Treasurer Mr K Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patrixbourne (830947)

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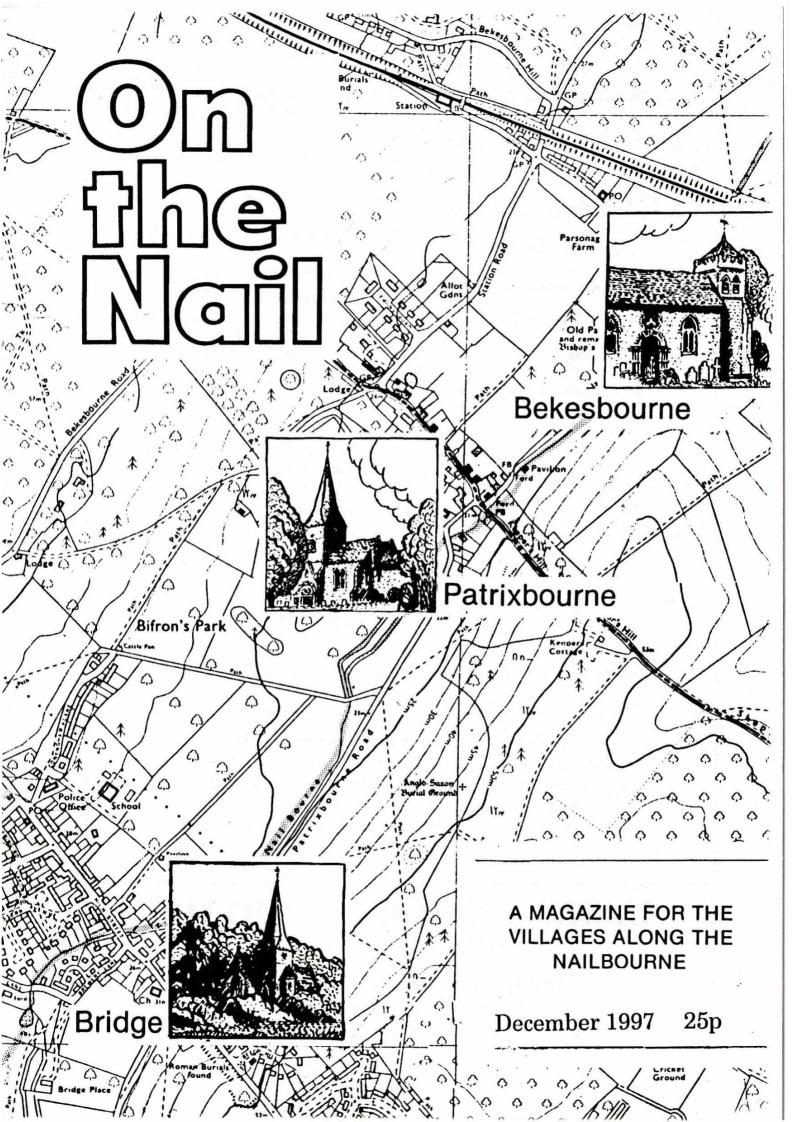
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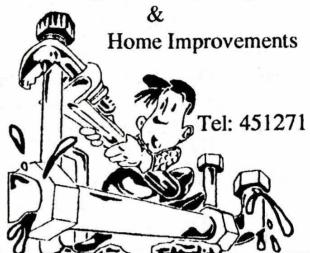
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SUNDAY WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

7th 8.00am Holy Communion (*Patrixbourne*)9.30am Parish Communion (*Bekesbourne*)

11.00am Family Eucharist & Gift Service (Bridge)

6.30pm Evensong (Bridge)

14th 8.00am Holy Communion (Bekesbourne)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bridge)

9.30am Junior Church (After School Club)

11.00am Matins (Patrixbourne)

21st 8.00am Holy Communion (*Patrixbourne*)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bridge)

11.00am Christmas Family Service (Bekeshourne)

6.30pm Candlelit Carol Service (Bridge)

28th 10.00am Benefice Eucharist - Rite A (Patrixbourne)

4th January

8.00am Holy Communion (Patrixbourne)

9.30am Parish Communion (Bekesbourne)

11.00am Family Service (Bridge)

6.30pm Evensong (Bridge)

Children are welcome at all services, but especially at Family Services. Junior Church welcomes children of 4 years old and upwards, helping them grow in the faith of the Church, in a secure and caring environment. It usually meets on second and third Sundays at 9.30am, but on 21st December will instead be taking part in the Christmas Family Service at Bekesbourne at 11am. For further details about Junior Church and enrolment, parents should get in touch with Mrs Susanne Leggatt (830251).

