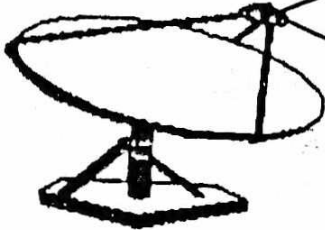


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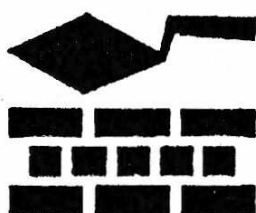
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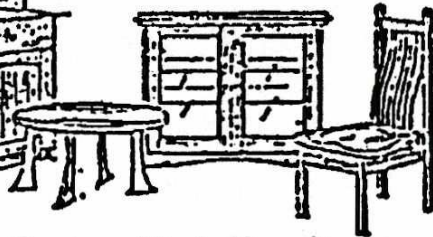
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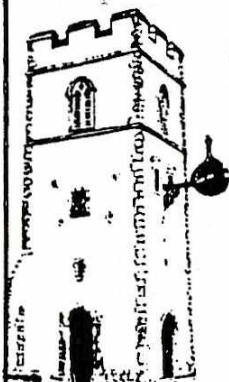
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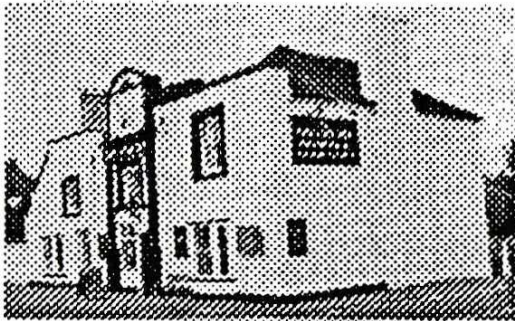


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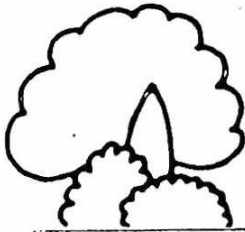
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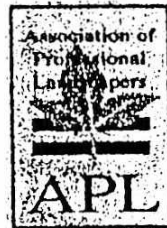
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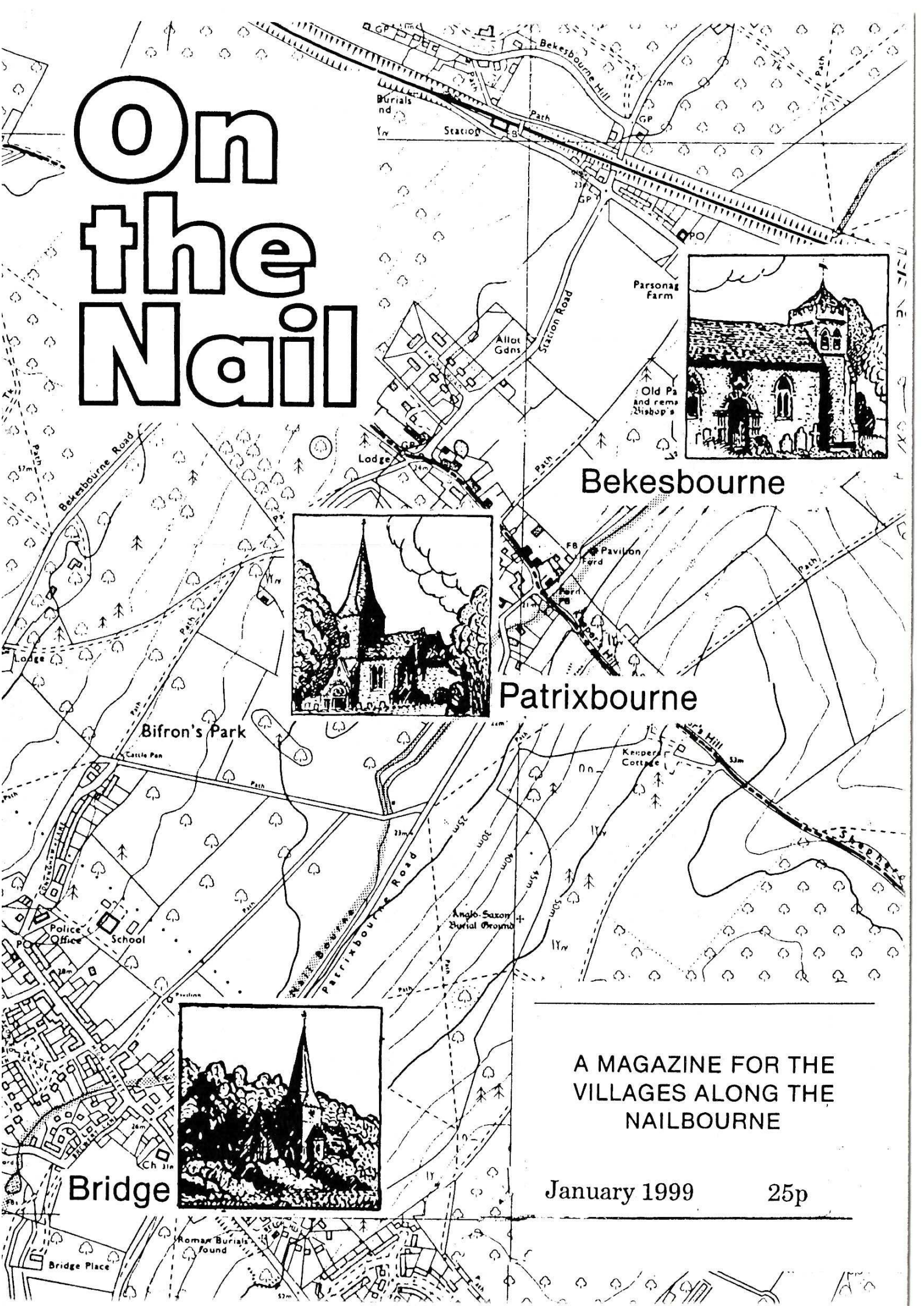


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SUNDAY WORSHIP IN JANUARY

3rd: 2nd Sunday of Christmas

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

10th: The Baptism of Christ

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Bekesbourne*)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (*Bridge*)
- 11.00am Matins (*Patixbourne*)

17th: 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Patixbourne*)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (*Bridge*)
- 11.00am Matins (*Bekesbourne*)

24th: 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Bridge*)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (*Patixbourne*)
- 11.00am Family Service with Baptism (*Bekesbourne*)
- 6.00pm Taizé Worship (*Patixbourne*)

31st: Presentation of Christ in the Temple & Education Sunday

- 10.30am Benefice Eucharist (*Bridge* -
Preacher: Canon CF Pollard)

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: 3rd, Covenant Service, The Revd George Baugh. 10th, The Revd David Marshall. 17th, Mr Reg Ward. 24th, The Revd Maurice Weatherup. 31st, Mrs Pam Haydon

FOR YOUR DIARY AND PRAYER LIST.

- 1st **The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus**
- 2nd *St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishops, Teachers of the Faith, 379 and 389*
- 3rd **THE EPIPHANY**
- 7th Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm

- 10th **The Baptism of Christ**
- 13th *St. Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, Teacher of the Faith, 367*
Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am
- 14th Bridge Parish Council Meeting, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
- 17th **The Second Sunday of Epiphany**
- 18th The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins.
- 19th *St. Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, 1095*
Bridge with Patricxbourne Women's Institute, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 21st *St. Agnes, Child-Martyr at Rome, 304*
Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm
- 24th **The Third Sunday of Epiphany**
Replacing Evensong there will be a service of Taizé Worship featuring Bridge Choir in St. Mary's Church, Patricxbourne at 6.00pm.
- 25th **The Conversion of St. Paul**
- 26th *Timothy and Titus, Companions of St. Paul*
- 27th East Bridge Deanery Synod meets in St. Vincent's Church, Littlebourne.
Please pray for our parish representatives: Jane Millyard and Pat Kusel (*Bekesbourne*), David Latham, Evelyn Andrews and Christine Hoare (*Patricxbourne with Bridge*)
- 28th *St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Philosopher, Teacher of the Faith, 1274*
- 31st **Education Sunday**
The Benefice Eucharist is in St. Peter's Church, Bridge at 10.30am and will observe Education Sunday. The preacher is the Revd Canon Clifford Pollard, a former Diocesan Director of Education. Those engaged in education are particularly invited to this Eucharist.

FROM THE VICAR

Rosemary and I would like to thank all those who sent us greetings at Christmas. It is always a great pleasure receiving your cards, many nowadays coming via the Scouts' Christmas postal service. We are also most conscious of the prayers and support so very many send our way throughout the year.

As a priest and in particular as your vicar, it is my duty and privilege to pray twice every day for this benefice and indeed for church and world concerns farther afield. I do so using the Church of England's set forms of Morning and Evening Prayer (aka Matins and Evensong), which also means using set Bible readings according to an established pattern. This has the added advantage that my prayer is linked with the prayer of other clergy all over the country, such that a

daily wave of prayer goes up virtually without interruption, in unison but also covering local and personal matters.

The importance of prayer for life in general, and not purely for so-called religious issues, should not be underestimated. St. James was right to claim that 'the prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects'[*James 5.16*] for as anyone who prays seriously and regularly will affirm, it's through prayer that we make contact with God and become the recipients of many blessings, not all of which will have necessarily been the subjects of our prayers. It's been well said that prayer is to the soul what breathing is to the body, and whereas it's not always easy to pray, our attempts are never wasted. Even in those arid times that even the most ardent pray-ers meet, God is there to take our offerings and use them for our good and his own glory. And if you wonder if your prayers are getting anywhere, just think of the wise counsellor who, when someone told him they weren't enjoying their prayers, retorted, "Never mind, God is!" Often we don't give God credit for what he does in our lives, which is a great pity and our loss.

IN TIMES OF JOY ...

The December Family Service at Bridge was an eventful and exciting occasion. There was the christening of ZOE EMMA THOMASINE OSTERLOH, which took place after her four-year old sister, Amy, aided by their father, had lit the Advent candle.

Then it was over to a 90-year old Amy, when Miss Amy Jarvis, a resident of The New Close, received the Christmas parcels families had brought along for her fellow residents, and afterwards made an off-the-cuff and very gracious speech of thanks.

... AND SORROW

Three days later the same church was the setting for the funeral of WILLIAM PERCIVAL SPANTON, aged 98 and two days, of Beech Hill.

Percy was exceedingly well known and highly popular among the farming fraternity of East Kent, a man of many gifts and an altogether delightful person who in many ways was generosity personified. His working life had been spent at Barfrestone, so it was fitting that he should have his wish - a service in St. Peter's Church, Bridge, conducted by the vicar, followed by interment in Barfrestone cemetery next to his parents' grave.

A NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE RURAL DEAN

When the Reverend Henry Lyte wrote in 1847 the words 'change and decay in all around I see' as a line in his famous hymn *Abide with me*, he was not thinking

particularly of the Church of England. A cynic might say, however, that they fit the Church of England at the end of the 20th century peculiarly aptly; and if pressed, would point to the indisputable changes that have taken place in recent years, and will necessarily continue for some years to come - changes to patterns of ministry in the parishes, to forms of church government, to church finances, to lay participation, to training ... and to almost every aspect of church life. And decay? Our cynic would say you need only to study the accounts of almost any church in the country to see how much money is spent on countering decay in the fabric in one form or another.

The same cynic would have found himself at home in the company of another famous Victorian, Thomas Arnold, Headmaster of Rugby; he looked at the state of the church in his day and declared 'the church, as it now stands, no human power can save'.

But we do not depend on 'human power'; the Lord of the years has brought his church safely through the centuries. Cynics may scoff, but the church, with a year to go before the celebrations of the new millennium begin (and two years before the present millennium is complete) is in better heart and stronger than it has been for many, many years.

The reason is that people have come to see that hedonism, materialism and consumerism do not add up to meaning and purpose; they cannot provide a firm focus for the soul, the 'real self'. Only God, seen in his Son Jesus Christ, and found in the life of the church, can give true meaning to our existence and provide an answer to those vital questions 'Why am I here?'; 'Where am I going?', and 'What is it all for?'. Henry Lyte knew this; he asked 'Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?', and answered: 'O thou who changest not, abide with me'.

We need fear neither change nor decay with a changeless loving Father; and in all that we do, in our parishes and in our Deanery in 1999, let us never forget that we are *his* people, doing *his* work, and made for *his* service. In return we can be sure of *his* strength and *his* guidance in our lives

May his rich blessing be with you all throughout the coming year.

David Barnes

Bridge with Patricbourne Women's Institute meets on Tuesday, 19th January, when the speaker will be Mr Rupert Williamson from the Community Health Council, and the competition is your favourite cough remedy recipe. New members and visitors will be made very welcome on that date in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Friends of Bekesbourne Church

Once again, the Friends would like to thank all those who worked hard to man and stock all the stalls at our annual Bazaar, those who ran the raffle and tombola, those who came along and did their Christmas shopping with us, and thereby helped raise the splendid sum of £496 for our funds. We would also like to thank the Brownies, who cheerfully made coffee and tea and provided cakes for our visitors, and who also ran lots of games to keep everyone entertained.

We thank you all for your support in 1998 and wish all our supporters a healthy New Year.

Jane Shorrocks

Update on Maintenance work to Bekesbourne Church

The architect is now drawing up a specification for the maintenance work to be done on Bekesbourne Church, which we hope to carry out in the spring. Externally, the work will include stripping and re-tiling of the nave and tower roofs, replacement of the weathervane, repairs to stonework and flint work (especially at the east end), and new eaves guttering along the vestry roof. The guttering will drain into a new and more efficient water butt - the old tank which is the only source of water at the church has been one of the causes of damp in the walls, as there is nothing to prevent it overflowing.

Inside the church we hope to improve the ventilation (and combat the damp) by restoring the existing opening lights in the windows and putting in some new ones. The vestry is to be stripped of plaster, left to dry out for a period and then replastered and repainted. Some inspection traps are to be made in the floor under the pews so that we can keep an eye on this in the future. The access to the belfry will be improved and it may be necessary to do some spraying in the belfry against beetle infestation.

English Heritage considered that urgent repairs were required to two memorials in the church. A minor repair is to be done to the 18th century memorial to John Peckham in the vestry and more major work and conservation to the Palmer memorial under the tower. How many occasional worshippers or visitors know that we have this splendid 17th century gentleman at the back of the church? Do have a look at him next time you are there. The monument was originally on the south wall of the chancel, but was moved to its present position (and damaged) during the restoration of the church at the end of the last century.

The plan is that the work will begin in late March (internally after Easter), once it is safe to disturb the bats thought to be hibernating in the roof. The 'bat expert' from English Nature has found traces of both brown long-eared and

serotine bats in the church. We do not yet know how long it will take, but hope to continue with services if at all possible.

At the moment we are just hoping that all the work we plan can be covered by the grants we have received and the Friends/PCC contribution. The amount we have set for unexpected contingencies is very small and, inevitably, additional costs will be incurred once work starts. We are very dependent on the funds raised by the Friends of Bekesbourne Church - please support all their events next year and consider covenanting a subscription to help preserve the church for the future.

Jane Millyard

NAILBOURNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Society's "Apples and Cheese" social evening on 26th November was a great success, attended by some 40 people and making a profit, what is more, of nearly £80. Special thanks are due to the Chairman, Roger Austin, for challenging our knowledge of apples with 15 different varieties to taste and name, to Bill Oakey for running the raffle and to all the members of the Committee who helped with the organisation of the evening, particularly the refreshments.

The next event on the calendar is the AGM which will be held on Tuesday 26th January in Bridge Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm. The Society is active and organises a variety of events throughout the year, ranging from evening talks with guest speakers to coach outings to interesting gardens in the south east. However, like all groups, the Society is in need of new blood, and would especially like to welcome some new committee members with fresh ideas. If you would like to help us on the committee, then please get in touch with me, evenings preferably, on 830057. If you are interested in joining, do come along and meet us on the 26th. As an incentive, the names of those people who join or renew their subscription on that evening will be entered in the Society's draw for two tickets to the Chelsea Flower Show.

Kathy Walder, Secretary

BEKESBOURNE FAMILY SERVICE

Question: 'How many different names is Jesus called in the Bible?' Well, the children at the November family service at Bekesbourne Church had plenty more up their sleeves than officiant Pat Kusel, much to the amusement of Pat and a good-sized congregation.

Question: 'What does Advent mean?' asked Pat. 'Chocolates', replied a young girl at the front. Although practically correct Pat reminded us that Advent means much more than getting up early to sample chocolate under the flap. It

means preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus in the same way that John the Baptist prepared the Jews of his day for the coming of the Messiah.

The family service held each month at Bekesbourne is an ideal opportunity for those with children who may not be able to attend church every week, to make a date in their diaries to join with their neighbours and find out what is going on both within and outside the walls of our beautiful village church.

We've now been living full-time in Bekesbourne for four months and, although previously sporadic churchgoers, we make a special effort to attend the family service at St. Peter's, which is always entertainingly conducted by Pat and the Vicar. My family get a lot out of it and I would urge anyone who hasn't been to try it - it brings the local families closer together and builds a community spirit.

Everyone is made welcome - not just families - and it doesn't take all day. You can, like me, still be at The Unicorn by noon. *Steve Thomas*

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FISH NEWS

The next Coffee Pop-In will be on Wednesday, 13th January from 10.15 to 11.45am in Bridge Village Hall. Do come to this popular get-together!

There will be a Chiropody Clinic between 1st and 5th February. Please telephone Mrs Joan Warren (830233) for details and transport. A.R.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF RADIOLOGISTS' APPEAL

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

The object of the Appeal is to raise money for further research into improved methods of diagnosis and treatment. It was launched in 1995 and nearly £1 million has been raised. Some of this money has been used to 'pump prime' a number of research projects which have been approved by the College.

This year Margaret donated the £690 raised from her very successful fund raising day to the appeal, making her donations over the past four years a staggering £2,690!

The five Fellows of the College living in Bridge/Patrixbourne, Drs Bodger, Coltart, Morrison, Entwisle (Mrs Morrison) and Field are most grateful to Margaret for her great generosity and thank everyone who supported her successful fund raising day and so produced such a lavish donation. *Stuart Field*

A RAINBOW GUIDE OUTING

written by Genni Wetherell, age 6, of Bridge Rainbows

On Saturday the Rainbows went to London. We went on a train and then a tube. Then we saw Big Ben when we went across the bridge over the River Thames. Then we got to the London Aquarium and we looked at all sorts of fish. We saw sharks and tried to stroke the stingrays. We walked back to the station through the park.

Bekesbourne Church

Cleaning & Flower Rota

2nd January, Cleaning & Flower Check - Jenny Skinner & Joan Atkins

9th January, Clearing of decorations - Pam Farbrace & Rosie Mount

16th January - Jill Gillanders

23rd January, Cleaning - Linda Forrest

30th January - Cheryl Barker & Vicky Mcpherson

BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL - Notes from the December meeting

Car Radio Marking Scheme A major initiative to combat theft of radios from cars has been launched by Neighbourhood Watch. Kits, at £4.99 each, are available to etch a unique serial number on to car stereo equipment. The number is then stored on an international security register. A window sticker, supplied with the kit, advises a would-be thief that the property can be positively identified. The project has the total support of Canterbury Police. Any resident interested in purchasing such a kit should contact the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator on 830627 or the Parish Clerk on 832219, as soon as possible.

Proposed new surgery - Bridge Dr Jones, from the Bridge practice, has presented to the Parish Council proposals for a new surgery to serve the village. The present surgery has limited accommodation which it is not possible to extend and many patients have to attend clinics at the Littlebourne surgery. The proposal is for a purpose built surgery situated on level ground close to the centre of the village in Patricbourne Road. Adequate off-road parking is to be provided.

Parking arrangements As preparation for the decriminalisation of most non-endorsable on-street parking offences within the Canterbury district in January 2000, the Parish Council has been asked to review existing parking arrangements in the village. As a result a recommendation is to be made for additional parking restrictions in Western Avenue immediately opposite Green Court for about 15 metres and a further two sections, 9 metres each in length, either side of Dering Road and its junction with the High Street.

Christmas decorations The Parish Council would like to thank the commercial premises in the High Street who displayed an illuminated Christmas tree this year.

Planning The following have been received: Front porch and two-storey side extension to Old Mill House, 41 Union Road - Rebuilding of attached outbuilding with first-floor extension and rear conservatory to 38 High Street - Conversion of oast house and stable range to 2 dwellings, alterations to outbuildings at Middle Pett Farmhouse, Pett Bottom (amended plans).

The following have been notified as granted: Externally illuminated projecting sign and non-illuminated wall-mounted sign at Skippers Restaurant - Formation of vehicular access at Ivy House, 14 High Street - Porch to front and single storey rear extension to 9 Filmer Road - Works in connection with flood alleviation scheme, Nailbourne - Two-storey side extension and porch to front of Sharnwood, Bridge Hill - Erection of new pavilion, Bridge Tennis Club - First-floor and single-storey extension to The Dell, Bridge Hill.

The following application has been notified as subject to an appeal to the Secretary of State - Replacement with paviers to front parking and driveway of The Close.

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

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

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

Dr AM Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patricxbourne (830947)

Hon Secretary Mrs A Williamson, Beechmount, Conyngham Lane, Bridge (830399)

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

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

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Organist Mrs RM Stacey, Joslet, Keepers Hill, Patricxbourne (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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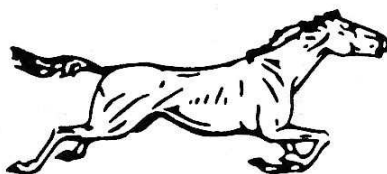


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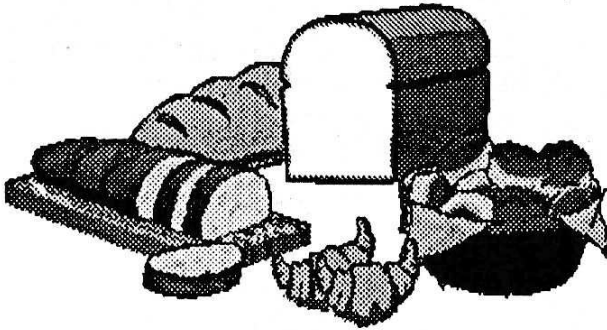
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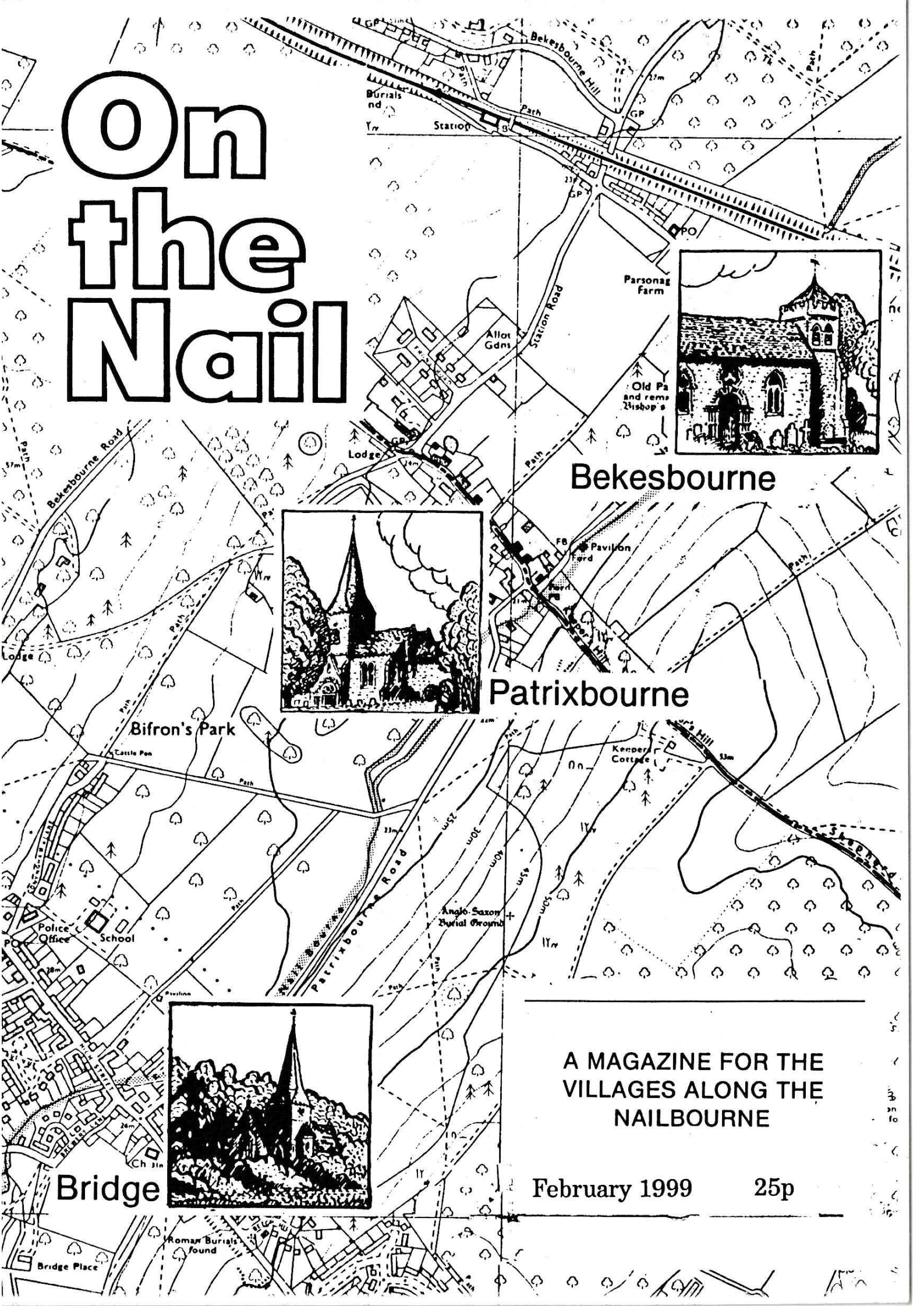
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On the Nail



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Patrixbourne



Bridge

A MAGAZINE FOR THE
VILLAGES ALONG THE
NAILBOURNE

February 1999

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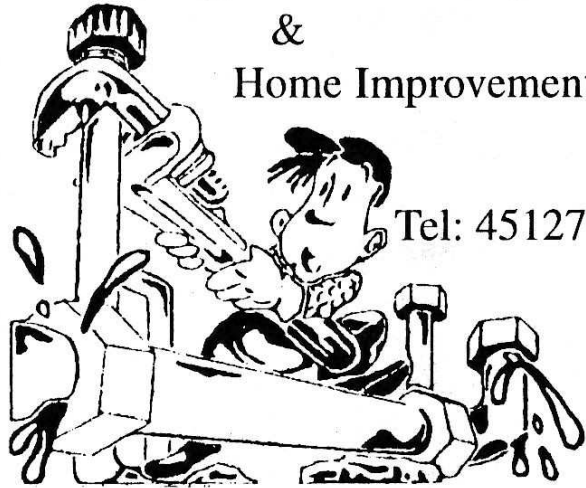
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SUNDAY WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

7th: 2nd Sunday before Lent

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Patricbourne*)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (*Bekesbourne*)
- 11.00am Family Eucharist (*Bridge*)
- 6.30pm Evensong (*Bridge*)

14th: The Sunday next before Lent

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Bekesbourne*)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (*Bridge*)
- 11.00am Matins (*Patricbourne*)

21st: 1st Sunday in Lent

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Patricbourne*)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (*Bridge*)
- 11.00am Matins (*Bekesbourne*)

28th: 2nd Sunday in Lent

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

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *7th*, Mr E Ron O'Mahony. *14th*, Mrs Marjorie Beckwith. *21st*, The Revd David Marshall. *28th*, Mrs Mary Weatherup, BA.

FOR YOUR DIARY AND PRAYER LIST

- 3rd Bekesbourne PCC, School House, 7.45pm
- 4th Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm
- 7th **The Second Sunday before Lent**
- 9th Patricbourne with Bridge PCC, Bridge Methodist Church, 7.30pm
- 10th Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am
- 11th Bridge Parish Council Meeting, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
- 14th **The Sunday next before Lent**
- 16th **FAMILY MARDI GRAS SUPPER**, Bekesbourne Village Hall, 7.00pm
Bridge with Patricbourne Women's Institute, Village Hall, 7.30pm

- 17th **ASH WEDNESDAY**
 Eucharist in St. Peter's Church, Bridge at 7.30pm
- 18th Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm
- 21st **The First Sunday in Lent**
- 23rd *St. Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, Martyr, c155*
- 25th Nailbourne League of Friends AGM & Coffee Morning, Bridge
 Methodist Church, 10am - 12 noon
 Nailbourne Horticultural Society, Bridge Methodist Church, 7.30pm
- 28th **The Second Sunday in Lent**

FROM THE VICAR

Just before Christmas a few of us gathered outside Bridgeway Stores for a spot of carol singing, as we've done now for several years. The object of the exercise is in accordance with tradition, i.e. musically passing on the good news of the Saviour's birth to any who care to listen. Nowadays carol singing tends to be linked to collecting money, whether done from house to house or out in the open, as we did. Many years ago Bridge Church Choir went carol singing around the village and decided to leave the collecting tin behind: it was quite a job convincing householders we seriously didn't want their money.

Bowing to the inevitable, however, we set up our pitch last Christmas with a couple of plastic buckets and a charity in mind. No, not church funds, but another deserving cause near at hand, which I want to tell you about, since not everyone who tossed a coin into the bucket knew what it was going to and this particular good cause, like a puppy, isn't just for Christmas.

Joining our ad hoc 'choir' for a spell was a very distinguished local musician, now living in retirement, but also putting in a brief appearance was Dr Mark Jones, and this is where the chosen charity comes in.

Health for All has been founded to fund a medical aid programme supported by the doctors, staff and friends of the Bridge and Littlebourne Surgeries. Over recent years the surgeries have developed links between themselves and Dr. Verma, a general practitioner working in rural Bihar, India and People First International (PFI), a small aid agency which works to provide sustainable educational development in the same area.

Bihar, in the north east of India, is one of India's poorest states, with one of the lowest per capita incomes in the country. Bihar's literacy rate is only 38%. In the villages education and health facilities can be non-existent. Over recent years the surgeries at Bridge and Littlebourne have developed links with PFI and

in 1997 Dr Jones travelled to India to discuss developments of this link and to extend it to include the provision of medical services.

After a period of consultation with local governmental and other organisations it is proposed to build a health centre as an integral part of a rural centre now being developed on donated land at Kanjekar, about 35km from Bodh Gaya. The centre project, which will eventually aim to be self-sufficient, will include a cloth loom, school and the development of crops. Our local surgeries' involvement is to produce a health centre and then fund the trained female health worker who will work from this centre.

Health for All will exist as a fund-raising organisation in the UK. It is in the process of applying for registered charity status and is extremely grateful for any interest which friends and patients of Bridge and Littlebourne Surgeries show. Financial contributions are very much appreciated and cheques can be made out to 'Health for All' and either sent or delivered to the surgeries.

Oh, in case you're interested, the carol singing raised £90 plus - not bad for 1½ hours!

IT'S ALL BEEN GOING ON!

Throughout the year, but especially after Christmas, the editor receives reports on successful events that have taken place in the locality, most but not all of a fund-raising nature. Here are the latest batch, showing what a lot of exciting and profitable events go on, not least under the churches' umbrella.

Bekesbourne's Christmas Family Service

Linda Forrest writes: Five days before Christmas the church was filling with excited children as they arrived early for a last minute rehearsal.

The service began with a procession of representatives from local Guides, Brownies and Rainbows, led by District Commissioner Maggie Field carrying the Peace Light, which burned throughout all the Bekesbourne Christmas services.

After a rousing carol, the children performed the nativity play with clear voices and good spirit. A charming highlight was the arrival of the angels played by three little 'angels', all dressed in white and silver. The play was rounded off by all the children coming together to sing a carol round the manger, accompanied by Paul Kusel on the guitar.

Next there followed a collection of goods for British Humanitarian Aid work in Chernobyl. Pat Kusel gave a brief explanation of the conditions still being experienced there; a timely reminder that not everyone is fortunate enough to live in a safe and comfortable environment. Our gifts would arrive in time to give some cheer to their Christmas on the 6th January.

There were more performances to come. We were entertained by family groups who took turns to explain the origins of some of our Christmas traditions, using some inspired role play and visual aids.

Well done to everyone who took part, especially the children, who gave us a real sense of joy ready for Christmas.

The Children's Society

Looking back to Christmas Eve *writes Kathy Eynon* thank you to all who contributed to *The Children's Society* via the Christingle Service at St. Peter's Church, Bridge. It was a joy to have the church full of happy, excited children and their families, whose generosity raised £185 for *The Children's Society*. Special thanks are also due to Mr Tilly for once again providing the oranges, to the Christingle-makers, particularly Pat and Catherine Dunderdale, Marion, Rosie and Fern Webb, and to all helpers at the service.

During 1998, through various efforts in Bridge for *The Children's Society*, a total of £936.39 was raised, as specified below:

Home collecting boxes	£361.46
Donations	15.00
Goods sold at charity events	94.35
Sale of Christmas cards	280.58
Collection at Christingle Service	<u>185.00</u>
	<u>£936.39</u>

Please continue your kind support in 1999 for the important work of this charity in helping children, young people and families in need.

Nailbourne Scout Group Christmas Mail Service

We had another successful year for the Scout Christmas Mail Service, with a record 953 cards posted. The Group's special thanks go to the scouts, venture scouts, cubs, parents and friends who helped with collection, sorting and delivery; the proprietors who very kindly had the mail boxes on their premises once again and of course to those who used the service.

Rajini Dasan, Secretary

Friends of Bekesbourne Church

Another very enjoyable evening of carol singing at The Unicorn was held in the week before Christmas, when supporters and customers joined in singing all the old favourite carols, accompanied by the Vicar on the piano and Stuart Field on the fiddle. Our thanks to Hoverspeed and the Caravan Site on Bekesbourne Lane for providing some splendid prizes for the Raffle, which raised £100 for our funds,

and to Clive and Cheryl for their customary warm hospitality and continuing support of the Friends.

Advance Notice Our very popular WINE & WISDOM evening will be on Friday, 19th March - Tickets from Zan Clifford on 830328 or Gill Moon on 832134. More details next month!

MORE GOOD NEWS FOR BEKESBOURNE CHURCH

Churchwarden Jane Millyard writes: We have now heard about our last outstanding grant application for funding repairs at Bekesbourne. The Wolfson Foundation has generously offered us a grant of £5,000, bringing the total of grants and loan to nearly £46,700.

CHURCH FLOWERS IN MEMORY

Bridge The regular flower arrangers are looking for new people or organisations who would like to put a simple vase of flowers in the Lady Chapel at Bridge once a year. If there is anyone who would like to have a vase of flowers put in the church in memory of a loved one or to mark an event in their own life, there are envelopes in the church by which a contribution for this can be made.

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

At Bekesbourne, over the year several requests are made for flowers to be put in the church in memory of loved ones. 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 flowers or donations throughout the year into the church in memory of relatives or friends.

If you would like to contribute this way, do contact Christine Ash or any of the flower arrangers listed in this magazine.

Bridge with Patricbourne Women's Institute

No speaker at the February meeting but members are asked to take wool and needles for a knit and natter evening. There will be a hot snack and music, for which a favourite cassette may be brought along. The competition is a home-made greetings card and the meeting is at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 16th February in Bridge Village Hall.

J.H.

YOGA CLASSES

Take time for yourself! Why not come and join our yoga classes on Monday mornings, 10.00 - 11.30. Stretch and relax in Bekesbourne Village Hall. All ages

and abilities most welcome. Bring a mat, a blanket and wear loose clothing. The term has already started. For more information contact Sue Hemmings, 452570.

Nailbourne League of Friends of Canterbury
Hospitals

**AGM &
COFFEE MORNING**

Thursday, 25th February

10.00 am - 12 noon

BRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

Coffee - Cakes - Bring & Buy

All welcome!

D & E TRAVEL

Doug and Ethel Cartwright are now arranging local coach trips from the village and a programme of trips to places of interest, gardens, stately homes, river trips, etc is already available. If interested please ring 831095 for further details.

FISH NEWS

The Coffee Pop-In at Bridge Village Hall is on Wednesday, 10th February.

Advance notice: The Blossom Tour (now officially called the Cornelia Slawin Tour, and more of that next month) will be on Wednesday, 5th May.

NAILBOURNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The February meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday, 25th February at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church, when Mr John Lawrie of Corby Farm Nurseries at Ratling, Aylesham, will give a talk, illustrated with slides, on the growing and care of chrysanthemums.

It is hoped that schedules for the Spring Show, which will be held this year on Tuesday, 30th March in its traditional location of the Village Hall in Bridge, will be available on that evening.

K Walder, Secretary

Bekesbourne, Patrixbourne & Bridge Churches
invite all their villagers to a

FAMILY MARDI GRAS SUPPER

at

Bekesbourne Village Hall
Shrove Tuesday, 16th February
7.00 - 10.00pm

Latin American Music

**Prize Competitions: most flamboyant shirt/blouse -
best children's mask**

Bring your own plate, bowl, glass, cutlery and drink.

Tickets are complimentary -
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Available from Pat Dunderdale (830668), Andrea Nicholson
(830947), Romany Cowans (831029)

Let's know if you're vegetarian or will need transport!

BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL - January Meeting

Nailbourne Flood Alleviation Scheme The Environment Agency has now informed the Parish Council of its intention to begin improvements to the Nailbourne in February. Due to some alterations, which they have made to work

on the culvert, this section will be further delayed until amended plans have been approved by the City Council.

Millennium Celebration Funding Cllr Meriel Connor and Cllr Tony Walder have attended a meeting where a representative from the Millennium Experience described activities for which funding was available. Although the funding is not available to Parish Councils it could be accessed by other village organisations. The Parish Council will be contacting all active organisations in the village inviting them to a meeting to initiate and co-ordinate celebrations for the millennium and to advise them on applying for funding. The meeting is to take place on Monday 8 February at the Methodist Church in Patricxbourne Road at 7.30 pm. If your organisation is not contacted please inform the clerk on 832219.

Village Hall The Parish Council has made a bid for part of the property at 26 High Street, which adjoins the village hall, to provide a safer access to the hall and additional storage space. The Council has been informed that the vendor currently desires to sell the property in its entirety.

Planning Applications: The following application has been received and commented upon: CA/98/Temp/N - Bridge and Patricxbourne School - Replace existing mobile C with 5 bay double classroom unit and existing mobile B with new 2 bay classroom. The following planning application has been notified as refused: CA/98/1097/BRI - Old Mill House, 41 Union Road - for front porch and two-storey rear extension.

Bekesbourne Church

Cleaning & Flower Rota

6th February - Cheryl Barker & Vicki McPherson

13th February, Cleaning & Clearing - Jill Gillanders

Cleaning only during Lent -

20th February - Jane Millyard

27th February - Caroline Jagers

THE NILE - LIFEBLOOD OF EGYPT

A simple map of Egypt is easy to draw. The river Nile divides the country, flowing from south to north, with towns, villages and farms throughout the Nile valley and desert stretching out on either side. After Cairo the Nile changes dramatically, branching out into a vast delta, some 150 miles wide at its Mediterranean mouth.

The Nile and the Exodus

While there are also oasis towns and the important Suez Canal, every Egyptian acknowledges that the Nile is the lifeblood of Egypt. So Pharaoh and all his people must have been horror struck when the Nile was changed to blood, one of the plagues that forced him to release Moses and the Israelites. (Exodus 7:14-24)

Moses' connection with the Nile started when he was put into a papyrus basket as an infant, and left floating among the reeds to be found by Pharaoh's daughter. (Exodus 2:1-10)

Granite and electricity from Aswan

The sources of the Nile are in Uganda and the Ethiopian highlands, and the waters flow for some 4,000 miles through Sudan and Egypt. The last cataract is at Aswan.

Aswan's world famous High Dam was built in 1960-70. One of the world's largest dams, its waters drive huge hydroelectric generating stations and irrigate over a million acres of farmland. Centuries ago, Aswan's quarries supplied granite for temples and pyramids, and during flood times builders could transport stone by barge to any site in the Nile valley.

Before the High Dam, the Nile flooded annually, and the mud carried by the waters left a fertile deposit over the wide flood plain, enriching the farmland. Exodus chapter 5 records the misery of Pharaoh's slaves ordered to make bricks from the mud, without the essential chopped straw being supplied.

The Nile in prophecy

The prophets of Israel knew how different the Nile was from the rivers of Palestine. Amos 8:8 reads "The whole land will rise like the Nile, it will be stirred up and then sink like the river of Egypt". Ezekiel tells of God's wrath against the Pharaoh who in his arrogance said "The Nile is mine, I made it for myself". (Ezekiel 29:3)

Isaiah 19:5-10 gives a vivid picture of the disastrous effect of the Nile drying up, in a chapter which ends "Blessed be Egypt my people, Assyria my handiwork and Israel my inheritance". *From The Bible Lands Society's magazine*

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

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

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

Dr AM Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patricxbourne (830947)

Hon Secretary Mrs A Williamson, Beechmount, Conyngham Lane, Bridge (830399)

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

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

Organist (Bridge) Mr JF Atterbury, 18 Mount Road, Canterbury (760293)

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

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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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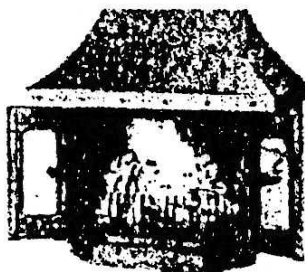
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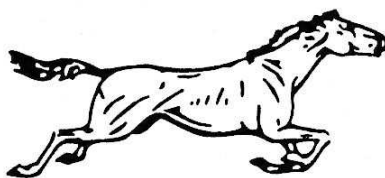


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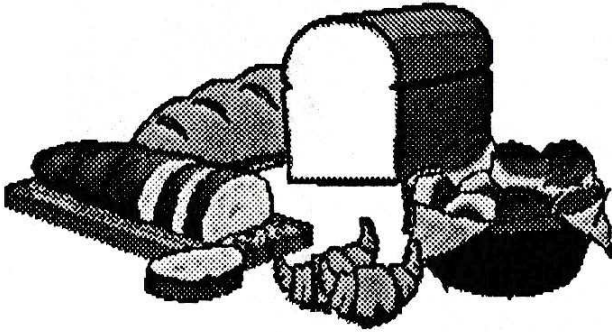
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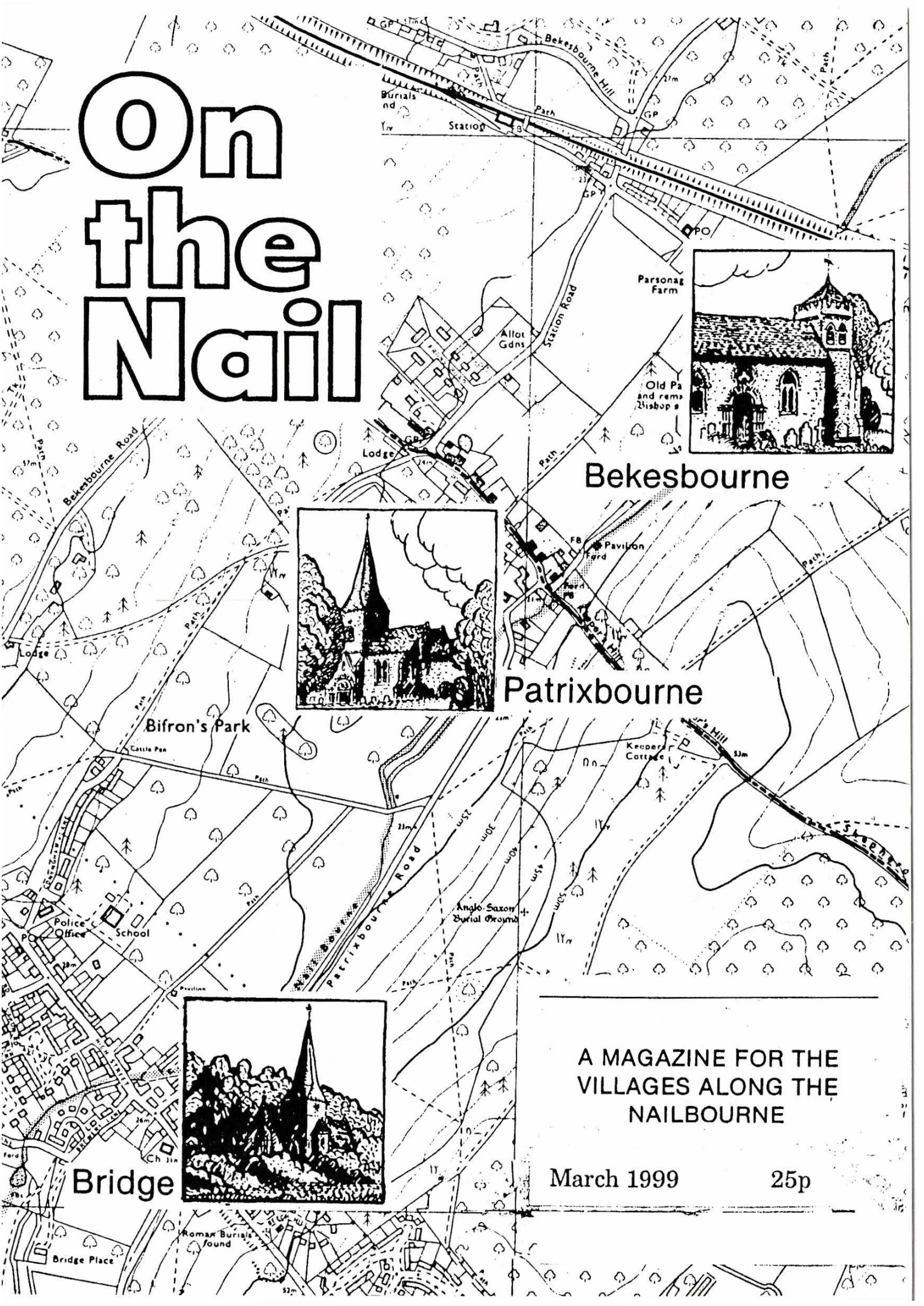
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Bridge

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March 1999

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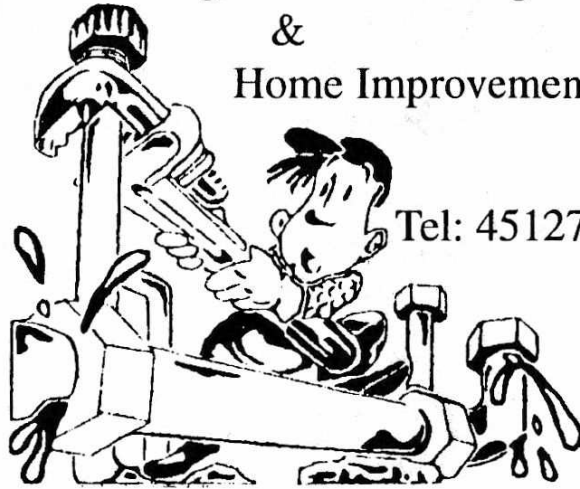
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SUNDAY WORSHIP IN MARCH

7th: 3rd Sunday of Lent

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

14th: 4th Sunday of Lent

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Patricbourne*)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (*Bridge*)
- 11.00am Mothering Sunday Service (*Bekesbourne*)

21st: 5th Sunday of Lent

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Bekesbourne*)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (*Bridge*)
- 11.00am Matins (*Patricbourne*)

28th: Palm Sunday

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Bridge*)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (*Patricbourne*)
- 11.00am Matins (*Bekesbourne*)
- 6.30pm Evensong (*Bridge*)

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *7th*, The Revd Howard Skinner. *14th*, Mr Alistair Barwick, BSc. *21st*, *Holy Communion*, The Revd David Marshall. *28th*, Mrs Marjorie Beckwith.

FOR YOUR DIARY AND PRAYER LIST

- 1st *St. David, Bishop of Minerva, Patron of Wales, c601*
- 2nd *St. Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Missionary, 672*
- 4th Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm
- 5th Women's World Day of Prayer Service, Bridge Methodist Church, 3.00pm - Speaker: Mrs June Willis
- 6th *The Children's Society* Coffee Morning in lieu of a house-to-house collection, Bridge Village Hall, 10.00am - 12 noon
- 7th **The Third Sunday of Lent**
- 8th *Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln, 1910*

- 10th Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am
- 11th School Service in Bridge Church (Infants), 9.45am
Bridge Parish Council Meeting, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
- 14th **The Fourth Sunday of Lent: Mothering Sunday**
See changes from the normal in the above service list, to accommodate the traditional Mothering Sunday service at Bekesbourne.
- 16th Bridge with Patricbourne Women's Institute, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 17th *St. Patrick, Bishop, Missionary, Patron of Ireland, c460*
- 18th Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm
- 19th **St. Joseph of Nazareth**
School Service in Bridge Church (Juniors), 9.45am
Friends' Wine & Wisdom Evening, Bekesbourne Village Hall, 7.00pm
- 20th *St. Cuthbert of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 687*
- 21st **The Fifth Sunday of Lent** (Passiontide begins)
See changes from the normal in the above service list.
- 22nd Saxon Lodge Comfy Care Clothing Sale, Bring & Buy and Coffee Morning, 10.15am
- 23rd Bridge & District History Society, Bridge Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 25th **The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary**
Holy Eucharist, St. Peter's Church, Bridge, 7.30pm
- 27th Women's Institute Jumble Sale, Bridge Village Hall, 10.00am-12 noon
- 28th **Palm Sunday**
See changes from the normal in the above service list. Palms will be distributed at the morning services in all three churches.
- 29th **Monday of Holy Week**
- 30th **Tuesday of Holy Week**
Nailbourne Horticultural Society Spring Show, Bridge Village Hall
- 31st **Wednesday of Holy Week**
- APRIL**
- 1st **Maundy Thursday**
Eucharist with Stripping of the Altars, St. Peter's Church, Bridge, 7.30pm
- 2nd **Good Friday**
VIA DOLOROSA Walking the Way of the Cross, starting in Bridge Church at 10.00am, with devotions at St. Mary's Church, Patricbourne en route, and at St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne as the climax.
- 3rd **Easter Eve**
- 4th **EASTER DAY**

Easter Communion, Patrixbourne, 9.30pm
Easter Eucharist, Bridge & Bekesbourne, 11.00am

FROM THE VICAR

Services not quite as normal

Sunday worship this month has had to be considerably re-jigged for Bekesbourne to have its customary and highly popular Mothering Sunday service at 11 o'clock on 14th. I suggest you keep the service list on p. 4 to hand throughout the month, particularly if you usually go to Patrixbourne or Bekesbourne churches.

With Easter coming early in April I've included those services in this month's list to give advanced notice of what's in store. Holy Week again has the usual evening Eucharist at Bridge to commemorate the Last Supper, with the Stripping of the Altars at the end. On Good Friday we shall again walk the way of the cross from Bridge Church, wending our way along the High Street, across the fields to Patrixbourne, then, hopefully by a circuitous route, to Bekesbourne for the commemoration of Christ's death on the cross.

In the interim

Before we arrive at the joys of Easter, however, Lent still has to run its course. With its emphasis on self-denial and repentance for our sins Lent is never likely to be a popular season. For one thing our churches never look their best devoid of flowers and the dominant purple colour for altar frontals and vestments imparts a slightly funereal atmosphere. Nor do we really take kindly to the sombre tone of the services, with less exuberant hymns and a greater concentration on our failings than we're accustomed to the rest of the year or find particularly comforting.

Nevertheless, from the earliest the Church came to recognize that, by a careful keeping of Lent, all Christians might take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord. It has been wisely said that the more disciplined we are in the keeping of Lent the stronger we will grow in the faith and the more responsive we shall be to the celebrations of Easter.

FAMILY NEWS

Heartiest congratulations to Jane and David Millyard on the birth of their grandson, Kieran on 11th February.

Baptism During the Family Service at Bekesbourne on 24th January the vicar baptized GEORGINA ELEANOR LIMBRAGH TOWNSEND of Four Acres, Bekesbourne Lane.

Obituary - Charles Harrington, Priest

All three churches of this benefice have reason to thank God for the ministry of the Revd Charles Harrington, who died on 11th February at Cheltenham at the age of 94 years.