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: 7th, Dr Christine Pilkington 14th, Mr Ron O'Mahony 21st, Holy Communion, The Revd Michael Walling 28th, Mr Peter Blakeborough, MA, BEd

FOR '	YOUR DIARY AND PRAYER LIST
1st	St. Andrew the Apostle (transferred from Nov. 30th)
2nd	Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, Founder of the Little Gidding Community, 1637
3rd	St. Francis Xavier, Missionary, 1552
	Hospital League of Friends Coffee Morning, Bridge Methodist Church, 10am - 12 noon
4th	Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm
6th	St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c326
7th	2nd Sunday of Advent
10th	Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am
11th	Bridge Parish Council Meeting, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
12th	Senior Citizens Christmas Party, Bridge & Patrixbourne School, 1.30pm
14th	3rd Sunday of Advent
17th	Carol Evening, The Unicorn, Bekesbourne, 7.30pm
	Musical Evening with the Salvation Army Band, Bridge School, 7.30pm
18th	Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm
21st	4th Sunday of Advent
	Instead of Matins the 11am service at Bekesbourne will be the annual
	Christmas Family Service to which, once again, you are invited to bring
	gifts in kind or cash to go out to Chernobyl.
	The Christmas Carol Service at Bridge begins at 6.30pm.
23rd	Patrixbourne Carol Service at 7.00pm
24th	Christmas Eve
	Christingle Service, St. Peter's Church, Bridge, 4.00pm
	Midnight Mass at Bridge and Bekesbourne, both at 11.30pm
25th	CHRISTMAS DAY
	8.00am Holy Communion (Bridge)
	9.30am Christmas Eucharist (Patrixbourne)
	11.00am Family Carol Service (Bekesbourne)
26th	St. Stephen the First Martyr
27th	St. John the Evangelist
28th	Holy Innocents
	The one service of the day will be a Eucharist, Rite A, in St. Mary's
	Church, Patrixbourne at 10.00am.
29th	St. Thomas Becket, Archbishop & Martyr, 1170

FROM THE VICAR

It's said you can use statistics to prove anything: the media accordingly use them to demonstrate a steep falling off in membership of the Church of England, and to rub it in they put the blame on women priests, happy-clappy services using modern language, or woolliness over such issues of the moment as gay clergymen. What they don't do, because it doesn't sell papers, is ask themselves what the latest church attendance figures are really saying.

A recent edition of the church's flagship weekly, the *Church Times*, had a centre page spread that told a different story asserting that, read properly, the stats in question actually show a healthy rather than an ailing situation, because of the way the figures were obtained.

A couple of months back our churchwardens were asked to keep a tally of attendances at a number of consecutive services - it's done every year - and the final figures, once submitted to the diocese, form the basis of the next batch of statistics that the media will misconstrue. What the *Church Times* article pointed out was that figures arrived at in this way may give a fair estimate of attendances in one respect but don't prove anything about church membership because they don't allow for the present-day phenomenon of sporadic attendance. The piece makes the valid point that for various reasons even the most committed people are seldom in church every week. Check your own attendance record and you'll see what the writer is getting at.

Archbishop's School, which wants to know from me how regularly the child concerned attends church or Sunday School and also how regularly at least one of the parents is in church. They are multiple choice questions and I must ring the appropriate word, i.e. 'weekly', 'fortnightly', 'monthly' etc. So as to get a true picture I and my fellow clergy have to indicate where irregular attendance is due

Every autumn term I find myself filling in a form for applicants to The

to services not being held weekly, as happens in some cases. I always fill this form in the presence of the applicant's parents, so they know exactly what I say in the event of an appeal. With very committed churchgoers I still feel slightly

- comes every week without fail. Even the most robust of us is ill occasionally and we all need a holiday away from home every so often. Then again there are visits to family or on business. So you see how inaccurate the official findings are

queezy about putting them down as weekly attenders because nobody - NOBODY

and why we needn't be too despondent when it's splashed across the pages of the national press that the C of E is on the way out because its followers are leaving

the pews in droves or, as they love to say, 'voting with their feet'. Don't you believe it!