Charles and his late wife Eve lived in retirement on Bridge Down, and with Canon Packer, held the fort during the interregnum of 1979 and took services on numerous occasions subsequently. He also served for many years as an honorary chaplain and guide at the Cathedral and was passionately involved in nuclear disarmament and other social issues of the time. To say he was retired belies the fact that he didn't really believe in retirement and created for himself a punishing daily schedule that would have tested the stamina of many half his age.

Soon after Eve's sudden death Charles left Bridge, but came back to visit his many friends on several occasions, driving himself down to Kent at the same furious pace at which he lived his life.

FREE HOUSEKEEPING MONEY!

by Sheila Fenn

It's true! If you are a taxpayer and currently contribute to the Church's housekeeping money either by planned-giving envelopes or by putting your donation in the plate when you come to Church, you could increase your gift by nearly 30p on every £1 simply by completing a covenant form. There would be no extra cost to you and the covenant could be amended or cancelled at any time. (The really surprising thing is that the extra money comes from the Inland Revenue giving the Church the income tax you have already paid whether you wanted to or not under PAYE!)

For further details of this and other ways of assisting our Church financially, please contact our helpful Covenants Officer, Norman Francis on 01227 850945.

* * *

The same goes for Bekesbourne, of course, and applications should be made to David Millyard on 01227 830256.

ELECTORAL ROLL RENEWAL

With the Annual Parochial Church Meetings looming (in April to be exact) it's time to begin making adjustments to the two parishes' Electoral Rolls - not to be confused with the civil Electoral Register of Voters.

Habitual worshippers, aged 16 and over, can apply to be put on the roll but will need to fill in an application form, copies of which will soon be available in each of the three churches.

Since last year quite a number of people have joined the church and we hope they will come on to the appropriate Electoral Roll, for not only does it provide the Parish concerned with a reasonably accurate register of its membership, it also gives those on the roll a vote in elections to such as the Deanery Synod (this year only) and Parochial Church Council. It also makes them eligible for election to these bodies.

Please pick up a form from church and return it either to one of the churchwardens or, in the case of Patricxbourne with Bridge, to the Electoral Roll Officer, 54 Bridge Down.

The Children's Society

COFFEE MORNING

(in lieu of a house-to-house collection)

Bridge Village Hall

Saturday, 6th March

10.00am - 12 noon

Cakes, Preserves, Books,

Bric-a-Brac, Raffle

Any contributions would be gratefully received

and may be left with

Kathy Eynon, 19 Bridge Down (tel: 830466)

or

Kath Pierce, 7 Windmill Close (tel: 830844).

If collection required please phone 830466.

BRIDGE with PATRIBOURNE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The speaker on Tuesday, 16th March will be Mrs C Brennan from Pfizers and the competition is your favourite pill box. New members will be made very welcome at 7.30pm in Bridge Village Hall.

There will be a Jumble Sale also in the hall with a cake stall on Saturday, 27th March from 10.00a. to 12 noon. J.H.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

There will be a service for Women's World Day of Prayer on Friday, 5th March at 3.00pm in Bridge Methodist Church. The speaker will be Mrs June Willis. All are welcome! Please come and join us on this special annual service!

EASTER FLOWERS at BRIDGE

Floral decorating for Easter at St. Peter's Church, Bridge will begin at 10.00am on Saturday, 3rd April. All help welcome!

Anyone wishing to buy an Easter lily, at the cost of £2.50 each, please contact Viv Brasier on 830981.

BEKESBOURNE FAMILY SERVICE

by Romany Cowans

Once again, Bekesbourne drew a large congregation for the Family Service on 24th January. We welcomed a new member into the Church through baptism and all the children gathered around the font to watch the proceedings.

These days most children are baptized when they are very young. Parents and Godparents make a promise to help them grow up as Christians. So why was Jesus baptized, since surely his life was an example to us all? But his baptism wasn't Christian baptism: his represented a washing away of sin, ours is initiation into the world-wide Church. Not surprisingly John the Baptist was puzzled when Jesus asked to be baptized in the River Jordan. Pat Kusel explained that when Jesus was baptized it heralded a new beginning for him. He left his life as a carpenter behind him and started afresh, spending his days healing, talking to people and teaching them about God. It's never too late for any of us to put the past behind us and start again. This is where Lent can be a help.

NAILBOURNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The society's Spring Show will be held on Tuesday, 30th March in its traditional location of the Village Hall in Bridge. The hall will be open from approximately 6.00pm to allow for entries to be staged, and judging will take place at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be available whilst the judging is in progress and the society

will be delighted to welcome members and interested parishioners along on the evening to enjoy what is always a colourful display of spring flowers.

To exhibit at the show you must be a paid up member of the society, but it is possible to join or renew your membership at the show. If you would like a show schedule please contact the show secretary, Mrs Billie Anderson, on 830260.

K. Walder

Bekesbourne Church

Cleaning & Flower Rota

Cleaning only during Lent -

6 March - Jenny Skinner

20 March - Linda Forrest

27 March - Jane Millyard/Jane Mason

MOTHERING SUNDAY posies please

for the service on 14th at 11.00am

BRIDGE & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

by Bill Dawson, Secretary

The Ghost Evening on Tuesday, 26th January at the White Horse Inn, Bridge, was anything but dull, starting with unexpected thunder and lightning. Bathed in candlelight, Stewart Ross told the dark tale of Nell Cook from the Ingoldsby Legends, and chairman John Bishop concluded with tales of apparitions seen at Bridge Hill.

The social half of the evening, held in the candlelit bar, featured a generous hot buffet, and mulled wine was also available. It was generally reckoned to have been one of the society's most successful winter evenings.

Next meeting *Researching the History of a House and its Occupants*, Tuesday, 23rd March, 7.30pm, Bridge Village Hall. Programmes and information from the secretary, tel 831044.

BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL: February Meeting

Parish Meeting The annual assembly, to which all parishioners are invited, will be held on Thursday 18 March at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. Ms A Harris-Deans, from Higham Park, Bridge has kindly agreed to talk to the meeting

about the work she and her partner are undertaking to restore Higham Park to its former glory. It should be an informative and entertaining evening.

Millennium Funding Meeting Cllr Anderson chaired a meeting of representatives from village clubs and organisations to discuss the possibility of funding from the Millennium Experience Company. A further meeting is to be held in the early summer to form a committee to organise millennium activities in the village. Any organisation or club which did not receive an invitation should contact the clerk on 01227 832219.

Bridge Village Hall Management Committee AGM The annual general meeting of the BVHMC will take place in the Hunter Room of the village hall on Thursday 4 March at 7.30 pm. All parishioners over 18 are invited to attend along with representatives from organisations which use the village hall.

Footpaths Cllr Connor reported that she had attended a meeting held by the Public Rights of Way authority where delegates were informed that a database is now used to log all paths and their furnishings. All map sheets are stored on computer and can easily be reproduced.

Recreation ground Quotations are to be sought for painting the spider and swings on the recreation ground to bring them up to the standard of the new equipment. It is hoped that this work can take place in early summer. Work is to be undertaken to remove low and broken branches from the trees on the recreation ground. Advice is being taken on the best way of preventing moles from causing damage to the pitches and it is hoped action can be taken soon.

Footways Further dropped kerbs to aid the disabled are to be installed in both Saxon Road and Churchill Close where they join Union Road.

Brewery Lane road closure The parish council has been notified of a 2 week road closure of Brewery Lane to through traffic beginning on 11 March 1999. This is to allow duct box laying for British Telecom to take place. Residents will be able to gain access at all times.

Planning applications The following planning applications have been received and commented upon:

CA/99/0075/BRI - front porch and two-storey extension to The Old Mill, 41 Union Road.

CA/99/0054/BRI - erection of a 2 metre high boundary fence to 16 Riverside Close.

The following applications have been notified as granted by Canterbury City Council:

CA/98/0596/BIS - conversion of oast house and stable range to 2 dwellings; use of outbuilding as car ports etc and erection of garage block to Middle Pett Farmhouse.

CAL/98/0178/BRI - rebuilding of attached outbuilding with first floor extension and conservatory to 38 High Street.

FISH NEWS

The monthly **Coffee Pop-In** in Bridge Village Hall will be on Wednesday, 10th March.

The **Blossom Tour**, arranged this year for Wednesday, 5th May, unhappily no longer involves much blossom. So it was suggested that the kind person whose legacy pays for the coach each year should have her name remembered, and hence the **Cornelia Slawin** (pronounced 'slarvin') Tour.

Cornelia Slawin came to this country to escape the Nazi persecution. She was offered work either as a kennel maid or in domestic service and opted for housemaid's work in Hampstead. She injured her leg, however, and had to spend some time in hospital. She was so impressed by the standard of nursing that she resolved to train as a nurse. After the war she moved to Canterbury and became the Matron of Nunnery Fields Hospital. On her retirement she came to Bridge and lived in Western Avenue. She used the services of the Fish Scheme and on her death left the legacy which provides income and, incidentally, resulted in the Fish Scheme having to register as a charity. We feel that it is important that her name is not forgotten.

If you want to go on the **Cornelia Slawin Tour** please telephone Mrs Mavis Parsons on 832042.

Finally, if you have some spare knitting wool please take it to the **Coffee Pop-In** or telephone Mrs Rosy Green on 830204. A.R.

JUST SPACE TO REPORT a great evening of partying, when Bekesbourne, Patrixbourne and Bridge Churches held their second **Mardi Gras Supper**. In the correct pre-Lent spirit of Shrove Tuesday, all enjoyed a truly festive event, with excellent company, Latin American food in plenty and carnival-style music from the same region to go with it. Many thanks to the cooks and other organizers.

Competitions spiced things up; the prize for children's face masks going to Robert Thomas, with Jeanette and Rosemary Kusel joint second. Jill Gillanders scooped the chocolates for the most flamboyant blouse and Jonathan Cowans was adjudged to be wearing the most florid shirt. The entire evening was a great success: a really first-rate jamboree!

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

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

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

Dr AM Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patricxbourne (830947)

Hon Secretary Mrs A Williamson, Beechmount, Conyngham Lane, Bridge (830399)

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

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

Organist (Bridge) Mr JF Atterbury, 18 Mount Road, Canterbury (760293)

Organist (Patricxbourne) Mrs RM Stacey, Joslet, Keepers Hill, Patricxbourne (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, Patricxbourne (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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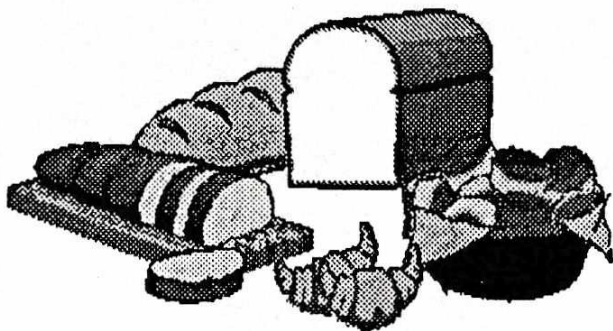
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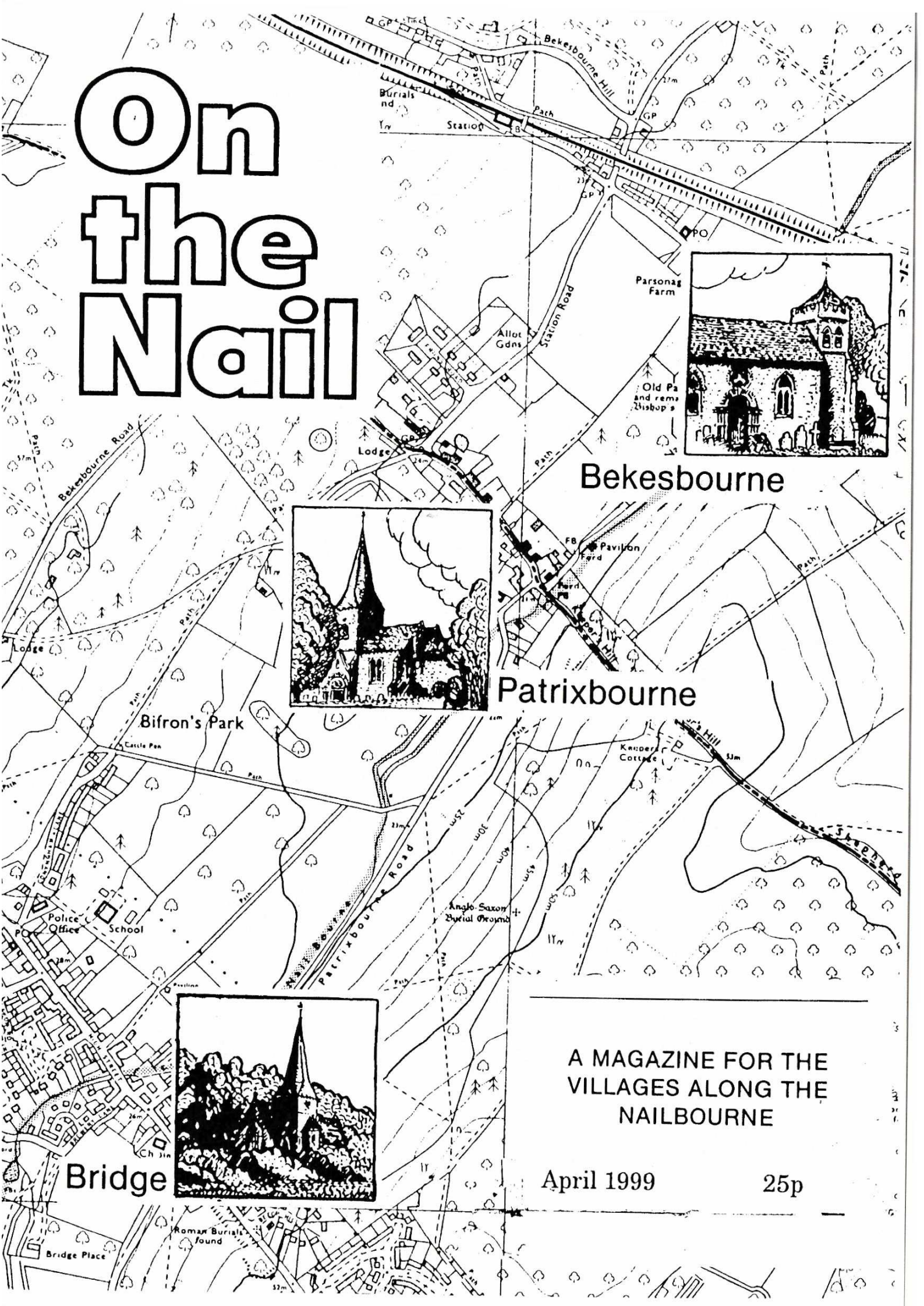
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Bekesbourne



Patrixbourne



Bridge

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April 1999

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SUNDAY WORSHIP IN APRIL

4th: EASTER DAY

9.30am Parish Communion (*Patricbourne*)

11.00am Easter Eucharists (*Bridge & Bekesbourne*)

11th: The Second Sunday of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion (*Bekesbourne*)

9.30am Parish Communion (*Bridge*)

11.00am Matins (*Patricbourne*)

18th: The Third Sunday of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion (*Patricbourne*)

9.30am Parish Communion (*Bridge*)

11.00am Matins (*Bekesbourne*)

25th: The Fourth Sunday of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion (*Bridge*)

9.30am Parish Communion (*Patricbourne*)

11.00am Pets Service (*Bekesbourne*)

6.30pm Evensong (*Bridge*)

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *4th*, Canon J Packer. *11th*, Mr Don Skinner. *18th*, Mr Michael Baybutt BSc, DMS, C.Eng. *25th*, The Revd David Marshall.

FOR YOUR DIARY AND PRAYER LIST

1st MAUNDY THURSDAY

Eucharist & Stripping of the Altars, 7.30pm

2nd GOOD FRIDAY

"VIA DOLOROSA" Walking the way of the Cross, beginning in St. Peter's Church, Bridge at 10.00am, calling in at Patricbourne Church and ending at Bekesbourne Church round about midday.

3rd Easter Eve

Friends of Bekesbourne Church Easter Egg Hunt, Cobham Court, 3.00pm

4th EASTER DAY *See above for service details.*

5th Monday in Easter Week

6th Tuesday in Easter Week

7th Wednesday in Easter Week

- 8th **Thursday in Easter Week**
- 9th **Friday in Easter Week**
- 10th **Saturday in Easter Week**
Church Spring Coffee Morning, Bridge Village Hall, 10.00 - 12 noon
- 11th **The Second Sunday of Easter**
- 13th Royal British Legion (Littlebourne Branch) meets in the Plough & Harrow, Bridge
- 14th Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am
- 15th Bridge Methodist Church 'extra' Coffee Morning & Sale, 10.00am
Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm
- 18th **The Third Sunday of Easter**
- 19th *St. Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1012*
Parish of Bekesbourne with Patrixbourne Annual Meeting, Bekesbourne Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 20th Patrixbourne with Bridge PCC, Bridge Methodist Church, 7.30pm
Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 21st *St. Anselm, Abbot of Le Bec, Archbishop of Canterbury, Teacher, 1109*
Bekesbourne Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Parsonage Farm, 7.30pm
- 23rd **St. George, Martyr, Patron of England, c.304**
- 25th **The Fourth Sunday of Easter**
- 26th **St. Mark the Evangelist**
Pray for Bridge School during its OFSTED inspection this week.
- 28th Patrixbourne with Bridge Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Bridge School, 7.30pm
- 29th *St. Catherine of Siena, Teacher, 1380*

FROM THE VICAR

According to Geoffrey Chaucer it was the arrival of spring in April that caused people to go on pilgrimage - 'to Canterbury they wend, the holy blissful martyr for to seek'. But it wasn't only the onset of spring nor the shrine of St. Thomas that created this restive urge, for folk have traditionally taken up their pilgrimage to the holy places, wherever and whenever they have chosen. They still do.

As I have written before, a favoured place of pilgrimage for me is the Holy Island of Lindisfarne off the north Northumberland coast, though I have yet to walk rather than drive across the sands to the island, let alone walk to it from further afield. But then again, in modern times walking isn't obligatory at such times, just more rewarding. I've been to Lindisfarne more than once, but then

there's nothing to stop pilgrims paying repeat visits to their chosen spot, especially when each occasion is different, with fresh joys to discover.

People went on pilgrimage in Old Testament times, the goal of their trek being the temple in Jerusalem, the high God's dwelling place on earth. Chaucer's fictitious pilgrims told stories en route: the Hebrew pilgrims sang songs, a representative selection being Psalms 120 to 128, the so-called pilgrim Psalms of Ascents. We shall be using some of them on the Good Friday walk along the way of the cross from Bridge, through Patrixbourne to Bekesbourne. Do join us!

It is increasingly common to view one's life as a pilgrimage, in which the twin pilgrim components, a directional journey and a goal as the culmination of it, form the ideal Christian pattern in life. The goal is the kingdom of heaven - not a geographical place 'above the bright blue sky' but a state of existence in perfect harmony with God, to the exclusion of all the ills and imperfections that mark our life on earth. The route is mapped out for us in the Bible and best taken through the fellowship of faith and bolstered up by our individual prayer times as well as shared worship. And just as those who embark on a pilgrim journey today have some idea of what they will find at the end, through photographs, reports brought back by those who have already been or from previous visits, so the Christian is not venturing entirely into the unknown. Unique to the Christian faith is a foretaste of that heaven to which we move, given us through the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Even now we can experience the joys and comforts of the presence of God touching our lives at various points. But only in heaven will we enjoy to the full that untarnished bliss in the unclouded vision of God, which is the goal to which our faith leads us and which will be ours at the last. Meanwhile,

He who would valiant be
'Gainst all disaster,
Let him in constancy
Follow the Master.

FUND-RAISERS' THANKS

The Children's Society

Thank you to all who enabled us to raise the excellent sum of £330 at the Coffee Morning on 6th March. The support of helpers and contributors is greatly appreciated by the Society (and by me, Kathy Eynon).

Home and shop boxes were being emptied throughout March and these also provide much needed funds for *The Children's Society's* work with disadvantaged children.

Nailbourne League of Friends of Canterbury Hospitals

A big thank you to all who came along to support the League Coffee Morning and AGM. £84 was raised.

The Nailbourne Committee is unchanged for the forthcoming year. Elizabeth Stewart Chairman, Maggie Fairweather Treasurer, Christine Heap Secretary, Rosie Green Vice-chairman, plus Wendy Durrell, Madeleine Franklin, Kate Whitten and Jane Millyard. Also a big thank you to all the Friends of the League and all who support our Nailbourne events. *Rosie Green*

DOROTHY KATE ARMAN

The family of the late DOROTHY KATE ARMAN attended Matins at St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne on Sunday, 21st February, after which Mrs Arman's ashes were interred in the churchyard. A long-standing resident of Aerodrome Road, Mrs Arman died in the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital in Shropshire on 23rd January.

St. Mary's, Patrixbourne & St. Peter's, Bridge

Spring Coffee Morning



Bridge Village Hall

Saturday, 10th April

10.00am - 12.00noon

Homemade Cakes, Bottle Stall, Prize Draw,
Books & Toys, Plants, Preserves & Gifts

*Donations for the stalls can be given to
Pat Dunderdale, Sheila Fenn or Andrea Nicholson
or can be brought to the Hall on the day.*

Bridge & District History Society

Historian and official cathedral guide, Meriel Connor began her special tour of Canterbury Cathedral on Saturday, 27th February by emphasising the all-embracing influence of the church and monarch in medieval times, and their dual role in creating such vast treasure houses.

Every aspect of a cathedral with its soaring architecture, stained glass and wall paintings, reinforced the message of a unique place where man and God could connect. This spiritual existence was heightened by the laity being largely excluded from the chancel and high altar and having to worship in the nave, with the need to build such a large space to accommodate the pilgrims who regularly visited Becket's tomb.

The laity's donations were used for improving and embellishing the buildings. In return, the monks prayed to ease their journey to paradise, and their coats of arms were displayed in prominent positions on roof bosses and on their tombs.

An interesting point was made by Meriel about the representation in the cathedral of St. Christopher, who both protected those travelling, and everyone from sudden death such as the plague.

Programme and information on the Society from the secretary Bill Dawson Tel 01227 831044.

Bridge with Patricxbourne Women's Institute

On Tuesday, 20th April Mr Ewart returns, this time with a talk entitled *Elementary Schooling, Victorian - Edwardian Times*. The competition is an antique book. Visitors will be made very welcome at 7.30pm in Bridge Village Hall.

Bekesbourne Family Service

The Bekesbourne Family Service at St. Peter's Church on Sunday, 28th February again attracted a good attendance. It was led by Pat Kusel with members of the congregation helping to illustrate points made. The Vicar accompanied the hymns on the organ and gave the blessing.

The main theme was how the Bible, whilst providing the basis for the church's teaching, is not one book but many, covering a wide range of different forms of literature, e.g. history (the books of Kings and Chronicles), law (the first five books of the Old Testament), poetry (Psalms) and letters (Romans, Corinthians, etc).

Coffee and biscuits were served after the service, with squash for the children.

David Millyard

Friends of Bekesbourne Church

An Easter egg hunt at Cobham Court has been arranged for Holy Saturday, 3rd April at 3pm, with the proceeds going to Bekesbourne Church. Please book your ticket (at £1 per child) from Mrs Jill Thomas on 832573.

KNEELERS for BEKESBOURNE CHURCH

Would anyone like to work a kneeler for Bekesbourne Church? The kits are very easy to make up and are a colourful and permanent way to commemorate an event or loved one. I have the latest design leaflet, which has several new patterns, including a bell-ringers one and some specifically commemorating the year 2000. The cost of a kit is about £21, plus postage which works out cheaper if we order several at the same time. Do let me know if you are interested (Tel:830256).

Jane Millyard

BRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

Mabel Harrison, Church Steward, tells us that Bridge Methodists are holding a further COFFEE MORNING & SALE, on Thursday, 15th April at 10.00am, to raise money for replacement kneelers at their Church. Everyone is assured of a very warm welcome.



YEWS FOR THE MILLENNIUM

by Jane Millyard

The Yew tree *Taxus baccata* has long been associated with churchyards and research over the past few years has shown that a number of them predate not only the church building, but Christianity itself. This longevity and the fact that they could be cut again and again, re-sprouting strong new shoots, were the stuff of parables signifying resurrection and rebirth.

As we approach the celebration of 2000 years since the birth of Christ, the Conservation Foundation has taken cuttings from yew trees believed to be living at least 2000 years ago. These are being offered to parishes who would like to plant one in their churchyard and over 5000 have already registered. Bekesbourne has requested one of these seedling trees, which will be distributed to the Canterbury Diocese at a service in the Cathedral next November.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

9th - 15th May

Once again we are approaching the time for our house to house collection in all three villages as our effort to support the vital work of *Christian Aid*.

Whilst I am writing personally to those who have helped with the collection in the past, new helpers are needed. If you feel you could manage to deliver to and collect from even just half a dozen houses, your assistance would be very much appreciated, and would help to lighten the load of those already involved. Please contact me on 832447 (evenings/weekends). *Chris Hoare*

Parish of Bekesbourne with Patrixbourne

The Annual Meeting of the Parish of Bekesbourne with Patrixbourne will be held at 7.30pm on Monday, 19th April in Bekesbourne Village Hall. All residents of the parish are warmly invited to attend.

This year there will be no outside speaker and the meeting will take the form of a Village Forum. There will be discussions on the proposals to build further houses at Cranmer Close and on the village plans for the Millennium. There will be reports from village groups and the meeting will finish with refreshments. *Jill Thomas, Parish Clerk*

BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL - Notes from the March meeting

Millennium Funding Meeting A further meeting of those representing village organisations and interested in forming a Millennium Committee will be held in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall on Tuesday, 27 April at 8.00 pm. Individual invitations will be sent to those who attended the first meeting, but anyone else interested in attending should contact the clerk on 832219.

Affordable housing in rural areas The Parish Council meeting was attended by Ms Alison Fitzgerald, Rural Housing Enabler, from Kent Rural Community Council. Ms Fitzgerald, speaking at the invitation of the chairman, said that there was a lack of affordable housing for rental or shared ownership in the Canterbury rural area, for those on low incomes. She emphasised that a proven need has to be established before any project could begin and a site identified which would not

normally be available for housing. Any housing built would be legally restricted for local population occupancy and in a community of 3000 or less there was no automatic right to buy under the scheme. The first step was to undertake a survey to establish whether a need existed in Bridge or not. The Parish Council agreed that Ms Fitzgerald could undertake a survey to determine any need.

Footway between Bridge and the Gate Inn At the suggestion of a parishioner, the Parish Council has requested that the footway between the village and the Gate Inn be improved for the benefit of those using it as a route to school or to work. Additionally the Parish Council has requested that a cycle route be incorporated into the work and that it is linked to the Safer Routes to School Project. Notification has been received that there is no money for an improvement such as this, due to the low usage of the footway. The Parish Council would be grateful to hear from pedestrian users of the footway or from those who would use it more frequently were it in better condition. Likewise, anyone who uses the route to cycle into Canterbury or who would use it should a cycle lane be introduced should contact the Parish Council through the clerk on the number given above, so that evidence can be provided to support the need for an improvement.

Planning applications The following planning applications have been received:

- (i) CA/99/0198/BRI and CAL/99/0025/BRI: Ground and first-floor extensions to facilitate conversion of flat over garage to residential accommodation ancillary to dwelling at 65 High Street.
- (ii) CA/99/0134/BRI: Two storey side extension to 15 Green Court.
- (iii) CA/99/0211/BRI: Two storey extension to Little Swallows, Beech Hill.
- (iv) CA/99/0177/BRI: Change of use to two dwellings with alterations including removal of shop front and extension to provide first-floor accommodation to 26 High Street.

The following planning applications have been notified as granted:

- (i) CA/99/0054/BRI: Erection of 2m high boundary fence to 16 Riverside Close.
- (ii) CA/99/0075/BRI: Front porch and two-storey rear extension to 41 Union Road.

FISH NEWS

Please telephone Mrs Mavis Parsons on 832042 if you would like to go on the Cornelia Slawin (Blossom) Tour on Wednesday, 5th May.

Our annual Coffee Morning is on Saturday, 22nd May in Bridge Village Hall. Please grow extra plants and seedlings and, later on, bake cakes.

The next Chiropody Clinic is from 6th to 9th April. As usual please telephone Mrs Joan Warren for details.

Lastly, the next Coffee Pop-In in Bridge Village Hall is on Wednesday, 14th April.

ADVANCE NOTICE BRIDGE SUMMER FETE

An important date for your diary is **19th June**, when church and school combine forces to stage the Summer Fête from 12 noon to 4.00pm.

We would appreciate your help to start collecting items for the stalls. As usual we need books, toys, bottles, gifts, crafts, bric-a-brac and old crockery. This year we also hope to have "nearly new" clothes and glassware stalls.

If you can help in any way before the Fête or on the day, please contact school on 830276. Looking forward to hearing from you. *Barbara Beinder*

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11.30am - 2pm

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YOGA FOR THOSE MONDAY MORNING BLUES

by Jill Thomas

One of the best things about the Monday morning Yoga class in Bekesbourne Village Hall is the laughter. And if, like me, you wake stiff and sluggish on a Monday, the combination of stretching and relaxing is the perfect antidote. Currently half a dozen of us take to our mats under the leadership of Jill Hemmings. There is plenty of room for more and new class members would be very welcome. The class runs from 10.00 until 11.30am and is suitable for all ages. To find out more, call into the hall on a Monday morning or ring Jill on 457570.

The class want to say a public thank-you to the Village Hall Committee for organizing the new double-glazed windows. They not only make it appreciably warmer inside the hall, but cut out much of the traffic noise.

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

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

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

Dr AM Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patricxbourne (830947)

Hon Secretary Mrs A Williamson, Beechmount, Conyngham Lane, Bridge (830399)

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

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

Organist (Bridge) Mr JF Atterbury, 18 Mount Road, Canterbury (760293)

Organist (Patricxbourne) Mrs RM Stacey, Joslet, Keepers Hill, Patricxbourne (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, Patricxbourne (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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Items for *On The Nail* should reach the editor by the 15th of the preceding month.

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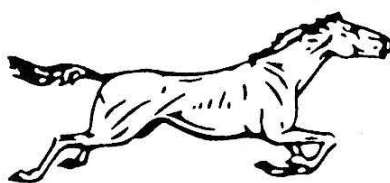


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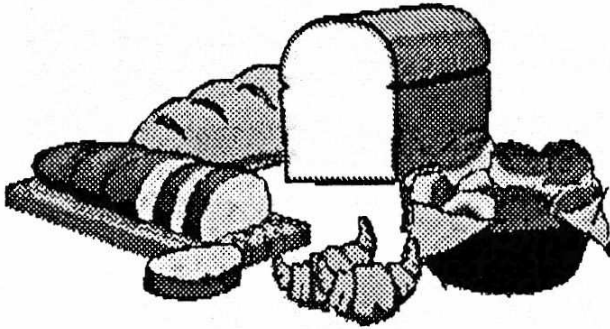
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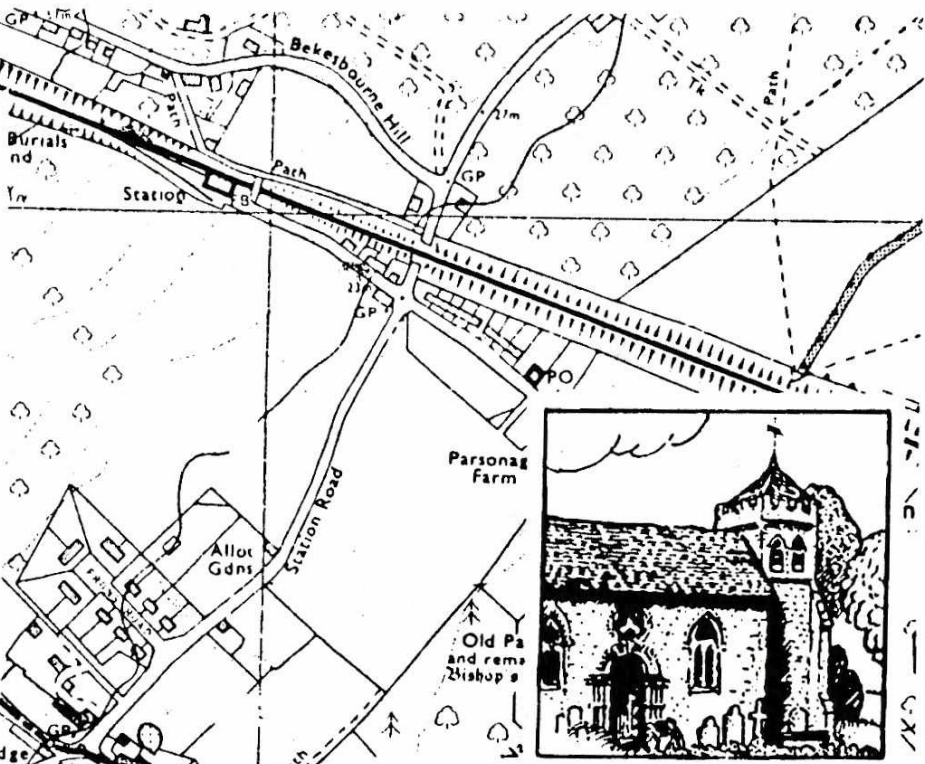
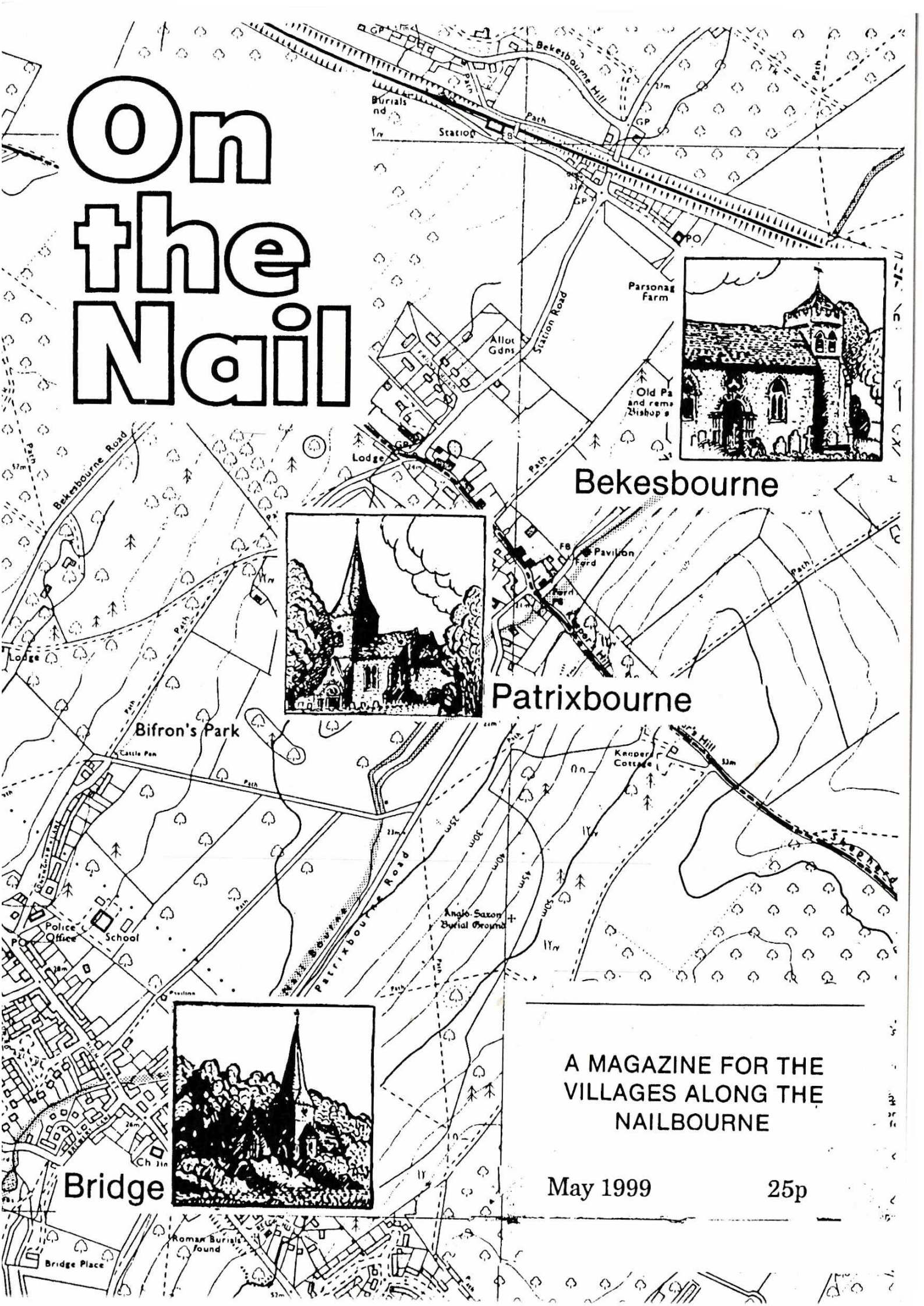
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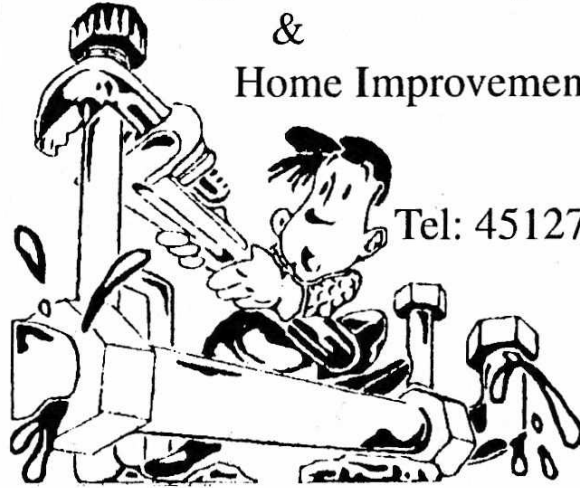
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SUNDAY WORSHIP IN MAY

2nd: Fifth Sunday of Easter

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Patixbourne*)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (*Bekesbourne*)
- 11.00am Family Service with Baptism (*Bridge*)
- 6.30pm Evensong (*Bridge*)

9th: Sixth Sunday of Easter

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Bekesbourne*)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (*Bridge*)
- 11.00am Matins (*Patixbourne*)

16th: Seventh Sunday of Easter

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Patixbourne*)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (*Bridge*)
- 11.00am Matins (*Bekesbourne*)

23rd: DAY OF PENTECOST (Whit Sunday)

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Bridge*)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (*Patixbourne*)
- 11.00am Family Eucharist (*Bekesbourne*)
- 6.30pm Evensong (*Bridge*)

30th: TRINITY SUNDAY

- 10.30am Benefice Eucharist (*Patixbourne*)
- 12.15pm Holy Baptism (*Bridge*)

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: 2nd, Mr Kenneth Elgar. 9th, The Revd Maurice Weatherup. 16th, Mrs Christine Bence. 23rd, Mr Albert Hammond. 30th, The Revd George Baugh.

FOR YOUR DIARY AND PRAYER LIST

- 1st **St. Philip and St. James, Apostles**
- 2nd **The fifth Sunday of Easter**
- 4th *The English Saints and Martyrs of the Reformation Era*
- 6th Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm
- 8th *Julian of Norwich, Spiritual Writer, c1417*

- Wine & Wisdom Evening for Kosovo, Bridge Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 9th **The Sixth Sunday of Easter**
The annual Rogationtide walk sets off from Bekesbourne Village Hall at 9.45am.
- 9th-15th is Christian Aid Week. Please be particularly generous this year.
- 10th *Rogation Day*
- 11th *Rogation Day*
- 12th *Rogation Day*
Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am
- 13th **ASCENSION DAY**
The Eucharist will be celebrated by the Revd John Shorrocks in St. Peter's Church, Bridge at 7.30pm.
Bridge Parish Council Meeting, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
- 14th **St. Matthias the Apostle**
- 16th **The Seventh Sunday of Easter**
Friends of Bekesbourne Church Open Garden, Wootton Farm, 2.30 - 5.00pm
- 18th The Archdeacon of Canterbury's Visitation for Churchwardens, Sidesmen and PCC members in the Cathedral Quire at 7.30pm.
- 19th *St. Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, Restorer of Monastic Life, 988*
Please pray for the clergy of East Bridge Deanery who meet in chapter this lunchtime.
- 20th *Alcuin of York, Deacon, Abbot of Tours, 804*
Bridge Methodist Church Fellowship Hour, 3.00pm
Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm
Nailbourne Horticultural Society, Bridge Methodist Church, 7.30pm
- 22nd Fish Scheme Coffee Morning, Bridge Village Hall
- 23rd **DAY OF PENTECOST (Whit Sunday)**
- 24th *John and Charles Wesley, Evangelists, Hymn Writers, 1791 and 1788*
- 25th *Venerable Bede, Monk of Jarrow, Scholar, Historian, 735*
Bridge & District History Society, Conrad Hall, Bishopsbourne
- 26th *St. Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury*
- 28th *Lanfranc, Prior of Bec, Archbishop of Canterbury, Scholar, 1089*
- 30th **TRINITY SUNDAY**
If you want to come to the 10.30am Benefice Eucharist at Patricbourne but can't get there under your own steam, the churchwardens listed on page 21 will be only too pleased to arrange a lift for you. They would love to hear from you any time - the earlier the better.

FROM THE VICAR

Oh, for some *good* news! Day after day the diet's the same, and even when, well into the bulletin, the newsreader says, "Now for the rest of the news" what we get isn't necessarily lighter, just less important by media standards. They do say, no news is good news, but there must be limits!

Then we feel guilty. Who are we to complain about such as the endless, in depth coverage of affairs re Serbia, NATO, Kosovo et al? After all, once saturation sets in we can always switch off or channel hop till we find something more cheerful. Somehow it's not that easy. We know it can't affect the situation, yet we feel callous obliterating from our sight and thus our minds the masses of people out there for whom there is no escape. Somehow we feel duty bound to watch and read all about it, however unpalatable it gets.

But let's be grown up about this. Take what you can from media input, and don't make your life a misery if you can't stand scenes of human devastation. When the newscaster says, "You may find this report disturbing" switch off with a clear conscience, and do what you feel you can, like sending a donation to the Kosovo Appeal and remembering the situation in your prayers. Neither of these responses is a cop out; especially the last, which St. Paul described as extremely potent in its effects.

* * *

In the midst of all this came the staggering news from Cardinal Basil Hume that he is suffering from secondary, inoperable cancer and has only a limited time left. More bad news: yet to hear him speak about it, it's good news. Now how can this be?

Though Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster and leader of the Roman Catholic Church in England, Basil Hume is first and foremost a Benedictine monk, who intended one day to retire to his abbey home. His contribution to the Christian health of this country is that of a deeply spiritual priest and is immeasurable, whether you're RC or not. His death will be felt far wider than within his own communion. The wonderful thing is that he has announced the fact and not allowed it to creep up on everyone unawares. Even more and by so doing, he has lit a candle for all fellow sufferers, pointing the way forward in terms of a positive not a negative approach. He would not see it as bravado but as proclaiming, staying true to the Christian gospel (and 'gospel' means 'good news') in a practical way, showing his profound conviction that death is not the end of all

things, beyond which is only the blackness of oblivion, but that there is light and life to come that eclipses even the very best this life affords.

It's significant that the Cardinal made his announcement while it is still Easter, for therein lies the ground for his convictions; convictions we can all share through the resurrection of Christ from the dead. And that's the ultimate good news!

JOYS AND SORROWS

The infant son of Nicholas and Katrina Lennox-Gurr of 1 Cranmer Close, was christened ARCHIE JAKOB MORAY FRANCES NOAH by the vicar in St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne on 28th March.

* * *

The wedding of SAMANTHA PAYNE and JONATHAN GOLDFINCH took place at Bekesbourne on 17th April, the Revd John Shorrocks officiating.

* * *

A longstanding resident of Bridge, Mrs WINIFRED CLARKE, Grindley Lodge, Higham Lane, died on 31st March and the vicar conducted her funeral service in St. Peter's Church on 8th April, prior to cremation at Barham.

The vicar also officiated at the cremation of Miss ALICE THOMPSON, a resident of The New Close, on 9th April. Alice had been an avid supporter of the 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon service at the home, which is still held and to which parishioners are always welcome. Those of us who regularly attend and two of the care assistants formed the small congregation at her funeral.

The death is also recorded of LESLIE ROLAND DAWSON, 21 Windmill Close and BILL WALKER, 3 Ford Close.

PIKES AMONG THE PEAKS

Awaiting the vicar on his return from holiday was a postcard from Nepal in Hilary Pike's unmistakable handwriting. Written on 5th April in Pokhara, and with a picture of three Himalayan peaks on the back, she writes: *Dear Rosemary, Raymond and all at St. Peter's. Well we've made it to Nepal. There aren't enough adjectives in the English language to describe this incredible country. No wonder Katie loves it so. We have just returned to comparative civilisation after four wonderful days in her village. She is the picture of health and oh so happy. She loves the school and even the diet of twice daily rice and lentils and nothing else!!! She is in the real Nepal but I have to say I am glad to return to hot showers and flushing loos! Everyone is so friendly and eager to help, despite having almost nothing. Love S.H.E, and of course K.*

For those who subscribed to Katie's expedition the money obviously wasn't wasted. It's good to hear of her robust health as she was quite ill shortly before she left.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 9th - 15th MAY

Christian Aid is the official agency of 40 church denominations in the United Kingdom and Ireland supporting work in more than 60 countries worldwide, to enable poor communities to help themselves. This means funding locally based projects, which help people in a number of different ways, for example:

providing seeds and tools so that families can grow enough to eat;

building new wells to provide safe clean water;

paying for emergency aid in times of crisis;

talking with people about the causes of their poverty, and arguing their case to those who have the power to change things.

Christian Aid was the first charity to hold a house-to-house collection, and once again the parishes of Bridge, Patrixbourne and Bekesbourne will be taking part.

Please be as generous as you can when the Christian Aid envelope comes through your letter box. If you are unable to hand your envelope to your collector, it can be returned direct to me. If you would like to participate in the collection in any way, please contact me - offers of assistance are always welcome!

I am very grateful to those kind persons who have agreed to undertake collections. It would be of further assistance if they could return envelopes to me on Sunday, 16th May between 11.00am and 12 noon so that I may have the opportunity to say "thank you" and to offer some light refreshment.

Christine Hoare, 25 The Close (832447)

EASTER FLOWERS

Once again our flower ladies did a great job over Easter, giving us church decorations to be proud of that really added to the splendour of our worship at the greatest festival in the calendar.

In the case of Bridge Viv Brasier wishes to thank all the generous donors for Easter lilies and her small band of helpers. They can rest assured their skilled efforts were much enjoyed by everyone who came to church on Easter morning. She offers a special word of thanks to whoever had arum lilies delivered to the church on the Saturday morning, along with a card that simply read 'From a Friend'.

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Fund-raising from Home and Shop Boxes

These boxes are emptied annually and for the year ending 31st March those held locally yielded a total of £373.57 for the Society's funds, proving once again that pence become pounds when put by in this way. Sincere thanks to our 27 box holders for their generous support.

Should anyone else like to try having a small box at home for loose change to benefit this charity's work with children, please contact Kathy Eynon, 19 Bridge Down, tel: 839466, who has a supply of boxes with the new logo.

REPAIRS TO BEKESBOURNE CHURCH

I hope that by the time you read this, work will have started to repair St Peter's Church. The builders are W C Gregory of Wingham, who estimate that the main contract will last for 12 weeks. The vestry will be out of action for longer than this, however, as we have to allow for the walls to dry out after all the internal plaster has been stripped off.

In spite of the church being rather dark and dusty, we intend to continue with all the usual round of services. All the brass has been stored safely and we are grateful to Bridge church for lending us the wooden cross and candlesticks from the Lady chapel altar. The organ will be covered with protective polythene, but it will still be usable while work on the vestry continues. The east windows behind the altar will be boarded up during external repairs and the bells will be out of action while work is carried out in the tower and the Palmer memorial restored.

Church cleaners will find their job rather dustier than usual, I'm afraid, but if things get too bad we will organise weekly cleaning parties. Flower arrangers may find the water butt disappears pending installation of a new one, but we will try to keep a full watering can in the church! It's exciting that a start is finally being made after nearly 2 years of planning.

Jane Millyard

BRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

On Thursday, 20th May at 3.00pm we are holding a Fellowship Hour at the church when afternoon tea will be served. There will be a talk with slides by Mr Alec Shelley on *Gardens of Kent*. All are welcome, so please come and join us in a happy social hour and bring a friend.

Mabel Harrison, Steward

BRIDGE & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

A large audience was absorbed by Peter Ewart's talk **Researching the History of a House & its Occupants** at Bridge Village Hall on Tuesday, 26th March, which he gave about a cottage he had bought in Shatterling.

Dating from the mid-19th century the house was not interesting architecturally as it had been modernised in the 1970s and only the remains of a bread oven were found behind the restoration work.

Peter's interest in its social aspect was aroused when he delved into the title deeds and found this was the second building on the site in a rural area that had changed little in centuries. Peter Ewart then traced back several generations of families connected with the cottage and talked to them about their memories, and their photographs showed details of the cottage and the surrounding area as it had once been. When researching your house's history Peter recommended a booklet from County Hall as a good guide for beginners.

The society's next meeting is on Tuesday, 25th May at the Conrad Hall, Bishopsbourne on the theme *Joseph Conrad and the Bishopsbourne Years*. The society programme details can be obtained from the secretary, Bill Dawson, by phoning 831044.

NAILBOURNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The next evening meeting of the Society is on Thursday, 20th May at 7.30pm in Bridge Methodist Church, when Mr Leo Wessel from Summerfield Nurseries at Staple will give a talk on the (thorny?!) subject of roses. As always non members are very welcome to join us.

Kathy Walder, Secretary

BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL: The Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 18 March when the chairman, Cllr Meriel Connor, reported some of the activities which had taken councillors' time during the previous 12 months. These included the Nailbourne Flood Alleviation scheme, which the Environment Agency had been planning over a number of years, the upgrading to part night photo electric cells of 10 lighting columns as well as the installation of a new column in Higham Lane. To celebrate the arrival of a new millennium, several activities had been planned, including the construction of a new footbridge over the ford at Mill Lane, planting of bulbs, trees and shrubs at various points in the village and refurbishment of the allotments. Additionally a contribution is to be made to the repair of St Peter's church clock and new playground equipment had already been installed on the recreation ground. Cllr Connor thanked councillors for the diverse contributions which they made to village life.

The guest speaker at the meeting was Amanda Harris-Deans, who with her business associates, bought Higham Park in 1995. Ms Harris-Deans talked about the renovations which had been undertaken in both the house and the

garden, reporting that most of the 87 rooms were in a bad state of repair when the house was bought. Gradually the ground floor rooms had been restored and some were now open to the public. Work had also been done in the grounds and local residents had provided photographs showing the original gardens to assist in the restoration. The chairman thanked Ms Harris-Deans for her interesting and informative talk.

Janet Potter, Clerk

FISH NEWS

We hope you will have grown extra plants for the Fish Coffee Morning on Saturday, 22nd May in Bridge Village Hall. But if not, come and buy them instead, along with our excellent cakes.

The Cornelia Slawin Blossom Tour is on Wednesday, 5th May. Please telephone Mrs Mavis Parsons for the details.

The next Coffee Pop-In will be on Wednesday, 12th May and may we make our periodic appeal for knitting wool.

Patixbourne with Bridge PCC urgently seeks
someone willing to take on the key role of
HONORARY TREASURER
with immediate effect.

If this is you and you're willing to come to our rescue please contact either the Vicar or one of the Churchwardens. The PCC accounts are computerised and in excellent order. In addition the diocese offers free training sessions.

BRIDGE VILLAGE FETE - 19th June

12 noon - 4.00pm

To make this year's Fête an enjoyable occasion for all and a great success we need contributions for the following stalls: plants, books, toys, crafts, cakes, bottles, white elephant, nearly new clothes, glassware. If you can help in any way before the Fête or on the day please contact the school on 830276. We need lots of help

the week before with the door-to-door collecting: if you can help Martin Leggatt with this, please ring him on 830251.