A NEW LOOK ADVENT MEANS A BETTER CHRISTMAS

It doesn't sound very riveting but this month the Church of England embarks on a new Calendar, Lectionary and Collects, i.e. list of high days and holy-days, with Bible readings and prayers to go with it. Geared to Sunday worship I have high hopes that what this new schema has on offer will not only add an extra sparkle to our services but also present us with a greater selection of Bible readings, some of them on a semi-continuous basis. For instance, throughout the coming year we shall steadily and systematically read St. Luke's Gospel, a quite challenging and indeed thrilling exercise in itself. In addition we shall henceforth be using the same selection of readings as other mainstream Christian churches in the UK.

As previously, the Advent season and not Christmas, is meant to dominate December, though whether this new calendar will assure it any greater respect outside church circles I very much doubt: Christmas has too much going for it to hang about waiting for the less exciting Advent to run its course.

Nevertheless, Advent warrants due recognition, having its own tingle of excitement, largely sampled in the exhilarating Advent hymns. The new calendar homes in on the twin themes of the second and first comings of Christ. The first three Sundays cover Christ's second coming as judge, then from 17th December there's a change of emphasis as we begin eight days of prayer in readiness for Christmas, which now occupies the traditional twelve days of Christmas, ending on Epiphany when we take down the decorations.

Advent used to be thought of as a little Lent, but that gives an all too gloomy, down-beat picture of a season designed to encourage some serious though not willy-nilly depressing thinking about death, judgement, heaven and hell. Before we remember how it all began it's no bad thing to bear in mind where it will end, even though it's very short on detail.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Christmas services, which follow the pattern we've built up in recent years, but join us too for Advent worship, which makes an ideal build-up to the coming festivities.

JOYS AND SORROWS

Holy Baptism

Zan Clifford, proud grandmother, writes: 'On the sunny morning of 26th October a large congregation met in St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne for the Family Service with Baptisms. The service began with a reading by Jill Gillanders from the story of Abraham and Isaac and then followed the christenings of sisters

HANNAH VICTORIA and KATHRYN HELENA TUNBRIDGE. Next Pat Kusel organised the many children present in play acting roles of identifying occupations with uniforms, including nurses, firemen and policemen, making the point that Christians show their faith by example, not by a uniform. The service concluded with prayers led by Romany Cowans.'

That same afternoon the vicar also baptized AMELIA JANE COTTER, The Bungalow, Renville Farm at Patrixbourne. Bridge's Family Service on 2nd November included the baptism of BENJAMIN CHRISTOPHER BEECHING, 20 Bridge Down.

Cremation

The vicar officiated at the funeral of IRIS JEAN MORAN, 2 Churchill Close, Bridge on 31st October at Barham Crematorium.

IN MEMORIAM The All Soul's Day Memorial Service in St. Peter's Church, Bridge on 2nd November attracted a nearly full church and was widely acclaimed as a moving experience. It was particularly gratifying to be joined by families who had been bereaved during the year, for whom the service had been principally designed: I trust it was helpful and a comfort to them in their sad loss.

During the service, which included the popular hymns, 'The Lord's my Shepherd', 'Abide with me' and 'Guide me, O thou great Redeemer', the choir sang the Russian Contakion of the Departed with tremendous feeling, after which Jill Gillanders, Handley Stevens and the Vicar read the list of nearly 180 names of the departed for whom prayers had been specifically asked.

It was felt that this might become an annual event around this time.

MANY THANKS ...

... to friends who generously supported the Bridge Methodist Church's Coffee Morning in October. Donations from the proceeds have been sent to 'Cliffdene' Methodist Home for the Aged at Tankerton, and to the Cyrenians.

... to all those who helped us to get ready for the Bridge School PFA Firework Display on 8th November and to those who came along on the evening to support us - even though you must have got soaked through! We raised just over £1,000 for Bridge School and are thrilled with the result.

... again to Cheryl and Clive Barker at The Unicorn for organising another successful Conker Competition and thus adding £95 to the funds of The Friends of Bekesbourne Church. Our next event will be CAROLS at THE UNICORN on Wednesday, 17th December from 7.30pm. Last year we had a super village pub carol singing evening, so do join us this time round.