There will be a Grand Parade of children in Fancy Dress, starting at 11.45am from the Red Lion car park (no parking at the pub, please!). To encourage as many children as possible to take part, parents, please start thinking of the costume now and let your imagination run riot!

Barbara Beinder

SCHOOL SUCCESSES

Simon Langton Boys' Grammar School recently ran a mini-saga competition and we're delighted that two children from Bridge School were winner and runner-up.

The contestants had to write a story in exactly 50 words and here are the winning entries.

NOT QUITE A HOLIDAY

by Rebecca Seymour

I sat down on the train. It jolted. I was off. It was a long hard journey. Suddenly I arrived at a station. Inside steps seemed to echo, smells of dust lingered in the air. I waited. A tall, shadowy lady stood before me. "No, I won't have this evacuee".

BATTLEFIELD

by Matthew Thackeray

We stood arguing not bothering to look at how dangerous the place was. I stomped forwards forcing him back. I turned away, but heard a scream. Running back, I looked over the scaffolding. He lay on the mud about fifty feet below. I never went to the building site again.

OPEN GARDEN, SUNDAY, 16th MAY

Once again, Lady Mount is very kindly opening her beautiful gardens at Wootton Farm in aid of Bekesbourne Church. In addition to seeing the gardens, visitors will be able to have delicious teas, with home-made cakes to eat or buy, and there will be stalls for plants, toys, books and bric-a-brac. Admission £2, children 50p.

The Friends of Bekesbourne Church need good quality used toys and children's books, as well as bric-a-brac items, to sell at their fund-raising events. Please contact Jane Shorrock on 832133 if you can help.

ADVANCE NOTICE Our annual BOOT FAIR is on Saturday, 19th June from 9.00am. Please book pitches with Zan Clifford on 830328.

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

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

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

Dr AM Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patricbourne (830947)

Hon Secretary Mrs A Williamson, Beechmount, Conyngham Lane, Bridge (830399)

Hon Treasurer Vacant

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

Organist (Bridge) Mr JF Atterbury, 18 Mount Road, Canterbury (760293)

Organist (Patricbourne) Mrs RM Stacey, Joslet, Keepers Hill, Patricbourne (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, Patricbourne (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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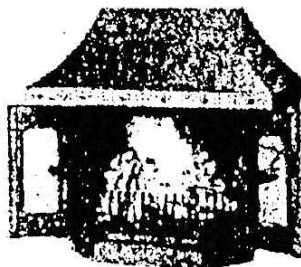
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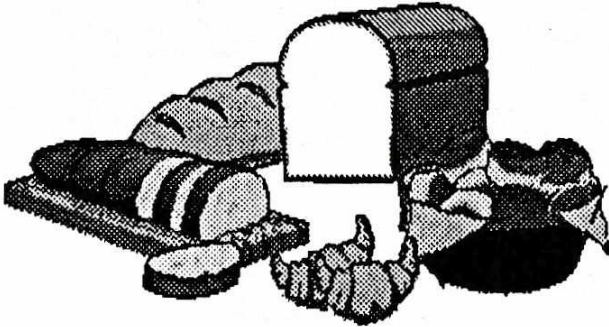
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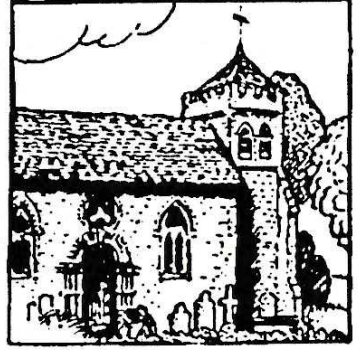
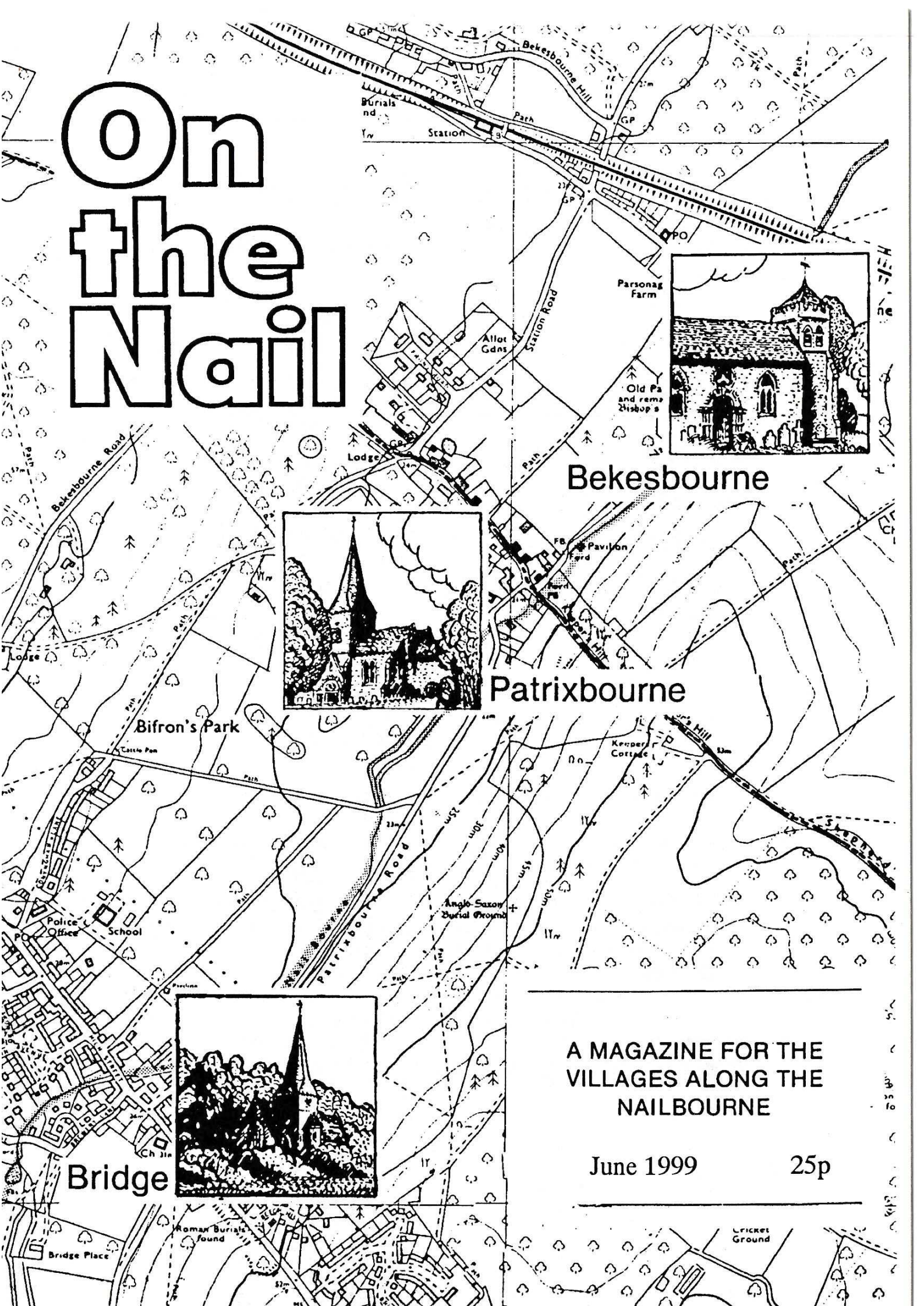
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SUNDAY WORSHIP IN JUNE

6th: First Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Patixbourne*)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (*Bekesbourne*)
- 11.00am Family Service with Baptism (*Bridge*)
- 6.30pm Evensong (*Bridge*)

13th: Second Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Bekesbourne*)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (*Bridge*)
- 11.00am Matins (*Patixbourne*)

20th: Third Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Patixbourne*)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (*Bridge*)
- 11.00am Matins (*Bekesbourne*)
- 12.15pm Holy Baptism (*Patixbourne*)

27th: Fourth Sunday after Trinity

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

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *6th*, Mr Michael Baybutt, BSc, DMS, CEng. *13th*, Church Anniversary, The Revd Canon John Packer. *20th*, Holy Communion, The Revd David Marshall. *27th*, Mr Alan Thorn.

FOR YOUR DIARY AND PRAYER LIST

- 1st *Justin, Martyr at Rome, c165*
- 3rd **Day of Thanksgiving for Holy Communion (Corpus Christi)**
Holy Communion, St. Peter's Church, Bridge, 7.30pm
- 4th Pray for Marina Hennessy and Matthew Palmer, to be married at noon in St. Peter's Church, Bridge.

- 5th *St. Boniface (Wynfrith) of Crediton, Bishop, Apostle of Germany, Martyr, 754*
- 6th **The First Sunday after Trinity**
- 8th *Thomas Ken, Bishop of Bath and Wells, Non-Juror, Hymn Writer, 1711*
- 9th *St. Columba, Abbot of Iona, Missionary, 597*
 Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am
 Patrixbourne with Bridge PCC meeting, St. Peter's Church, 7.30pm
- 10th Bridge Parish Council Meeting, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
- 11th **St. Barnabas the Apostle**
- 12th Recital by the Trillium Brass Quintet, St. Peter's Church, Bridge, 7.00pm
- 13th **The Second Sunday after Trinity**
- 15th Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 16th *St. Richard, Bishop of Chichester, 1253*
- 17th Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm
- 19th Bekesbourne Boot Fair, Parsonage Farm, 9.00am
BRIDGE VILLAGE FETE, School Grounds, 12 noon to 4.00pm
- 20th **The Third Sunday after Trinity**
- 22nd *St. Alban, first Martyr of Britain, c.250*
- 23rd *St. Etheldreda, Abbess of Ely, c.678*
- 24th **The Birth of St. John the Baptist**
 Nailbourne Horticultural Society Garden Safari, 'Bradgate' School Lane, Bekesbourne, 7.00pm
- 26th Pray for Jamie Hollingsbee and Michelle Barrigan, to be married this afternoon in St. Peter's Church, Bridge.
- 27th **The Fourth Sunday after Trinity**
- 29th **St. Peter the Apostle, Patron of Bridge and Bekesbourne**
 Holy Eucharist, St. Peter's Church, Bridge, 7.30pm

FROM THE VICAR

In the middle of last month I, along with our church officers and councillors, toddled along to the cathedral for what is called the Archdeacon's Visitation. It's a curious title, in that, contrary to what it might suggest, it's we who do the visiting. The object of the exercise is to enable the Archdeacon to admit all the churchwardens and sidesmen of his domain into office for another year.

The office of churchwarden is a very ancient one; it's also the most senior post open to a lay person in the Church of England. Each parish has two churchwardens and although they are principally officers of the bishop, their sphere of

influence is confined to the parish and its overall wellbeing. A large part of what they do is support the incumbent (vicar) and bring to the Archdeacon's notice any problems that affect the running of the parish and of which they feel he ought to be informed.

At this point I want to pay a warm tribute to the four churchwardens of this two-parish benefice: their names appear in every month's *On The Nail*, p. 21. Each one fulfils the role with considerable skill and dedication, bringing to the task precisely those qualities one looks for in the ideal churchwarden, bolstered up by a life of quiet personal devotion. On the practical level we owe it to our churchwardens that the work at Bekesbourne Church is going ahead, that Bridge has exciting plans for the future and Patrixbourne is in such a fine state of preservation. Our churchwardens also make a valued contribution to the worship that goes on in our church buildings and to the welcoming ethos of the church communities.

Apart from admitting churchwardens, an archdeacon's visitation duties also include delivering a charge to the parishes. This is an address of encouragement to the assembled company and copies are handed out as people leave. This was John Pritchard's third charge, and it was every bit as sparkling and stimulating as we've come to expect from such a strikingly popular archdeacon: the sort of address that bears re-reading and indeed further discussion on the home front. Aimed at the church folk, this year's address asks us to examine ourselves from a number of angles, and Archdeacon John laced his remarks liberally with some highly amusing anecdotes and illustrations. Those who wish can borrow a copy and read it for themselves, and I would certainly encourage members of our congregations to do just that.

Lack of space, plus its rather in-house content, rules out further attention to the address. But, as vicar, I want to associate myself with the archdeacon's early remarks, as follows:

Thank you. A hundred thank-yous. Where would we be without you? You, the PCC members, sidespeople, everyone here tonight - you are the backbone of the Church of God. And I salute you.

HOLY BAPTISM was administered to VICTORIA ROSE BEECHING, 20 Bridge Down by the vicar during the Family Service at St. Peter's Church, Bridge on 2nd May.

THE LATE BILL WALKER

Betty Walker and Bettina wish to thank all their friends and neighbours in Bridge and Bekesbourne most sincerely for their cards of condolence, their letters of

support and presence at the funeral of a dear husband and father, who will be greatly missed. They were very much appreciated and we were extremely moved. Grateful thanks. God bless.

ALL FOR KOSOVO

WINE & WISDOM in aid of the Kosovo Crisis Appeal, organized by the Parish of Patricbourne with Bridge, took place in Bridge Village Hall last month. A full house of contestants not only had a very enjoyable evening exercising their grey cells, but raised the magnificent sum of £643 for the appeal.

The organizers would like to thank all those who made it such a success either by the donation of prizes, food at cost, printing, setting the questions, and all the hard work involved, by an enthusiastic team of volunteers. Grateful thanks also to the Village Hall Committee for waiving their fee and the donations from parishioners who were unable to attend. Last but not least, thanks to all who supported the event.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Members are asked to take a plate of food for the buffet table to the birthday meeting on Tuesday, 15th June, also a glass. Hopefully everyone will dress for a 20s theme. J.H.

BRIDGE & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

A party of 56 gathered at Bridge Village Hall on Saturday, 24th April for *Bridge Explorations*, a tour of the village forming part of the Society's project to produce a history of Bridge. In his introductory talk Dr Maurice Raraty said that Bridge was first mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086 and grew through providing for the needs of travellers and armies. In 1829 the Canterbury to Dover road was considerably improved, although it remained rough and dusty until the 1930s when it was finished to modern standards.

In 1835 Bridge was chosen as the site for a new workhouse to cater for the poor in a union of 22 parishes, and in the 1980s the buildings were converted to private housing. During Victorian times the local landowner the Marchioness of Conyngham had provided schooling, and built Bridge Village Hall. The tour finished at the Hall for refreshments and to receive souvenir leaflets.

A meeting entitled *Joseph Conrad and the Bishopsbourne Years* was due to be held on 25th May. The next outing is a visit to Quex House, Gardens and Powell-Cotton Museum on Sunday, 13th June. Details from the secretary Bill Dawson Tel 831044.

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House-to-house Collection

The village collection this year amounted to £374, which surpassed previous years. The overall collection for the Canterbury area was £7,076 - a one thousand pound increase on last year. This was especially pleasing, as the RNLI celebrates its 175th year and during that time **170,000 lives** have been saved.

Many thanks to all the village collectors and all who contributed.

Joan Hill, Village Organiser

BEKESBOURNE ROGATION SUNDAY WALK

by Sid Moon

Glorious spring weather was enjoyed by thirty walkers and several well-behaved dogs, who took to the footpaths of the village for the annual Rogation Walk on Sunday 9th May.

Leaving the Village Hall at 10 o'clock, we passed through the recreation ground and up Keepers Hill and took in a wonderful view of the village from the footpath at the top of church bank.

On through the footpath between the old vicarage and the water pumping station we went under the railway arch to the remains of the Well Chapel. Here David Millyard gave us a brief history of the chapel before his wife Jane led us in prayers on the themes of agriculture, crops and harvest.

Then on towards the zoo, with children especially enjoying the free views of elephants and tigers.

Ending our walk at The Unicorn, we were welcomed by Cheryl and Clive Barker, who soon fed and 'watered' us, after a lovely stroll around the village.

NAILBOURNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

To take advantage of the long light summer evenings, and following the success of last year, the Society is repeating its *Garden Safari* on Thursday, 24th June. However, this time, instead of visiting gardens in the centre of Bridge, we will be going to look at several gardens in Bekesbourne.

For those making their own way to Bekesbourne, please meet ready for a 7.00pm start, at 'Bradgate' School Lane (by the lay-by) where our safari is to begin.

If you require transport to Bekesbourne please contact me in advance of the day on 830057 (after 6pm) so that I can co-ordinate lifts across.

Kathy Walder, Secretary

Trillium Chamber
Brass Ensemble

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Saturday, 12th June

7.pm

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Bekesbourne Church

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5th June - Mrs Watson

12th June - Cheryl Barker/Vicky McPherson

19th June - Jane Mason/Maria Mansfield

26th June - Joy Smith/Jane Shorrock

BRIDGE CHURCH MUSICAL EVENING

It's been many years since St. Peter's Church, Bridge was used as a concert hall, so it'll be particularly good to welcome the Trillium Chamber Brass Ensemble from London to give a recital here on Saturday, 12th June at 7.00pm. There will be no charge for admission but donations will be welcome, partly for the group and partly for the church.

What is Trillium?

This group of musicians is a new and exciting ensemble working in the Greater London area. Beginning as a traditional brass chamber ensemble, Trillium is now highly flexible, with concert and workshop programmes that excite and entertain audiences of all ages in a variety of settings. With superlative musicianship and music/theatrical training Trillium concerts have met rave reviews.

Of special interest in this locality is the fact that one of the two leaders of the group is our very own Sarah Field, who first got hooked on brass as a little girl at Bridge School. Since those days she has studied both at the Royal Northern College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music under notable teachers of the likes of Howard Snell, John Wallace and James Watson. As a trumpet and saxophone soloist, Sarah has performed in such venues as London's Wigmore Hall and Queen Elizabeth Hall. She has the LRAM teaching qualification and works in education both as a private teacher and as a regular recitalist with the late Yehudi Menuhin's *Live Music Now* scheme, taking music into special needs situations.

Clearly this is an evening to be savoured and we hope for a full church to welcome the wanderer home and at the same time enjoy a fascinating musical experience.

FRIENDS of BEKESBOURNE CHURCH

Open Garden

We would like to thank Lady Mount for kindly opening her beautiful gardens for us on Sunday, 16th May. We raised the grand total of £606 and we would also like to thank everybody who helped in making this such an enjoyable event.

Boot Fair

Our annual BOOT FAIR will take place at Parsonage Farm, Bekesbourne, by kind permission of Mr John Ash, on Saturday, 19th June, starting at 9.00am. Please book your pitch with Zan Clifford on 830328.

BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL: Notes from the May Meeting

Election of Officers At the Annual Meeting of Bridge Parish Council, Cllr John Anderson was elected as chairman with Cllr Tony Walder as vice-chairman. The

Recreation Ground and Sports Committee remains as Cllrs M Gulvin, J Hill and T Walder, whilst the Streets, Footways and Lighting Committee comprises Cllrs J Anderson and C Beer. Cllrs J Connor, J Corfield and J Hill agreed to form the Planning Committee, whilst on the Environmental Committee Cllr J Connor will be responsible for footpaths, Cllr J Monk for trees and Cllr E Shirley for general matters. The chairman welcomed two new councillors to the Parish Council, Christine Beer and Joseph Connor.

Parish Website Cllr Corfield has set up a Bridge parish website which allows users to access information about the village and to send messages to councillors and the clerk. Access through <http://freespace.virgin.net/john.corfield/bridge.htm>.

Signing to Higham Park Councillors noted that tourist signing to Higham Park had been erected in and near the village. Some concern was expressed that there was no sign at the Bekesbourne Road junction of the A2. The Parish Council, in co-operation with the owners of Higham Park, is to request a sign on the A2 directing vehicles to the Coldharbour Lane junction to avoid additional traffic in the village.

Planning applications The following application has been received:

CA/99/0400/BRI - Garden room extension to Fernlea, Meadow Close.

The following applications have been notified as granted:

CA/99/0293/BRI - Conservatory extension at 8 Dering Close;

CA/99/0177/BRI - Change of use to one dwelling at 26 High Street;

CA/98/1177 - Replacement of existing mobile classrooms with new mobile classrooms at Bridge and Patricbourne CEP School.

FISH NEWS

The Fish Scheme is delighted that the Lord Mayor's Award has been given to Mrs Joan Warren. The good neighbour scheme, of which we can be justly proud, was Joan's brainchild, and with the help of others, she was the dominant force behind its activities for much of the twenty years it has been in existence. It was an inspired move on her part and the Fish Scheme continues to be an enormous asset to Bridge, Patricbourne, Bekesbourne and Bishopsbourne residents.

The Cornelia Slawin Blossom tour on 6th May was a great success, owing to the careful planning of Mrs Mavis Parsons. By the time this is published we should have planted the plants and eaten the cakes from the Annual Coffee Morning on 22nd May.

The June Coffee Pop-In in Bridge Village Hall will be on Wednesday, 9th. If you would like to go and need transport please telephone Mrs Ann Medhurst on 830762.

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

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

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

Dr AM Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patricxbourne (830947)

Hon Secretary Mrs A Williamson, Beechmount, Conyngham Lane, Bridge (830399)

Hon Treasurer Vacant

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

Organist (Bridge) Mr JF Atterbury, 18 Mount Road, Canterbury (760293)

Organist (Patricxbourne) Mrs RM Stacey, Joslet,Keepers Hill,Patricxbourne (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,Patricxbourne (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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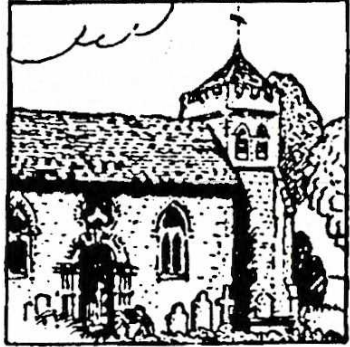
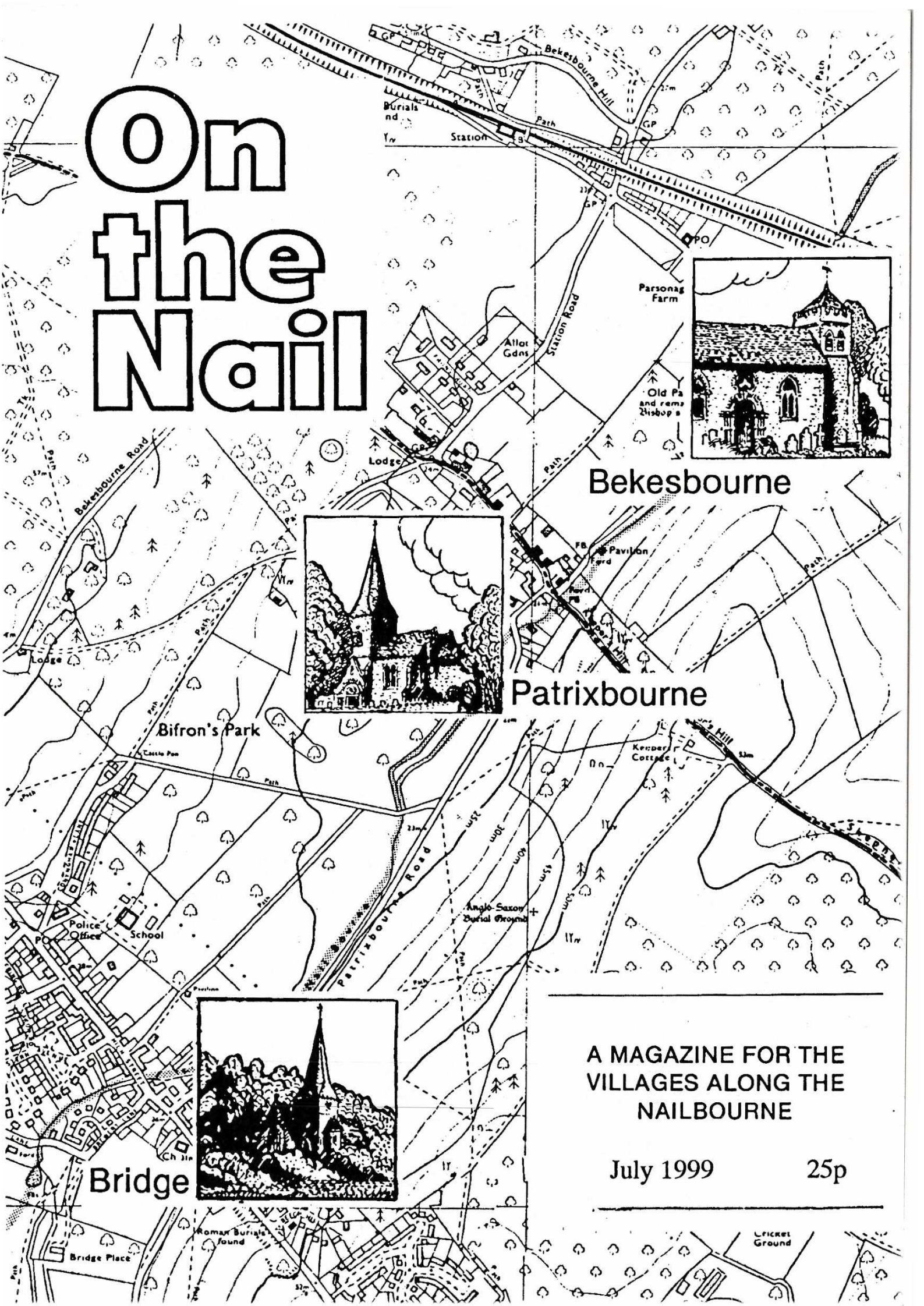
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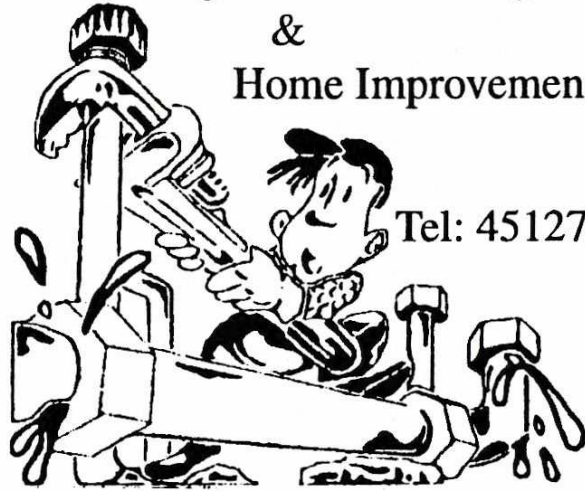
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SUNDAY WORSHIP IN JULY

4th: Fifth Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Patricbourne*)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (*Bekesbourne*)
- 11.00am Learning Eucharist (*Bridge*)
- 6.30pm Evensong (*Bridge*)

11th: Sixth Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Bekesbourne*)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (*Bridge*)
- 11.00am Matins (*Patricbourne*)

18th: Seventh Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Patricbourne*)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (*Bridge*)
- 11.00am Matins (*Bekesbourne*)

25th: St. James the Apostle

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

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *4th*, The Revd David Marshall. *11th*, The Revd Howard L. Skinner, BA. *18th*, The Revd George Baugh. *25th*, *Holy Communion*, The Revd David Marshall.

FOR YOUR DIARY AND PRAYER LIST

- 1st Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm
- 3rd **St. Thomas the Apostle**
Pray for Sarah Hollister and Richard Starr, to be married today in St. Mary's Church, Patricbourne.
- 4th **Fifth Sunday after Trinity**
- 8th Bridge Parish Council Meeting, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm

- 10th Parish Barbecue, Beechmount, Conyngham Lane
 11th **Sixth Sunday after Trinity**
 14th *John Keble, Priest, Tractarian, Poet, 1866*
 Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am
 15th *St. Swithun, Bishop of Winchester, c862*
 Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, 7 Windmill Close, 7pm
 18th **Seventh Sunday after Trinity**
 19th *St. Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, c394*
 20th Bridge with Patricbourne Women's Institute, 26 Western Avenue, 7.00pm
 22nd **St. Mary Magdalene**
 24th Nailbourne Horticultural Society Summer show, Bridge School, 2.30pm
 25th **St. James the Apostle**
 26th *Anne & Joachim, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
 29th *Mary, Martha and Lazarus, Companions of our Lord*
 30th *William Wilberforce, Social Reformer, 1833*
 31st *St. Ignatius of Loyola, Founder of the Society of Jesus, 1556*

FROM THE VICAR

How topsy-turvy things can get! Until just over a year ago the Family Services at Bridge continued to flourish, and those at Bekesbourne were struggling to survive! Now the tables are turned, and whereas it's cause for rejoicing that those at Bekesbourne on fourth Sundays are really taking off, fulfilling a need and attracting families from all three villages, those at Bridge now have taken over from Bekesbourne in drawing the occasional family and otherwise having to rely on baptisms for the bulk of their congregation.

However, we're not downhearted at Bridge, firmly believing that the Lord God may have other things in mind for first Sundays at eleven, he having the final say in all Church affairs. At the moment it seems as though we're being led to replace the existing Family Service pattern with some form of teaching service, which would still form a setting for christenings but be aimed not specifically at children but adults. Don't worry, the children won't miss out!

Whenever we think of Christian education it's invariably the young that spring to mind. We older ones, having gone through the learning phase in our confirmation preparation, whilst admitting we don't know it all, do tend to assume we know enough about the faith to get by, so that's that. In reality and as with life in general, there's always something to learn, if only by experience. Our personal education is never complete.

Normally the only corporate adult teaching in the faith a church can offer is through sermons, and that's scarcely adequate. For one thing sermons aren't primarily teaching aids but stimulants in the faith, and whereas most preachers try to cover both areas, it's a lot to cram into the expected ten minute slot.

Recent Family Services at Bridge have veered towards a more focussed teaching emphasis and have been correspondingly well received. In future, therefore, this will be the main thrust in what are to be called *Learning Services*. The remainder of the time will be devoted either to shortened forms of ASB Matins or the Eucharist, or, when requested, to Baptism.

Which brings me to 4th July's service, which, coming soon after our patronal festival, will look at St. Peter and try to get an overview of the great Apostle, about whom a lot of information is readily available.

JOYS & SORROWS

Baptism

Just after midday on 30th May, in St. Peter's Church, Bridge, the vicar baptized KIRSTEN DAISY WATT, 1 Police House, Conyngham Lane, together with his grandson, SEAN ROSALIND DIRK PEETERS, Schoten, Belgium. A number of regular members of the congregation came to share this joyous occasion and, in accordance with Belgian custom, everyone was given a Belgian sweet, provided by Sean's Belgian grandmother, on their way out.

The following Sunday, Bridge's Family Service, on the theme of the Church as God's House, was given an added boost by the christening of MOLLIE LOUISA EMILY BRYANT, 4 Windmill Close.

Marriage

Once in a while we have the pleasure of a wedding on a day other than a Saturday, and even a wedding with the Eucharist. Both of these occurred at the wedding on Friday, 4th June of MARINA HENNESSY, 12 The Close and MATTHEW PALMER from North Kensington. The vicar officiated and celebrated the Eucharist, and was assisted in the administration of the Communion by Billie Anderson and Laurence Dunderdale. Special singing was provided by a quartet from the Canterbury Singers and our own John Atterbury was at the organ. Viv Brasier and her helpers had liberally decorated the church with white lilies with her accustomed artistry.

Funerals

The funeral of ETHEL BANKS, formerly of School Lane, Bekesbourne, took place on 21st May in St. Mary's Church, Patricbourne (necessitated by the major building repairs at Bekesbourne), followed by interment in Bekesbourne church-

yard. That of JOYCE WALL HUNTER, 24 High Street, Bridge was conducted by the vicar in Bridge Church on 8th June, followed by interment in the churchyard.

Mrs Hunter was widely known in Bridge and its environs as the Doctor's Wife, although her involvement in the local community was broader than that. While Western Avenue was still 'Daddy Fagg's Meadow' Joyce Hunter played a major role in the regular Flower Shows held there and was, for very many years, in charge of the flower rota at St. Peter's Church, where for a while she also served on the PCC. In the days when there was a purely Church Fête and also a Christmas Market, Mrs Hunter ran the teas and cakes, and all this in addition to supporting her husband, Dr. Roger Hunter, in his busy practice, run from their home.

CARPETING IN ST. PETER'S CHURCH, BRIDGE

Anyone entering St. Peter's Church in the last two weeks, cannot fail to have noticed the marked improvement in the church's decor brought about through the kind donation by Derek Dawson of a superior carpet runner, the design of which greatly enhances the existing carpet in the chancel.

At the same time we have acquired an excellent red carpet that runs the full length of the nave. This was originally intended to be put down on high days and holidays only, but by popular acclaim will remain a permanent fixture. It was made possible by a generous anonymous donation of £200, one of £100 from the Hennessy family, in thanksgiving for their daughter's wedding last month, and a £40 discount from Andrew Nason. We are left to find £100, the cost at present being met by Churchwarden John Anderson. If anyone who would like to contribute towards this vast improvement John would be only too delighted to hear from you on 830260.

We are exceedingly grateful to all those who have provided this much-needed addition to St. Peter's Church, particularly to the major contributors.

BRIDGE SCHOOL RETIREMENT

A school note advises that: After 34 years dedicated to the education of the children of Bridge & Patixbourne C.E.P. School Mrs Pat Austin is finally hanging up her whistle. Many of you and your children will have benefited from her careful, conscientious teaching.

Should you wish to make a donation towards her leaving gift please send it to the school office. On Thursday, 22nd July at 9.30am there will be a final assembly and we would love to see as many of you as possible. Please spread the word to whoever you think would be interested.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The July garden meeting will be held at 26 Western Avenue, at the invitation of Mavis Parsons. This is at the earlier time of 7 o'clock, on Tuesday, 20th July, and please, if possible, bring a chair. If wet the meeting will revert to the Village Hall. Afterwards there will be a meal at the Old Gate Inn. *J.H.*

NAILBOURNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The annual Summer Show will take place at Bridge School on Saturday, 24th July. It will be open to the public at 2.30pm. The usual teas will be served, and the presentation of cups will take place at 4.00pm.

Members, please remember your annual subscriptions must be paid up if you wish to exhibit. The hall will be open from 9.00am to stage exhibits, but must be cleared by 11.00am for judging. Schedules are available from Bridge Post Office, Mrs Joan Stingemore, 830763 or Mrs Billie Anderson, 830260. Best of luck to everyone! Don't be frightened to have at go at exhibiting! It can be good fun!
Billie Anderson, Show Secretary.

WINE and WISDOM EVENING

Following the very successful Wine & Wisdom evening, held to raise funds for the refugees of Kosovo, the winning table of eight enjoyed an evening meal at The White Horse in Bridge, on Wednesday, 19th May. We would like to extend our thanks to The White Horse for kindly donating the first prize of eight meal vouchers.
D. King

Bekesbourne Church

Cleaning & Flower Rota

3rd July - Lois Whigham/Jill Thomas

10th July - Christine Ash

17th July - Zan Clifford

24th July - Pam Farbrace

31st July - Joan Atkins

BRIDGE SCHOOL CHILDREN TO THE RESCUE

Victoria Blake explains what pupils of Bridge school achieved for Kosovo.

A great buzz of unselfishness filled Bridge School hall and field on Wednesday, 25th May. The children and staff seemed to create mayhem as they rushed about buying toys, books and cakes and playing games which had been organized by children in years 5 and 6. Everyone was so good at shopping that they raised £375. We know that the people of Kosovo need a lot of money, and all that everyone at Bridge School can say is, "We're glad we helped!"

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK RESULTS

by Chris Hoare

I am delighted to report that a dedicated band of helpers (new recruits as well as regulars) collected the sum of **£957.29** from homes in the Benefice of Patricbourne with Bridge and Bekesbourne. My very grateful thanks to all who contributed, either by way of donation or in the delivery and collection of envelopes (or both!)

This figure is a substantial increase on last year's, achieved no doubt in part by the fact that with additional help we were able to cover more of the villages than in previous years. My grateful thanks once again to you all, and a very special thank you to my cashiers for their sterling efforts, without which I would not have reached the bank within the time scale and with the degree of accounting accuracy required.

BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL - June Meeting

Recreation ground The spider climbing frame and swings in the children's play area are to be painted as soon as there is a spell of dry weather. It is the Parish Council's intention that the access bridge from Patricbourne Road should be painted at the same time. Although there is still a problem with moles on the recreation ground, they have been treated on more than one occasion. A further attempt is to be made to reduce them.

Footway/Cycleway between Bridge and Old Gate Inn A plan has now been drawn up to provide a safe footway/cycleway between the village and Old Gate Inn which allows pedestrians and cyclists to remain on one side of the road for the entire journey. The Parish Council hopes that the Architecture and Engineering Department at the city council will look favourably at the plan which, if it were adopted would provide a safer route to school for many children.

Millennium committee A millennium committee, under the chairmanship of Alan Walton, has been formed to promote and co-ordinate millennium activities in the village. Further information can be found by contacting Alan at The White Horse Inn.

Planning matters The following planning applications have been received:

- i) CA/99/0449/BRI - change of use to retails Class A1 at 71 High Street
- ii) CA/99/0526/BRI - porch to front and single storey extension at rear of 71 Mill Terrace.

The following applications have been notified as granted:

- i) CA/99/0310/BRI - Detached garage at 9 Dering Road
- ii) CA/99/0400/BRI - single storey side extension at Fernlea, Meadow Close.
- iii) CA/99/0429/BRI - conservatory extension at Little Swallows, Beech Hill.

FRIENDS OF BEKESBOURNE CHURCH

Once again we thank Lady Mount for opening her lovely garden in aid of Bekesbourne Church and are delighted with the splendid profit of £606. Thanks also to all the helpers who worked hard on the various stalls, serving teas and making the afternoon such a success. We have a huge challenge to raise enough money to put St. Peter's Church in good order and we greatly value the support given to our efforts.

Future events

Our next money-raising events will be providing teas at *Essentially Hops* for their Farm Walks on Sundays 4th and 18th July and 15th August. Do come and enjoy informal tours of the gardens and buildings, learning about dried flower growing and drying and, of course, tea and cakes in aid of Bekesbourne Church.

FISH NEWS

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Coffee Morning in May. £312 was raised.

Please search out your spare knitting wool. We are always in need of it to make clothes for those in need locally. Rosy Green [tel.830204] will be glad to hear from you.

The next Coffee Pop-In is on Wednesday, 16th July in Bridge Village Hall. This is a friendly get-together and everyone is welcome. If you need a lift do telephone Ann Medhurst on 830762. A.R.

POLISHED BRASS

A concert by a brass quintet doesn't sound a particularly thrilling way to spend Saturday evening, it has to be admitted. Yet the Trillium Brass Ensemble's

programme in Bridge Church on 12th June provided the audience with a rich menu of exuberant, scintillating, versatile, amusing entertainment of the highest order.

Sarah Field, Alex Kidston and friends are serious professional musicians, who yet showed themselves capable of turning their hand to a wide assortment of music, ranging from a Bruckner organ postlude scored for brass, through Bach, to the fun of a tuba solo (exoneration for Tubby the tuba?), excerpts from West Side Story and a tingling dip into the glories of Dixieland Jazz, all played with fine musicianship. Since Sarah is a local we hope very much for a return visit: in which case you definitely mustn't miss it! It was worth being there just to see delightful young people revelling in their music making and doing so with such infectious enthusiasm.

BRIDGE & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

Joseph Conrad

In a lively, witty and informal talk on 25th May at the Conrad Hall, Bishopsbourne, Dr Keith Carabine gave an insight into the life of the author who spent the closing years of his life in the village (*Bill Dawson writes*).

Born in 1859 in Ukraine of Polish parents, he was orphaned by the age of 11, and lived with his uncle for four years before going to sea and learning English from British sailors. He became Captain, sailing on clippers all over the world. International recognition as an author arrived when USA publisher Doubleday published his novel *Chance*, which they successfully promoted as a 'woman's book'.

Conrad moved to Bishopsbourne in 1920, aged 61, suffering from rheumatism, gout and depression, though he lived well at Oswalds. Desperately missing his beloved sea, on August 3rd 1924 Conrad set off to view a house at Folkestone, but turned back feeling unwell and died soon after. His funeral was held in the Catholic church at Canterbury, followed by burial in Canterbury cemetery, his grave marked by a single piece of granite. The lines on the stone read: "*Sleep after toil, port after stormie sea, Ease after warre, death after life, does greatly please*".

Visit to Quex Park

On 13th June a party left overcast Bridge for sunny Birchington and Quex House, Gardens and the Powell-Cotton Museum.

Before the dawn of television or colour photography, Major Percy Powell-Cotton pioneered the exhibition of larger exotic animals in huge, impressive dioramas. Someone remarked that they quite imagined one of them

might softly sing out *I'm a Gnu, spelt G-N-U...!* Other extensive displays included African tribal memorabilia, Chinese porcelain, some figurines dating back to the 13th century.

Quex House itself, built around 1810 and later 'modernised' by the Victorians, is a real lived-in home, with some lovely furniture and objets d'art. Then out into the sunbathed grounds to stroll across huge lawns to the walled garden, full of aromatic herbs and scented flowers, fruit and vegetables. Mature trees surround the 260 acre garden so that you would hardly believe the outside world was only a short distance away from this haven of peace and tranquility. Finally, delicious cream teas, with warm scones and plenty of jam and cream to round off a lovely afternoon.

These two events conclude the highly successful 1998-1999 season. Programmes for the 1999-2000 season will be published in August, with events commencing in September. If you are not on the mailing list and would like a copy, please contact the secretary, Bill Dawson, telephone 831044.

NOTHING GENETICALLY MODIFIED

With all the media coverage of genetically modified organisms and the nightmarish problems they bring, come and see for yourself the sane alternative on a conducted tour around Perry Court Farm, 10th July, 2 - 5pm. The farm is a member of Regional Organics South East and producer of bio-dynamic cereals and vegetables plus BSE-free beef. It is also home to the Organic Health farm shop and a Community Supported Agriculture weekly vegetable box scheme. For more details or to join the box scheme for the coming season phone Alan Brockman on 01227 738449.

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Dr AM Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patribourne (830947)

Hon Secretary Mrs A Williamson, Beechmount, Conyngham Lane, Bridge (830399)

Hon Treasurer Vacant

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

Organist (Bridge) Mr JF Atterbury, 18 Mount Road, Canterbury (760293)

Organist (Patribourne) Mrs RM Stacey, Joslet, Keepers Hill, Patribourne (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, Patribourne (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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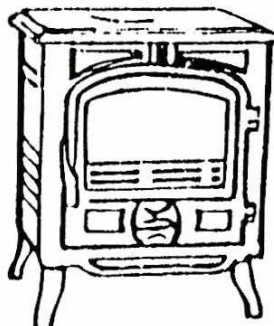
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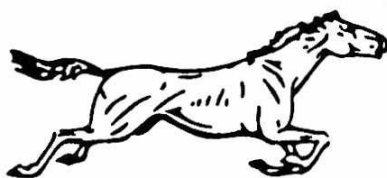
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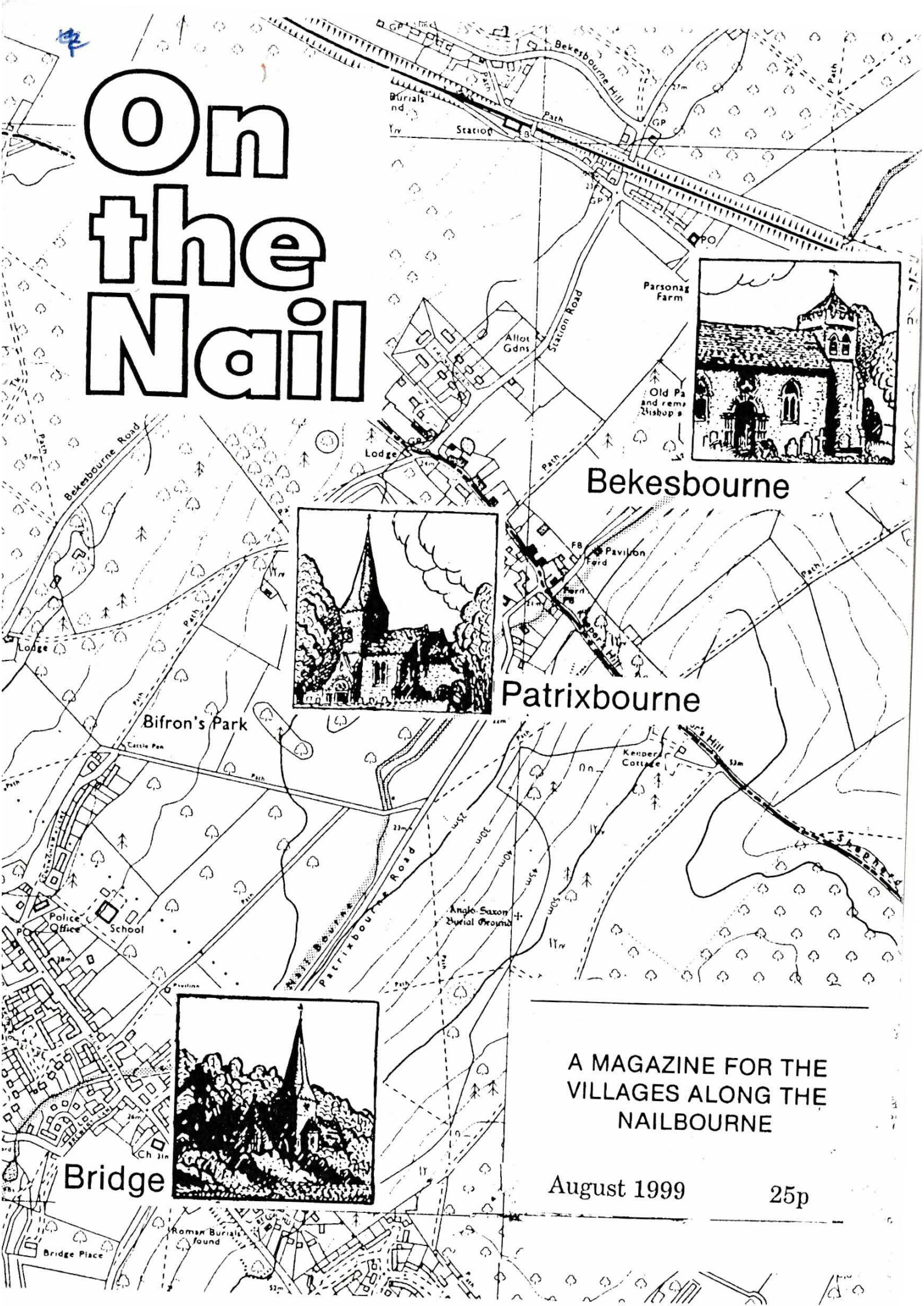
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SUNDAY WORSHIP IN AUGUST

1st: Ninth Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Patixbourne*)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (*Bekesbourne*)
- 11.00am Learning Service (*Bridge*)
- 6.30pm Evensong (*Bridge*)

8th: Tenth Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Bekesbourne*)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (*Bridge*)
- 11.00am Matins (*Patixbourne*)

15th: The Blessed Virgin Mary

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Patixbourne*)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (*Bridge*)
- 11.00am Matins (*Bekesbourne*)

22nd: Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Bridge*)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (*Patixbourne*)
- 11.00am Matins (*Bekesbourne*)
- 6.30pm Evensong (*Bridge*)

29th: Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

- 10.30am Benefice Eucharist (*Bekesbourne*)

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *1st*, Mr John Whalan. *8th*, The Revd Donald Lugg. *15th*, Mrs Mary Weatherup, BA. *22nd*, Mrs Marjorie Beckwith. *29th*, Mr Ron Chadwick, MA, DMS.

FOR YOUR DIARY AND PRAYER LIST

- 1st **The Ninth Sunday after Trinity**
- 5th *St. Oswald, King of Northumbria, Martyr, 642*
Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm
- 6th **The Transfiguration of our Lord**
- 8th **The Tenth Sunday after Trinity**

- 10th *St. Laurence, Deacon at Rome, Martyr, 258*
- 11th *St. Clare of Assisi, Founder of the Poor Clares, 1253*
Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am
- 13th *Jeremy Taylor, Bishop of Down and Connor, Teacher of the Faith, 1667*
- 14th 'THE SMALLEST GARDEN PARTY IN THE WORLD', 25 The Close,
Union Road.
- 15th **The Blessed Virgin Mary**
- 17th Bridge with Patricbourne Women's Institute, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 19th Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm
- 20th *St. Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, 1153*
- 22nd **The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**
The 11am service at Bekesbourne today will be Matins, there being no
Family Service in August.
- 24th **St. Bartholomew the Apostle**
- 27th *St. Monica, Mother of St. Augustine of Hippo, 387*
THE CANTERBURY CLERKES in concert, St. Peter's Church, Bridge,
7.30pm. Admission by programme - £6.
- 28th *St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, Teacher of the Faith, 430*
- 29th **The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**
The 10.30am Benefice Eucharist will be held at Bekesbourne, whether the
repair works are fully completed or not.
- 30th *John Bunyan, Spiritual Writer, 1688*
- 31st *St. Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 651*

FROM THE VICAR

It's the silly season once again! Let's hope it lives up to its name because after a year of intense political activity on the part of the world's leaders we can all do with a period of light relief from the horrors and uncertainties that dog our days throughout the rest of the year. May those upon whose words and stratagems the course of our lives depends, manage to get some uninterrupted time with the families they see so little of in the normal run of things, and return to the fray fully restored and invigorated.

Politicians are frequently castigated, not always in jest, for being all talk and little action. But that's hardly fair. Their role is to speak on behalf of those they represent, to speak on behalf of the nation, to speak on a whole host of topics and occasions, to speak in the Commons, to speak in their constituencies, to speak

to protestors, to speak to the party faithful. And if they don't speak they must write or nothing gets done.

For those at the highest level, who are at the hub of things, there are so many occasions when the right choice of words is absolutely vital if success is to be achieved. Only think back to the hours of talking in Belfast to pave the way for a devolved government truly representative of the whole populous. For a while all seemed set for the break-through everyone desired, the next minute the whole enterprise looked like collapsing because of something one participant said, or didn't say, or was believed to have said, or couldn't quite bring himself to say. So did they give up, on the basis that they'd said all there was to say? Not a bit of it, the talking went on and on, far into the night.

But what do they talk about? I mean what form did it all take? Is there a 'pecking order' for making contributions, and how can each individual find fresh ways of saying things? What is the atmosphere in the room like? When the press tell us they are still talking, what exactly is being said? Most of us, I suspect, are only too glad we don't have to be there, and are more than happy to leave talking of this calibre to the professional talkers, even if at other times we tend to poke fun at them for being all talk. Or is all this musing by one who professionally has to use a lot of words, not all of which are written for him, just another indication that the silly season really is upon us once again.

When words became the Word.

When we feel slightly cynical about words and those who use them, we might bear in mind that our Lord is spoken of in the Bible as the Word. 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.' Words are an essential means of communication, be they written or spoken. Jesus was God's chosen means of communication with the world, and whereas he made abundant use of words when teaching the people, he conveyed the bulk of his message by what he did, in terms of healing miracles but chiefly through his death and resurrection. All this is meant to spill over into his followers today, for whom actions should speak louder than words. God wants us to proclaim our faith all the time, not as a special event reserved for particular occasions. In this respect the vast majority feel happier with actions than words, and so it works out in practice. We witness to the faith much more by our lifestyle than anything we put into words; even, let it be said, in parish magazines.

FAMILY NEWS

Holy Baptism

SAMUEL GEORGE DOWSE, Patricbourne House was baptized in St. Mary's

Church on 20th June, and the following Sunday, during Patrixbourne's Parish Communion, HENRY JAMES BROOKS, Bifrons Cottage. Soon after at Bekesbourne PHOEBE JACQUELINE THERESA STONIER was baptized during the Family Service.

Holy Marriage

JAMES HOLLINGSBEE and MICHELLE BARRIGAN were married in St. Peter's Church, Bridge on 26th June. One week later, on 3rd July, RICHARD STARR married SARAH HOLLISTER in St. Mary's Church, Patrixbourne.

A FETE TO REMEMBER

If you weren't there you missed a treat! Bridge Village Fête back in June was a tremendous success, with so much going on, so many people there, and perfect weather. The organizing committee wants to say a very big 'thank you' to all who helped in any way, and reports the grand, record sum raised of £4,600. Jolly well done everybody!

BRIDGE CHURCH CARPET

Due to the generosity of several parishioners, who wish to remain anonymous, the much-admired carpet in the nave of St. Peter's Church has been paid for in full. Any subscriptions in excess of this have, with the permission of the donors, gone towards the next big project. Very many thanks! J.A.