... to Sheila Fenn and all who supported her with last month's Autumn Fayre. We are most grateful for those who patronised the event and enabled church funds to receive a most welcome £435 injection. Of that sum £100 alone was raised through the most beautiful Christmas cards of the Swiss glass in Patrixbourne Church. Andrea Nicholson still has some left, if you would like to support this enterprise.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES
Christmas Eve
4pm Christingle Service (Bridge)
11.30pm Midnight Mass
(Bekesbourne & Bridge)
Christmas Day
8am Holy Communion (Bridge)
9.30am Christmas Eucharist
(Patrixbourne)
11am Family Carol Service
(Bekesbourne)

CHRISTINGLE'S 250th ANNIVERSARY

This year the association between *The Children's Society* and Christingle, incredibly enough, is 250 years old. The annual Christmas Eve Christingle Service in St. Peter's Church, Bridge obviously can't match that but it has certainly become the highly popular beginning to Christmas for families far and wide. If you've never experienced the joy of seeing children's faces glow in the light of the Christingle, then come and see what it's all about and at the same time help *The Children's Society* in its all-important work. The service begins at 4 o'clock and it pays to be early!

The funds raised from the sale of *Children's Society* Christmas cards helps fund the project helping children with disabilities, young runaways on the streets and teenagers just out of care homes and with no family to turn to. Many thanks to all who have purchased cards for their support.

THE FRIENDS OF THE NEW CLOSE require your bric-a-brac to sell as they have been given free rental of a stall at the Chatham Dockyards Flea Market on a regular basis. The first sale will be on Sunday, 21st December, and with your help these events will be held every third Sunday.

Bring your bric-a-brac to Dorothy Friend or Jim Ewing at The New Close. For collection please ring Irene Ellis (01227 454010) or Janet Brown (01227 454309). No clothes or crafts! All funds raised will be in aid of the Friends of The New Close!

* * *

Although longstanding locals understand and appreciate the valuable work The New Close does for its confused elderly residents, comparative newcomers to the villages may not be so well-informed. It is hoped in a future issue of *ON THE NAIL* to include an article explaining how the part of our community that is The New Close operates.

Bridge & Patrixbourne CEP School invite all Senior Citizens to an afternoon of entertainment on Friday, 12th December from 1.30 - 3.00pm at Bridge School. Refreshments will be served. Please contact Evelyn Andrews at the school on 830276. Transport can be arranged if necessary.

NAILBOURNE GROUP of the LEAGUE of FRIENDS of CANTERBURY HOSPITALS

Please come along to our COFFEE MORNING on Wednesday, 3rd December, 10am - 12 noon at Bridge Methodist Church. Many Christmas goods, cakes, Bring & Buy, refreshments and much more.

The Nailbourne Group wish to thank the many people who kindly gave donations in memory of Alice Pratt, a life-long supporter of the League.

FISH NEWS

There are a few seats left for the outing to the matinée of *Beauty & the Beast* at the Marlowe on Friday, 9th January. Please ring Mavis Parsons on 832042 if you would like to go.

The Christmas Coffee Pop-In will be on Wednesday morning, 10th December in Bridge Village Hall.

CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS

The Ultimate Christmas Pudding Company makes superb puddings to sell in aid of L'ARCHE communities for those with learning disabilities. These puddings are truly the next best thing to home-made! Would you like one for yourself or as a present for a friend? The 1lb size is £4.20 and the 2lb £7.20. Telephone Anne Rooke (830298) and she will gladly deliver to your home.

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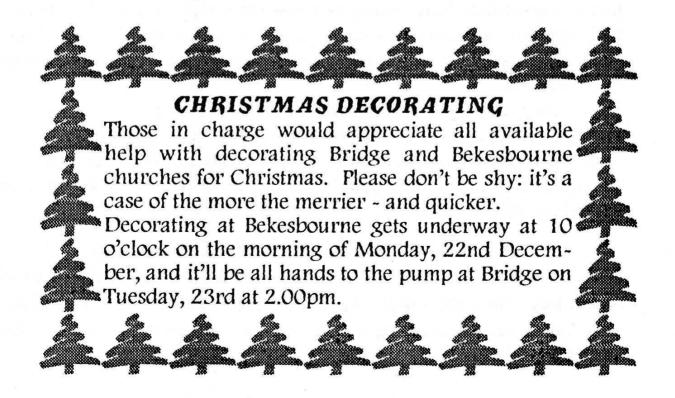
The Scout Group will be operating its Christmas Card delivery service again this year, from 1st to 20th December. The boxes will be at the following locations: Churchill House, The White Horse, The Plough & Harrow, Laurie Wakeham, Bridge News and Nick James.