FRIENDS of BEKESBOURNE CHURCH

by Jane Shorrocks

BOOT FAIR Many thanks to everyone who worked hard to help us with our Boot Fair - especially those on duty from 7.30am! We were able to raise £360 towards our funds, which are much need at present for the restoration work on St. Peter's Church. (*See Jane Millyard's update on the progress below.*) We also thank John Ash for allowing us the use of his field.

TEAS at ESSENTIALLY HOPS By invitation of *Essentially Hops* we have provided teas for those who have enjoyed the interesting Farm Walks, and have been able to add £92 so far to our funds. The last Farm Walk will be on Sunday, 15th August, so do come for a very pleasant afternoon.

UPDATE ON REPAIRS TO BEKESBOURNE CHURCH

I hope that by the time this reaches you in early August, the major part of the project to repair Bekesbourne Church will have been completed. As I write in mid July, the nave has a splendid new roof and tiling will soon be finished on the tower and the vestry. The stonemason has begun to repair crumbling stonework on the windows and the vestry guttering and drainage will soon be completed. A

new fixing has been commissioned for the weathervane, which will be replaced 12 years after it fell in the hurricane.

Work continues on re-plastering and decorating in the vestry, restoration of the memorials, opening up of windows to improve ventilation, safety hoops on the tower ladder and repair of the steps by the north door. Once the vestry is complete, the organ can be re-assembled and Rosalie Stacey will no longer have to play within a plastic tent! It has all taken much longer than we planned, but extra work was added in after the contract started, and we are grateful to the builders for fitting this in to their schedule.

The major setback we experienced was over the vestry roof. We did not plan to strip and re-tile it at this stage as the architect and English Heritage had not thought it in urgent need of repair. Those of you who have come to services in the church during or after heavy rain in recent weeks will know, however, that water has been pouring into the church from the junction between the nave and the vestry. The unexpectedly poor state of the latter roof once partially stripped, left us no alternative but to agree to have this roof done as well, while the scaffolding and labour were on site.

The cost, which includes some repairs to the roof timbers, is an additional £7,000. There have been some savings on the original contract, but it looks as though the Friends/PCC may need to contribute about £3,000 more to the project than the £5,000 we estimated. This could run our reserves down to almost zero this year. We are asking some of the grant awarding bodies for additional help, but may not have any success. Please support the Friends of Bekesbourne Church as best you can to help meet this extra commitment - the repairs would not have been possible without all their enthusiastic work to preserve St Peter's.

Jane Millyard

Bekesbourne Church

Cleaning & Flower Rota

7th & 14th August - Jenny Skinner

21st August - Mrs Watson

28th August - Cheryl Barker/Vicki McPherson

AN EVENING WITH THE CANTERBURY CLERKES

A second musical evening in St. Peter's Church, Bridge for the church's restoration and improvement will take place on Friday, 27th August at 7.30pm. The Canterbury Clerkes have generously offered to sing at a reduced fee in support of our cause, for which we are very grateful. This has been largely due to Peter Giles, the well-known counter-tenor, musician and teacher, who has lived in Bridge for many years and has a long association with both the village and the church. Peter was a cathedral lay clerk, as were Martin Renshaw and Antony Bussell, the other members of the trio. The Canterbury Clerkes was formed out of that long-standing association and the group has a justifiable reputation for musical excellence and versatility of repertoire.

Bridge Church is fast becoming sort after for the quality of its acoustics. A German TV company filmed a short concert there some weeks ago.



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PARISH BARBECUE

A large group of parishioners enjoyed a great social evening in Ailsa and John Williamson's attractive garden.

Two barbecues provided an excellent variety of food, accompanied by a large selection of salads, etc. On behalf of everyone present Churchwarden John Anderson presented the hostess with flowers and the host with a bottle of wine, whilst thanking them for allowing us to use their premises. Thanks also go to all those whose hard work made the event so successful.



THE CANTERBURY CLERKES

Peter Giles - Counter-Tenor

Martin Renshaw - Tenor

*Antony Bussell - Bass-
Baritone*

present an evening of music in

St. Peter's Church, Bridge

FRIDAY, 27th AUGUST

at 7.30pm

Subscription Programmes £6

obtainable from John Anderson or

Andrea Nicholson

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

New members and visitors will be made very welcome when Mrs Lee Ault returns with another fashion talk, this time entitled *All the Rage*. Do join us in Bridge Village Hall on Tuesday, 17th August at 7.30pm. The competition is 20s headgear. J.H.

BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL - July Meeting

Recreation ground Repainting of the access bridge to the recreation ground has now been completed and the swings and climbing frame are currently being treated to a new coat of paint. Two new seats and chains are required for the swings and they will be purchased and installed as soon as possible. Replacement handles for the cat see-saw have now been attached. The millennium oak, which was planted on the recreation ground, has died and it is intended to replace it in the autumn.

Lighting Two new lighting columns have been installed in Beech Hill and Meadow Close to replace reinforced concrete columns which had deteriorated due to water damage.

Floral competition The floral competition for commercial premises has recently been judged and once again the first prize goes to The White Horse Inn. Congratulations to landlord Alan Walton and his gardener, Frank Gowlett, for a superb display.

Mori poll Canterbury City Council has recently undertaken a survey, conducted by Mori to establish Residents' Priorities. As a result, the city council is to distribute its A-Z Directory of Canterbury City Council Services to every home in the district.

Millennium matters As part of the activities to commemorate the millennium, 3 containers planted with shrubs, have been purchased and placed in the centre of the High Street, in order to enhance the appearance of the village.

Planning matters The following applications have been notified as granted by the Planning Department at Canterbury City Council:

- i) CA/99/0526/BRI - porch to front and single storey extension to rear of 7 Mill Terrace;
- ii) CA/99/0449/BRI - change of use to class A1 retail at 71 High Street.

FISH NEWS

The local Chiropody Clinic runs from 9th to 13th August. As usual, please contact Mrs Joan Warren (830233) if you need more help or information.

The next Coffee Pop-In at Bridge Village Hall is on Wednesday, 11th August. The September Pop-In will be on Wednesday, 8th - as always, the second Wednesday of the month.

The Fish Scheme would like to wish everyone a happy summer and, should you wish to join the band of volunteer drivers in September, the person to ring is Ann Medhurst on 830762. A.R.

OPPORTUNITIES IN L'ARCHE

As a sister organisation to Faith & Light, L'Arche is a world-wide network of communities, founded by Jean Vanier, where people with learning disabilities and their assistants live in a spirit of welcome, sharing and simplicity. L'Arche in the UK is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year and now comprises eight ecumenical Communities in Bognor, Brecon, Edinburgh, Inverness, London, Preston and just down the road at Barfreystone.

To people with learning disabilities, L'Arche is a place where they can find a real home, spiritual and emotional support, and appropriate work, so that their many gifts can be revealed in a family atmosphere of love and trust.

To the assistants who support them, L'Arche presents a transforming way of life in which they can discover their own capacity for loving service and a deep sense of personal worth. It is a challenging way to live and one which brings many rewards.

The work of L'Arche depends wholly on the willingness of individuals to commit themselves as an assistant for a year or maybe longer.

COULD L'ARCHE BE A PLACE FOR YOU?

For further information and an application form, please contact:

John Peet, L'Arche, RCT/99, 10 Briggate, Silsden, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD20 9JT.

Further details are on the poster on Bridge Church noticeboard.

AGE CONCERN CANTERBURY

Needs your help URGENTLY! In a week we bring over 180 people from their homes to enjoy a good meal, to make friends and to belong. Everyone needs transport and we own four minibuses, which need volunteer drivers and attendants. We use private cars to bring some more able people (we pay a mileage contribution of 30p). We also need help in the kitchen, in the centre serving teas, lunches and coffees and creating a friendly atmosphere.

If you can help telephone Mrs Judith Flavell on Canterbury 462368.

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

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

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

Dr AM Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patricxbourne (830947)

Hon Secretary Mrs A Williamson, Beechmount, Conyngham Lane, Bridge (830399)

Hon Treasurer Vacant

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

Organist (Bridge) Mr JF Atterbury, 18 Mount Road, Canterbury (760293)

Organist (Patricxbourne) Mrs RM Stacey, Joslet, Keepers Hill, Patricxbourne (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, Patricxbourne (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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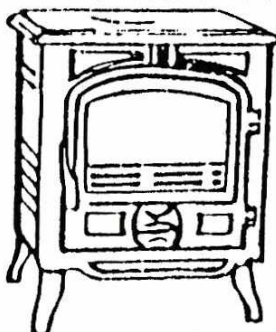
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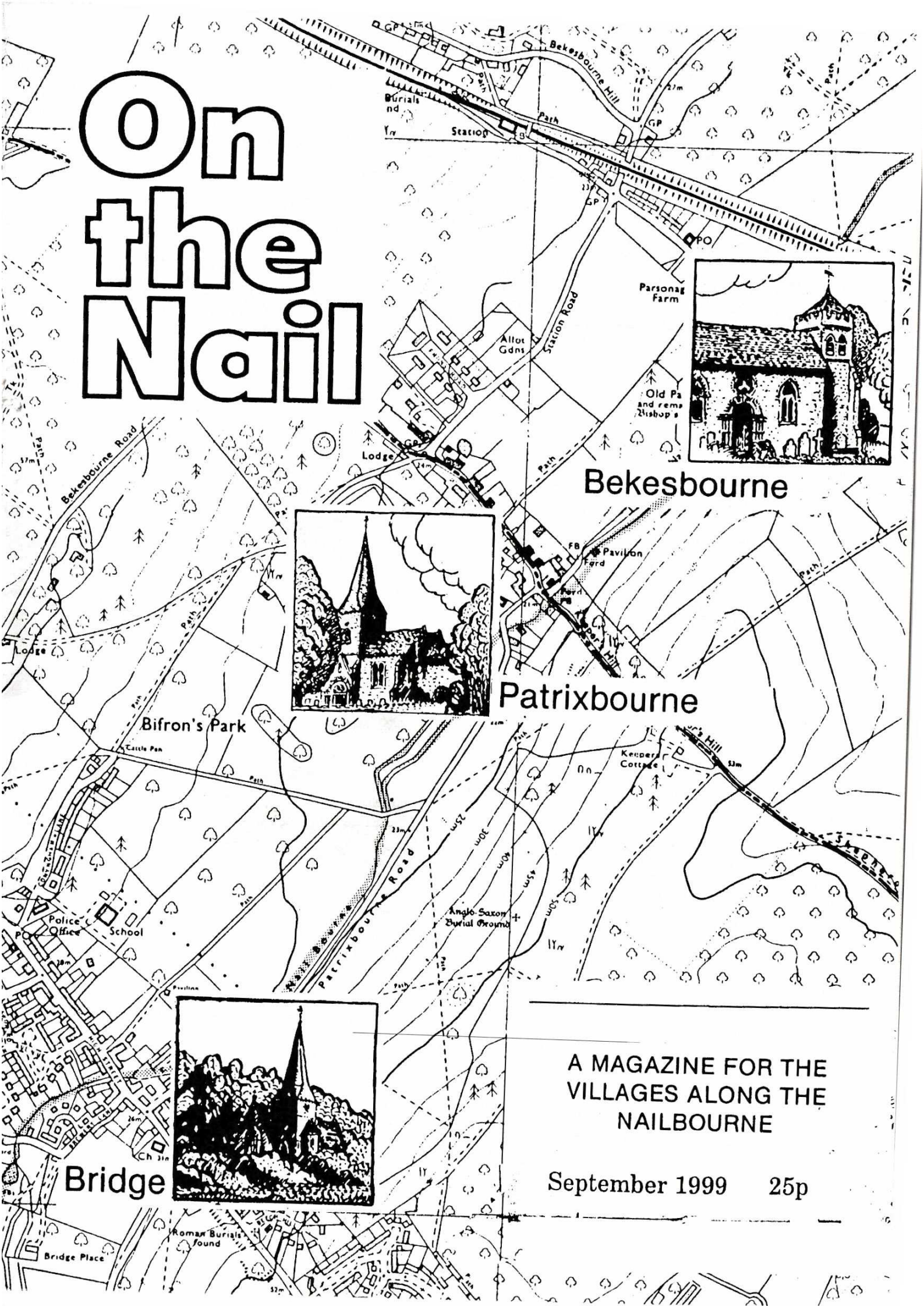
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SUNDAY WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

5th: The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (*Patricbourne*)

9.30am Parish Communion (*Bekesbourne*)

11.00am Learning Service (*Bridge*)

6.30pm Evensong (*Bridge*)

12th: The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (*Bekesbourne*)

9.30am Parish Communion (*Bridge*)

11.00am Matins (*Patricbourne*)

19th: The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (*Patricbourne*)

9.30am Parish Communion (*Bridge*)

11.00am Matins (*Bekesbourne*)

26th: The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (*Bridge*)

9.30am Parish Communion (*Patricbourne*)

11.00am Family Service (*Bekesbourne*)

6.30pm Evensong (*Bridge*)

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *5th*, The Revd Howard L Skinner, BA. *12th*, Miss Leah Turner, BSc. *19th*, *Harvest Festival*, The Revd. George Baugh. *26th*, *Holy Communion*, The Revd David Marshall.

FOR YOUR DIARY AND PRAYER LIST

- 2nd Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, 7 Windmill Close, 7pm
3rd *St. Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, Teacher of the Faith, 604*
5th **The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**
8th *The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
9th Coffee Morning for Radiologists' Appeal, 18 Conyngham Lane, 10-noon
11th *Friends of Kent Churches Sponsored Cycle Ride*
12th **The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**
13th *St. John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, Teacher of the Faith. 407*

- 14th **Holy Cross Day**
- 15th *St. Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, Martyr, 258*
- 16th *St. Ninian, Bishop of Galloway, Apostle of the Picts, c432*
Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, 8 Ford Close, 7pm
- 17th *Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, Visionary, 1179*
- 19th **The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**
- 20th *John Coleridge Patteson, First Bishop of Melanesia, and his Companions, Martyrs, 1871*
Bridge Methodist Church Harvest Festival Evening Service, 7.30pm:
Speaker - Mr Michael Baybutt, B.Sc, DMS, C.Eng
- 21st **St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist**
Bridge with Patricbourne Women's Institute, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 22nd Bekesbourne PCC meeting, School House, 7.45pm
- 26th **The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**
- 27th *Vincent de Paul, Founder of the Congregation of the Mission (Lazarists), 1660*
- 29th **St. Michael and All Angels**
- 30th Pray for the clergy of East Bridge Deanery meeting in Chapter this morning at Wingham.
Bridge Methodist Church Coffee Morning & Sale, 10.00am - 12 noon

FROM THE VICAR

Every so often a book comes your way that you just can't put down. It happened to me at the beginning of August, when a slim volume dropped through my letter-box, courtesy of the author, that echoed to perfection the Christian understanding of one of the most significant, life-enhancing biblical words.

Blazoned across the front cover was the word **GRACE**, and underneath the illustrator had drawn a cartoon depicting two snowmen (in the oppressive heat at the beginning of last month that alone was welcome relief). The first said, "He says the grace of God will melt your heart", to which the second replied, "I reckon it's worth the risk".

The author of this religious-book-with-a-difference is Maurice Smith, who lives in The Close, Union Road, and is widely known in the Bridge community. In *GRACE* he deftly tackles a quite difficult Christian concept in a thoroughly entertaining, readable fashion. This is no stodgy theological work but a reader-friendly collection of reflections under such diverting headings as 'Learned through experience', 'It's not scary', 'It can rock the boat', 'It meets us where we

are', 'It's not cheap', 'Reveals God's hobby'. Nick Butterworth's clever cartoons add their own frisson to a book it's easy to read at one sitting, transforming a simple five-letter word into the thrilling, God-given reality that grace is. At £4.99 *GRACE* by Maurice Fullard Smith is good value for money. You should be able to get it at the SPCK, CLC and other Canterbury bookshops, and I heartily recommend it. For ease of ordering, should it be necessary, quote the publishers and ISBN number: HarperCollins - 0 551 03184 0.

* * *

What shines out in Maurice's little book is the fact that grace is pure gift: it cannot be earned or acquired however hard we try. Nor does grace only come our way after we have prepared the spiritual ground, as it were, through prayer or Bible study. As Maurice says, 'Where we are is where God can find us. Where else? For all his omnipresence, even God cannot meet us where we are not. We have to do nothing and go nowhere to receive the grace of God.' If you think about it, that makes religious living considerably easier than we often imagine. We get so bogged down with where we stand in God's eyes and whether we are worthy, and we cannot shake off the old idea that God is always watching, just waiting to pay us back for some petty infringement of his laws. That's rubbish; and always has been! God loves us and is keen to lavish on us the bounties of his grace - just as we are. We don't need to get spiritually spruced up first, we really don't.

END OF AN ERA

by a Bridge School Governor

During the Leavers' Assembly at Bridge School on 22nd July a presentation was made to Mrs Pat Austin, on her retirement after teaching at the school for 34 years.

Headmistress, Anna Newton, spoke of Mrs Austin's loyalty and dedication to the education of the hundreds of children whom she had taught. In reply, Pat spoke of how she came to the old village school as a five year old, before going to Simon Langton Girls' School and Avery Hill College. After five years teaching in Herne Bay she returned to Bridge School under the headship of Mrs Olive Knight, moving to the present school when it was built in 1971. Mrs Knight, together with Mrs Wendy Pilgrim, another former headteacher, attended the assembly, with many of Mrs Austin's former colleagues, parents and pupils.

A presentation was made of a model garden shed, crafted by the school caretaker, Mr Rex Boughton, and containing a cheque with which Pat plans to buy the real thing. Mrs Morny Starling, a school secretary, had made a cake in the

form of a garden, complete with shed, and the children made their own contribution in the form of a specially written song.

IN MEMORIAM

The death of Col 'ERIC' NEILD 17 Conyngham Lane on 7th August brought a distinguished military and medical career to an end. Dr Neild served in the RAMC during the war and continued in the army after the peace, in the interim travelling the world and establishing a special working relationship with the Gurkhas, in their parachute battalion. A funeral service at Barham Crematorium on 13th August was followed immediately by a service of thanksgiving for his life in St. Peter's Church, Bridge.

The cremation of LEN GOLIGHTLY, Churchill House, Bridge, took place at Barham on 18th August, when tributes were paid to his outgoing life of generous hospitality.

BRIDGE: a new venture gets underway

by Susan Legge

The first Learning Service, which replaces the Family Service, was held on St. Peter's Church, Bridge on 1st August, when the congregation were given a surprisingly interesting insight into those prayers we call Collects: how they were written and structured. They can be broken down into four parts - a greeting, a piece of teaching, the request (what the collect asks of God) and the ending (e.g. 'through Jesus Christ our Lord').

The Vicar explained how the Church of England's new Calendar has collects for those of more recent ages, some honouring people who could possibly be thought of as modern day saints.

These Learning Services are aimed at old and young alike, bearing in mind we all have something to learn about the faith. Come and see for yourselves at the next one, a Learning Eucharist, on 5th September, when the Revd John Thackray (always worth hearing) will explore the fascinating area of the psalms and their use in Christian worship.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

On Tuesday, 21st September at 7.30pm the talk is entitled *The Garden Island*, given by Mr D Hoare. The competition is a garden bloom. J.H.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF RADIOLOGISTS' APPEAL FUND

A Coffee Morning will be held at 18 Conyngham Lane on Thursday, 9th September from 10.00am to 12 noon. Please give your usual support. M.E.J.



Bekesbourne Church

Cleaning & Flower Rota

4th & 11th September - Rosie Mount

18th September - Christine Ash

25th September - Pip Riccini

FRIENDS of BEKESBOURNE CHURCH

The Friends were delighted to be invited to provide tea and cakes for the Farm Walks at *Essentially Hops* this summer, as a result of which we were able to add £163 to our funds for the maintenance of St. Peter's Church. Many thanks to *Essentially Hops* for giving us this opportunity, and to the helpers and bakers of cakes.

FUTURE EVENTS

Please book the following dates in your diaries, when we look forward to your company and support. 16th October - Autumn Dance

27th November - Christmas Bazaar

BEKESBOURNE SPORTS CLUB

The refurbished clubhouse at Bekesbourne recreation ground can now be hired for social functions and will accommodate 60 people. A licensed bar is available, and the minimum hire charge is £10. For more information contact Simon Smith on either 01304 216339 or 07801 750646.

Bekesbourne Sports Clubhouse is open every Friday evening, and all on the Bekesbourne and Patricxbourne register of electors are eligible for "FREE" social membership. There is a licensed bar, Sky TV and a pool table.

Thannington Junior football team will be playing their league matches at Bekesbourne recreation ground this next season. If you are between 6 and 16 years of age and would like to play for them contact Keith Barleycorn on 01227 731092. Practice nights are Fridays at 6pm.

BRIDGE & the MILLENNIUM

To ensure that all with an interest in how the village might mark the millennium had their say, three public meetings were held in the first half of this year, all of them well-attended. In addition, the Parish Council's plans have been publicised in the minutes, copies of which are regularly posted on the village noticeboard, and through the local press, *On The Nail* included.

The restoration of the striking mechanism and installation of a self-winding system for the church clock will be operative before the New Year. Plans for a new footbridge over the ford are now being investigated. Bulb planting around the village is already in hand, as is the renovation of the allotments next to the telephone exchange. Plans are in hand for a four-day History Society Exhibition in the Village Hall as well as guided tours of the area for young and not so young alike. At the same time there is to be a Flower Festival in St. Peter's Church, with a concert sometime over the four-day period, as well as a special service of celebration on a date yet to be fixed.

A committee has been formed to identify events to be organized by and for the young, also a street party, entertainment, dancing, bands, and a firework display. It is encouraging to see how the residents of Bridge come together for such special occasions.

KATHY EYNON

Her very many friends and acquaintances were quick to respond when news reached them of Kathy Eynon's unfortunate accident, in which she sustained a badly broken ankle, and the get well cards promptly flooded in.

Kathy would like to thank everyone for thinking of her. Your tokens of affection and your prayers have done a lot to uphold her and will help see her through the weeks with her leg in plaster. Knit quickly, Kathy!

PERRY COURT COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE

If you care about your family's health and the environment - the answer is here! Join Perry Court CSA and each week you will collect a box of vegetables GMO and chemical free, grown locally to full organic standards by local people.

£120 (i.e. £5 per week from mid-September to mid-March) will ensure your share in our harvest. Phone Nina Taylor, 01227 731549, if you have time to offer a hand. You are invited to come along and help plant, weed, harvest and/or pack our tasty produce.

SPONSORED BIKE RIDE

Saturday 11th September

Don't forget the annual sponsored bike ride in aid of your church and the Friends of Kent Churches, which takes place as usual on the second Saturday in September. There are lots of



ways you could help this worthy cause. You could get a sponsor form and cycle or walk round as many participating churches as you wish on the day. If you are less energetic, you could offer us an hour of your time to man the churches and sign in participants - or you could sponsor a ride or riders - or you could donate refreshments to help the riders on their way. However you are able to help, it will be much appreciated. If you can do something, please contact one of us as soon as possible. Thank you in anticipation.

Christine Beer Bridge

Pauline Pritchard Patrixbourne

Jill Gillanders Bekesbourne

HARVEST HARP RECITAL CAMILLA PAY

St. Mary's Church, Patrixbourne

Friday, 8th October

7.30pm

Programmes £5, available from Rosalie Stacey (820205) and Andrea Nicholson (830927).

Refreshments in the interval

Bridge & District History Society

THE NEW SEASON 1999-2000 COMMENCES
TUESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER.

The programme features 5 meetings and 6 outside events:

- Without Let or Hindrance - the story of the passport
- Steady the Buffs! - the history of The Buffs Regiment
- Minnis Memories - looking at Stelling Minnis's past
- Cradle of the Kingdom - Anglo-Saxon settlements along the Nailbourne
- The Poor and the New Bastille - the effects of the workhouse system
- Day Out at Rochester - Guided Walking Tours and visit Rochester Cathedral
- ◆ Visit to St. Martin's Church and St. Augustine's Abbey
- ◆ KHF at Faversham
- ◆ Christmas Buffet with prize quizzes
- ◆ Day Out at Winchelsea and Rye - travel by private coach
- ◆ Summer Evening at Higham Park - celebrating the Millennium

The new programme with full details will be sent out to all members, and to those on the mailing list.

If you would like a copy but are unsure if you are on the list, please contact the secretary, Bill Dawson Telephone 01227 831044.



BRIDGE VILLAGE PLAYGOUP

is held on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings in the Village Hall, Bridge. Different themes and activities are arranged each term. Last term there was an outing to Wingham Bird Park and a sports day for all the children. There are various fundraising events held throughout the year - a Jumble Sale will be held in October.

For further information contact
Joanne Watt, 832343

ELHAM VALLEY TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Thank you, Andrée

EVTA (Etchinghill, Lyminge, Elham, Barham, Kingston, Bridge, Bishopsbourne and Patrixbourne) held a well attended AGM at Barham CE Primary School on the 9th June. At the meeting Andrée Sladden stepped down as our president after five years of very hard work. Andrée is a founder member, having devoted much time and effort during the difficult first steps of the twinning process linking the Elham Valley with la Vallée de la Course (approximately 30 miles south-east of Calais, running from Desvres to Montreuil).

The newly elected chairman, Mrs Yvonne Parry, said of Andrée - "We are indebted to her for her sterling work during the early years of the Association and are very sorry to lose her as our president but fully understand that she will appreciate a well-earned break. We are delighted she has agreed to continue as a member of the committee where her input will be invaluable to both the committee and our French 'twins'".

Message from the Chairman

I wish to thank all members for electing me Chairman for the year 1999-2000. I am looking forward to the events we are now planning for this year and the Millennium year which it is hoped will include the construction of a petanque terraine (or boules court) on the village green situated on one of the old grass tennis courts. If we are successful in obtaining the necessary funds, the whole of our valley can look forward to many years of using this facility for inter-village and international matches as well as casual play.

Time passes, members move house, new faces abound in our valley. We have members from Folkestone, Herne Bay, London and recent enquiries from Tunbridge Wells. We are pleased to welcome members no matter where they live. New members will have fresh ideas and their energy is vital to the continuing contact between our valleys. We need more young people to become involved. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO SPEAK FRENCH** to join in - a willingness to be friendly and welcoming (perhaps some miming ability!) will give a very good starting point. Of course, the more French you learn the more enjoyment you will get from our functions.