We thank you for your support in past years and hope you will use this service for the village of Bridge.

Kate Rathmill

From his Mother's womb he came
To us a perfect God and perfect man.
Now in a Manger lies the eternal Word,
The Word he is, yet can no speech afford.
He is the Bread of Life, yet hungry lies.
The living Fountain, yet for drink he cries.

Rowland Watkyns, b. 1664



BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL - NOVEMBER MEETING

Appointment of a new clerk After an excellent response to its advertisements, the Council has appointed Janet Potter to succeed Margaret Church with effect from 1st January 1998. Mrs Potter, who lives in the village, has recently retired from St. Anselm's School where she taught business studies and computer technology.

Park & Ride There has been a good response to the information circulated on the proposed Park & Ride. There is still time to make your views known - write to the Director of Planning, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW, quoting CA/96/0030/CAN.

Budget and Precept The Council has confirmed its budget for 1998/9. The precept has been set at £5,790 and this includes salary, audit, insurance and advertising costs together with contributions to village organisations. The Parish Council carried out some functions on behalf of the City Council and has therefore asked for the sum of £7,700 to pay for street lighting maintenance, grass-cutting and maintenance of the recreation ground, and a contribution towards Village Hall costs. In addition, the Parish Council is considering the modernisation of play ground equipment and the installation of additional cycle racks in the village.

Street Lighting The Parish Council considered requests for additional street lighting in Western Avenue and extended lighting hours in Churchill Close but felt that lighting arrangements in both locations were appropriate to a village environment.

Litter problems at the re-cycling skips on Town Hill continue; determined efforts are being made to identify the source of boxes and cartons dumped alongside the skips since Canterbury City Council are willing to prosecute if those responsible can be located.

Canterbury City Council Environment Department are looking for a volunteer from the Bridge Down area to help them monitor street sweeping and cleansing - simply to let the council know that the work has been carried out properly and on the expected day. If you would be willing to help, contact Ian Mackenzie on Canterbury 763763 ext. 4521.

ON THE NAIL JANUARY DEADLINE

Articles and contributions for inclusion in the January edition of *On The Nail* must reach the editor by **THURSDAY**, **13th DECEMBER** at the very latest as the magazine will have to be produced before the long Christmas holiday.

Vicar The Revd Raymond Gilbert, AKC, 23 High Street, Bridge (830250)

Reader Mr Handley Stevens, MA, 6 Bridgeford Way, Bridge (831376)

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

Churchwardens Mr J Anderson, Aunt Betsy's Cottage, Dering Road, Bridge (830260)

Dr AM Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patrixbourne (830947)

Hon Secretary

Hon Treasurer Mr K Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patrixbourne (830947)

Covenants Officer Mr NC Francis, 54 Riverside Close, Bridge (830945)

Organist (Bridge)

Organist (Patrixbourne) Mrs RM Stacey, Joslet, Keepers Hill, Patrixbourne (830205) BEKESBOURNE

Churchwardens Mrs J Millyard, School House, School Lane, Bekesbourne (830256)
Mr IG Gillanders, Cala, Aerodrome Road, Bekesbourne

Hon Secretary Mr JW Cowans, Distant View, Adisham Road, Bekesbourne (831029) Hon Treasurer Mr D Millyard, School House, School Lane, Bekesbourne (830256)

Organist Mrs RM Stacey, Joslet, Keepers Hill, Patrixbourne (830205)

Captain of the Ringers Mr D Farbrace, 3 Downside, Adisham Road, Bek'ne (830659)

On The Nail Advertising: Mr HPM Lawrence, 72 Bridge Down, Bridge (830472)

On The Nail Editor: The Vicar

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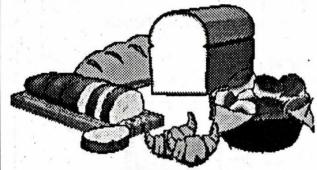
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