For further information please contact your village representative: for Bridge/Patrixbourne Yvette West 830438. Membership Secretary Betty Doy 01303 840320.

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

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

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

Dr AM Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patrixbourne (830947)

Hon Secretary Mrs A Williamson, Beechmount, Conyngham Lane, Bridge (830399)

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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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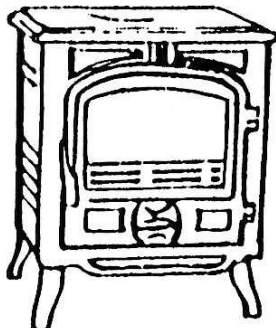
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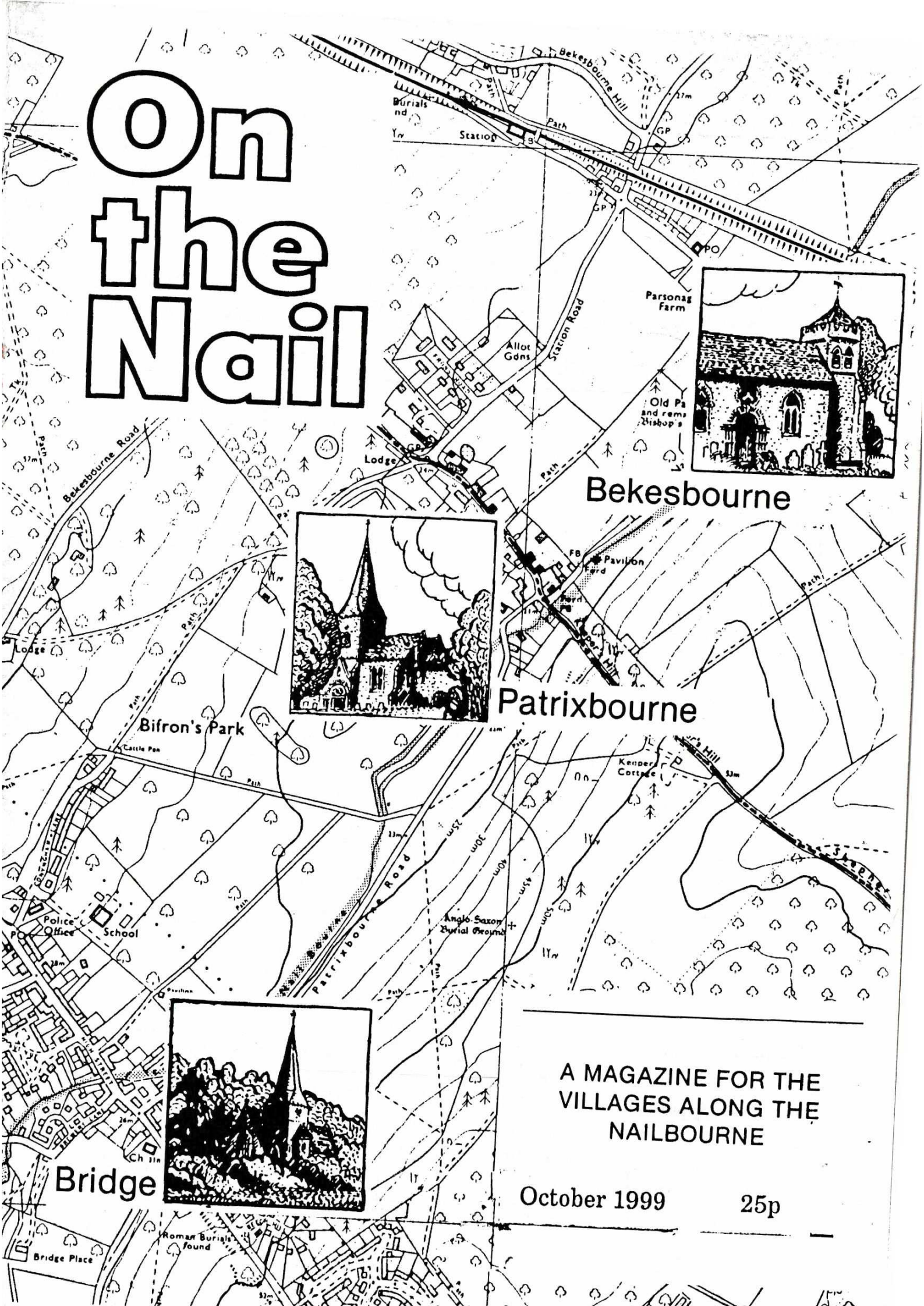
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October 1999

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SUNDAY WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

3rd: The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

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

10th: The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Bekesbourne*)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (*Bridge*)
- 11.00am Harvest Matins (*Patricbourne*)

17th: The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Patricbourne*)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (*Bridge*)
- 11.00am Harvest Family Service (*Bekesbourne*)

24th: The Last Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Bridge*)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (*Patricbourne*)
- 11.00am Matins (*Bekesbourne*)
- 6.30pm Evensong (*Bridge*)

31st: The Fourth Sunday before Advent

- 10.30am Benefice Eucharist (*Patricbourne*)
- 12 noon Holy Baptism (*Bekesbourne*)

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *3rd*, Mr Michael Baybutt, BSc, DMS, CEng. *10th*, Mr Ron Chadwick, MA, DMS. *17th*, *Holy Communion*, The Revd. David Marshall. *24th*, The Revd Maurice Weatherup. *31st*, The Revd Donald Lugg.

FOR YOUR DIARY AND PRAYER LIST

- 2nd Nailbourne League of Friends of Canterbury Hospitals Jumble Sale, Bridge Village Hall, 10.00am to 12 noon
- 3rd **The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity**
Bridge Harvest Festival will be kept at both services, that in the morning

being a Family Service at which harvest gifts will be received, later to be given, as always, to Canterbury Women's Refuge.

- 4th *St. Francis of Assisi, Friar, Deacon, Founder of the Friars Minor, 1226*
- 6th *William Tyndale, Translator of the Scriptures, Reformation Martyr, 1536*
Patricxbourne with Bridge PCC, Bridge Methodist Church, 7.30pm
- 7th Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm
- 8th Harp Recital by Camilla Pay in St. Mary's Church, Patricxbourne, 7.30pm
- 10th **The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity**
Patricxbourne Harvest Festival is at 11.00am. It will be followed by a Benefice Harvest Lunch in Bridge School at one o'clock, details of which appear on page 8.
- 12th *St. Wilfrid of Ripon, Bishop, Missionary, 709*
- 13th *St. Edward the Confessor, King of England, 1066*
Fish Scheme AGM & Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am
- 14th Bridge Parish Council Meeting, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
- 15th *St. Teresa of Avila, Teacher, 1582*
- 16th Bridge & District History Society Day Out at Rochester.
Friends of Bekesbourne Church Autumn Dance, Village Hall.
- 17th **The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity**
Bekesbourne Harvest Festival will be celebrated at a special 11.00am Family Service, to which harvest gifts may be brought, later to be taken to Canterbury Women's Refuge.
Diocesan Service of Healing & Blessing, the Cathedral Crypt, 6.30pm.
Preacher: The Revd Patrick Jones, Bishop's Adviser for the Christian Healing Ministry.
- 18th **St. Luke the Evangelist**
- 19th *Henry Martyn, Translator of the Scriptures, Missionary in India and Persia, 1812*
Bridge with Patricxbourne Women's Institute, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 20th East Bridge Deanery Synod, Barham Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 21st Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm
- 23rd Bridge Village Playgroup Jumble Sale, Village Hall, 2.00 - 4.00pm
- 24th **The Last Sunday after Trinity**
- 26th *Alfred the Great, King of the West Saxons, Scholar, 899*
The new Bishop of Dover, Stephen Venner, will be visiting this benefice between 11.45am and 2.30pm today, in course of his getting-to-know-you tour of the archdeaconry.

- 28th **St. Simon & St. Jude, Apostles**
29th *James Hannington, Bishop of Eastern Equatorial Africa, Martyr in Uganda, 1885*
31st **The Fourth Sunday before Advent**

FROM THE VICAR

Side-stepping the debate as to when the new millennium really starts, the year 2000 is destined to see a few changes in the ecclesiastical parishes of Patrixbourne with Bridge and Bekesbourne.

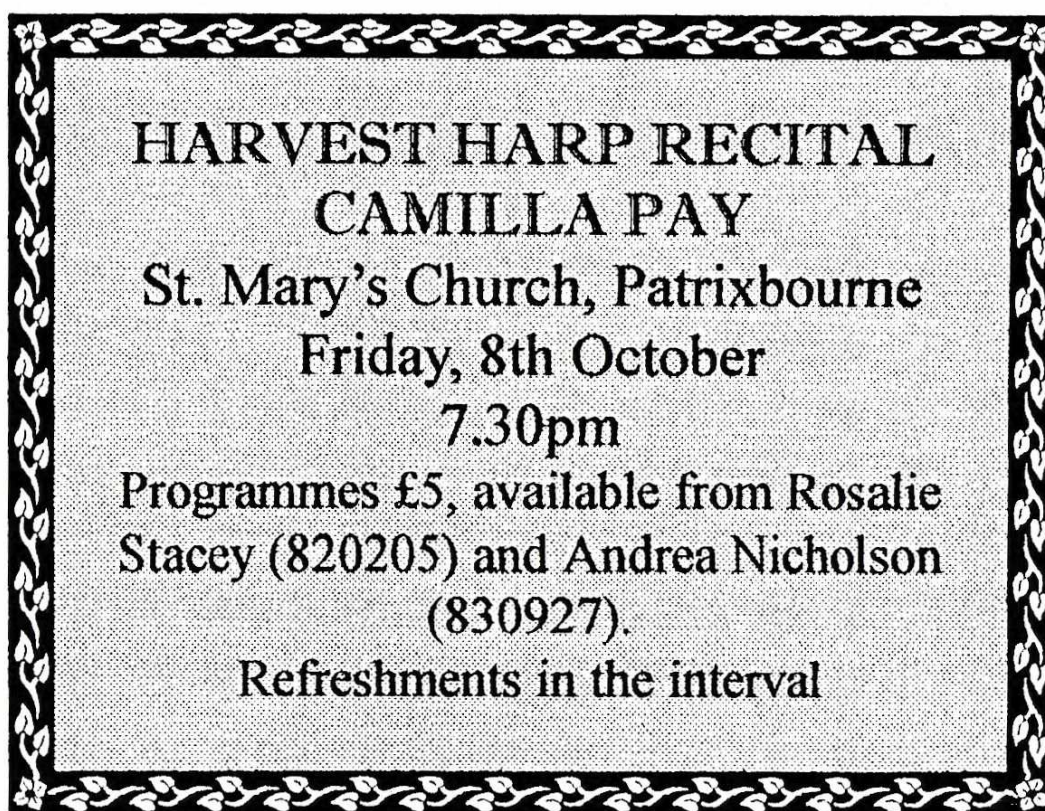
First, and having duly qualified, I shall retire as your vicar on 31st January 2000. The bishop rightly was the first to be informed of my intension to retire, and both PCCs were told at a joint meeting at the end of August. Knowing how quickly news travels around, and since it wasn't confidential, this may be no surprise to you, but once Rosemary and I had somewhere to retire to (the edge of Eythorne, if you're interested) I decided to give the diocesan machinery as much notice as possible, in the hope that it would speed up the business of finding a successor. Whether it does or not time alone will tell, but we're reliably informed it will be a matter of months rather than weeks before a new vicar is appointed!

If that's one impending change, another arose out the joint PCC meeting already referred to. On the evening of Sunday, 30th August in Patrixbourne Church the Archdeacon, John Pritchard, joined us to discuss a proposal that we take the parish of Lower Hardres with Nackington into this benefice. This is suggested for two reasons.

1) Even with three churches this benefice is officially deemed to be too small for one priest. We had already allowed for some such likelihood when all the benefices in the diocese were asked to discuss their future and a threat hung over this deanery of losing yet another stipendiary priest, against which all the East Bridge clergy protested loudly. What none of us here had thought of was being married to a parish outside the deanery, Lower Hardres with Nackington is in West Bridge, but geographical the liaison is obvious.

2) The unwieldy Stone Street Group of eight Parishes, of which Lower Hardres with Nackington is a part, needs to become more manageable, and bringing this neighbouring parish into our benefice is part of the answer. So having got over the initial shock, heard that the church people of Lower Hardres with Nackington asked to come in with us and having carefully considered it, we eagerly grasped the idea, seeing its potential long-term advantages both for ourselves and Lower Hardres with Nackington. It also bodes well for the future of East Bridge

Deanery for the Archdeacon assured the meeting, we won't, as a result, be called upon to lose a stipendiary priest. Some initial contacts have been made and all bodes well for the future. The overwhelming feeling is that Patrixbourne with Bridge, Bekesbourne and Lower Hardres with Nackington can look forward to a new and very exciting chapter in their history and in service of the one Lord. My own retirement coinciding with it should make the transition much less complex, for whoever comes in my place will knowingly come to a three parish benefice in which all are starting the process of growing together. Lots of prayers, please, for the future happiness and prosperity of the Church's work in this green and pleasant area of Christ's vineyard it has been my privilege to serve for the past 20 years!



HARVEST HARP RECITAL
CAMILLA PAY
St. Mary's Church, Patrixbourne
Friday, 8th October
7.30pm
Programmes £5, available from Rosalie
Stacey (820205) and Andrea Nicholson
(830927).
Refreshments in the interval

OBITUARY

The death of DIANA POTTER came as a happy release for her, since towards the end of her life little was left of the much loved vibrant, commanding person who had lived such a full and active life and given so much of herself to her family and her church. Her involvement in the life of the church was total. She served on the PCC, looked after the teas and cakes at numerous Christmas Markets and Church Fêtes and supervised the flower ladies at St. Mary's Church, Patrixbourne for many years. While she and Charles were living at Field House she was quite a

power in the land, playing a leading role in the flowers shows that used to take place on Daddy Fagg's meadow (Western Avenue to the present generation).

During her latter time in St. Mary's Road church attendance depended on her resident companion and general mobility, but when it became impossible any longer for her to get out she was sustained by regular communion at home from the reserved sacrament. Her funeral service in Patricbourne Church on 13th September was conducted by the Revd Peter Brownbridge, Vicar of Wingham, deputizing for the vicar, who was on holiday at the time.

NAILBOURNE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF CANTERBURY HOSPITALS

A reminder that due to lack of manpower we are no longer able to conduct our house-to-house collection as in the past, but a letter will come through your letterbox reminding you how to support your local hospitals. Donations may be taken to 62 Bridge Down, 29 High Street or School House, Bekesbourne.

Also the League is having a Jumble Sale on 2nd October in Bridge Village Hall at 2.00pm. Jumble may be brought to the hall between 10.00am and 12 noon on the day or you can phone Rosy Green on 830204 to organize for a collection. Please support the League of Friends!

Patricbourne with Bridge & Bekesbourne

BENEFICE HARVEST

LUNCH

Bridge School Hall

SUNDAY, 10th OCTOBER

1.00pm

Tickets: £3 adults (£1.50 children)

Available from Pat Dunderdale, 37 High Street

Full details on the tickets.

BRIDGE VILLAGE PLAYGROUP ...

will be holding a Jumble Sale at the Village Hall on 23rd October, 2.00 - 4.00pm. Please contact Joanne Watt (832343) or Alison Hague (830815) if you have any jumble that needs collecting or for more details.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

New members and visitors will be made very welcome on Tuesday, 19th October when Mrs Linda Miles will be giving a bonsai exhibition. The competition is a harvest photo, the winner to go to the group meeting. *J.H.*

ROYAL COLLEGE OF RADIOLOGISTS' APPEAL FUND

The weather had to change eventually and sadly it happened on the morning of the 9th September! However, we still managed to raise £500 and were delighted with the result.

Once again, thanks go to all who helped, came and gave so generously. Particular thanks to those who sent donations, including a very generous one sent anonymously. We may have a revised total at a later date. *M.E.J.*

Bridge & District History Society

DAY OUT AT ROCHESTER

Saturday, 16th October

A great day out to historic Rochester 'the city on the road to Europe' is promised on this event. Included in the diary are:

- Private Coach Travel - departing Bridge 9.30am
- Walking Tour organised by the City of Rochester Society
- Choice of Visiting - Rochester Cathedral, The Charles Dickens Centre or Rochester's Norman Castle
- Cream Tea

Everyone is welcome to join us on our friendly and sociable day out. Tickets: Members £10, Non-members £12.50, Children (under 14) £8.

For ticket availability, booking and information about the Society please contact the secretary, Bill Dawson Telephone 01227 831044.

FRIENDS OF BEKESBOURNE CHURCH

by Jane Shorrock

The boules competition held on 17th September was won by Steve and Richard Thomas. Our thanks go to Clive and Cheryl of The Unicorn for their hospitality and to Hoverspeed for generously donating the first prize. A very enjoyable evening was had by all and £55 was raised for the Church.

Our Autumn Dance will be held at Bekesbourne Village Hall on Saturday, 16th October. Bring your own food and drink. For tickets (£4 each) phone 01227 768925. Do come and join us - it really is a fun evening!

* * *

For your diary:

Wine & Wisdom - Bekesbourne Village Hall, 19th November

Christmas Market - Bekesbourne Village Hall, 27th November, 10.30am



FISH NEWS

This year's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Fish Scheme will take place during the Coffee Pop-In on Wednesday, 13th October in Bridge Village Hall. If you would like to come transport can be arranged by telephoning Mrs Ann Medhurst (830762).

The local CHIROPODY CLINIC runs from 4th to 8th October.
Telephone Mrs Joan Warren (830233) for more details. A.R.

BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL: September Meeting

Recreation ground As a result of an annual inspection of the play equipment on the recreation ground it has regrettably been necessary to take the swings out of use in the interests of health and safety. A further inspection is to take place at the beginning of October and as a result repairs or replacement will take place.

Footway/cycleway between Bridge and the Gate Inn A favourable response has been received from the city council to the suggestion of a footway/cycleway between Bridge and the Gate Inn which avoids crossing the busy A2050. The plan would need to be incorporated into the park and ride scheme, although a footway/cycleway would probably take three years to be built. At the suggestion of Mr P Pittock of the Safe Routes to School Project, who is supporting the scheme, a questionnaire on possible usage is to be distributed in the village. You are urged to complete it, especially if you or anyone in your household is likely to use a footway/cycleway. The questionnaire will be distributed in the week beginning Monday, 20 September and collected the following week. If your questionnaire is not collected it can be left at 50 Riverside Close.

Traffic Concern has been expressed by parishioners at the amount of traffic in the village and the problems of parking. As a result the parish council, with the support of Mr W Oakey, city councillor for this ward, are investigating the possibility of traffic calming measures on the approaches to the village with pelican crossings in the centre.

Planning The following planning applications have been received, commented on and been granted permission to proceed:

- i) CA/99/0723/BRI - single storey extension, first floor extension and dormer window to rear of 1 Meadow Close;
- ii) CA/99/0653/BRI - change of use from shop and one flat to shop and two flats, and replacement of windows to rear of 88 High Street.

The following application was received:

CA/99/Temp/F - 5 bay mobile classroom at Bridge and Patricbourne School. An objection was made on the grounds of traffic implications, lack of parking and undesirability of pupils being taught in mobile classroom.

SHIP OF THE DESERT

Someone once described a camel as a horse designed by a committee.

However, its seemingly ill-assorted features combine perfectly to equip it for a working life around the edge of the desert and for long journeys across it.

Although its performance is often exaggerated, the camel can easily survive for three or four days without drinking. It draws nourishment from its hump which is essentially a storage organ. This ability for survival allows nomads to undertake desert journeys that would otherwise be impossible.

Freight camels can carry about 400lb plus a rider and they average up to 28 miles a day. Records show that a fast camel carrying only its rider covered almost 100 miles in 13 hours. However, it would be impossible to keep this speed up for long.

Camel riding has been compared to taking a music-stool, screwing it up as high as possible, putting it into a cart without springs, sitting on the top of it cross-legged, and then driving at full speed across a newly ploughed field.

In winter, the camel grows a thick protective coat which it then sheds in huge patches before the end of April. In addition, the camel is also shorn once a year. The fibre is woven into the rough cloth such as John the Baptist used for clothing (Mark 1:6).

In the Old Testament, most references to the camel are literal ones. However in the New Testament, Jesus only ever refers to the camel in a figurative sense.

In Matthew 19:24, Jesus says, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Taken literally, this would mean that it is impossible for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.

However, in the Middle East, the "needle's eye" is the name given to the small doorways found fixed into the larger city gates. With the gatekeepers' permission, travellers would enter the city through these small gates after the main ones had been closed for the night.

The camel could only pass through the "needle's eye" once it had got rid of its harness, ornamental trappings and cargo.

Reproduced from 'The Star in the East', the magazine of life and work in Bible Lands.

Editor: Apologies for any printing errors in this issue. My expert proof-reader (and wife) was in hospital at the crucial moment. Back to normal next month!

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

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

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Dr AM Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patricbourne (830947)

Hon Secretary Mrs A Williamson, Beechmount, Conyngham Lane, Bridge (830399)

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On The Nail Editor: The Vicar

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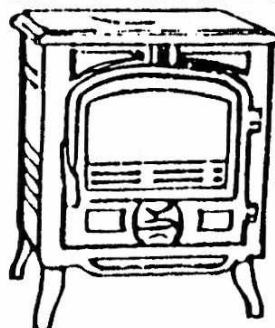
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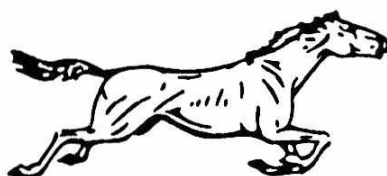
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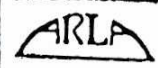
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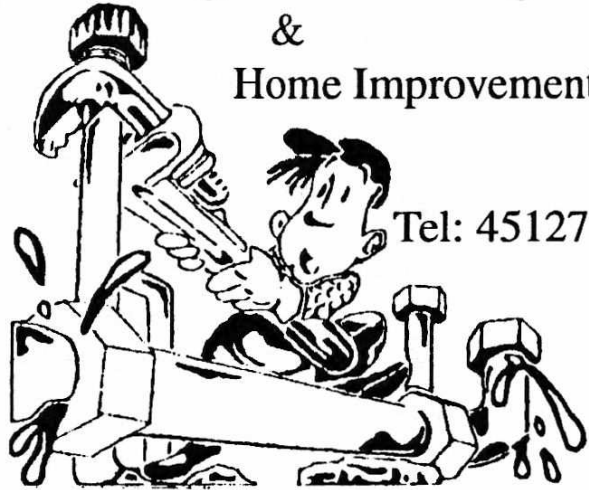
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SUNDAY WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

7th: The Third Sunday before Advent

8.00am Holy Communion (*Patricbourne*)

9.30am Parish Communion (*Bekesbourne*)

11.00am Family Eucharist with Baptism (*Bridge*)

6.30pm Evensong (*Bridge*)

14th: The Second Sunday before Advent

8.00am Holy Communion (*Bekesbourne*)

9.30am Parish Communion (*Bridge*)

11.00am Remembrance Service (*Patricbourne*)

6.30pm Memorial Service (*Bridge*)

21st: Christ the King

8.00am Holy Communion (*Patricbourne*)

9.30am Parish Communion (*Bridge*)

11.00am Church Repairs Thanksgiving Service (*Bekesbourne*)

28th: The First Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion (*Bridge*)

9.30am Parish Communion (*Patricbourne*)

11.00am Parade Family Service (*Bekesbourne*)

6.30pm Advent Carol Service (*Bridge*)

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: 7th, Holy Communion, The Revd George Baugh. 14th, Mrs Beryl P Skinner, RGN, NDN. 21st, Mrs Marjorie Beckwith. 28th, The Revd Peter Cornish.

FOR YOUR DIARY AND PRAYER LIST

1st **All Saints' Day**

2nd *Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)*

3rd *Richard Hooker, Priest at Bishopsbourne, Anglican Apologist, Teacher of the Faith, 1600*

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

7th **The Third Sunday before Advent**

- 8th *The Saints and Martyrs of England*
- 10th *Leo the Great, Bishop of Rome, Teacher of the Faith, 461*
Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am
- 11th *St. Martin, Bishop of Tours, c397*
Bridge Parish Council Meeting, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
- 13th *Charles Simeon, Priest, Evangelical Divine, 1836*
Wine & Wisdom, Bridge Village Hall, 7.00pm
- 14th **The Second Sunday before Advent**
The customary Service of Remembrance replaces Matins at Patrixbourne and will begin slightly earlier so as to be ready for the Two Minutes Silence at 11 o'clock.
At 6.30pm in St. Peter's Church, Bridge there will be a general Memorial Service for all our departed. During it names will be read out and prayers offered for them. If you would like the departed from your own family to be included, write their names on a list in one of the three churches.
- 16th *St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland, Philanthropist, Reformer of the Church, 1093*
- 17th *St. Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, 1200*
- 18th *Elizabeth of Hungary, Princess of Thuringia, Philanthropist, 1231*
Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm
- 19th *St. Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, 680*
- 20th *St. Edmund, King of the East Angles, Martyr, 870*
- 21st **Christ the King**
In place of Matins at 11am in St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne, there will be a special Service of Thanksgiving to mark the successful completion of the main phase of repairs. There's an open invitation to attend and see St. Peter's Church in all its glory.
- 23rd *St. Clement, Bishop of Rome, Martyr, c100*
- 25th Nailbourne Horticultural Society, Bridge Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 26th Bekesbourne Wine & Wisdom, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 27th **Bekesbourne Christmas Bazaar**, Village Hall, 10.30am
- 28th **The First Sunday in Advent**
Instead of Evensong at Bridge we shall again have an Advent Carol Service.
- 30th **St. Andrew the Apostle**

FROM THE VICAR

On The Nail contributions landing on the editor's desk in October and November are more plentiful than at any other time of year, and it's sometimes a job fitting them all in. Most are seasonal, in the sense of being to do with Christmas, but this year we can anticipate a lot expressly to do with the Millennium.

Even though the word 'Christmas' is already on many lips, thanks largely to the commercial world, let's not forget it *is* only November - a month with its own 'seasoning' that doesn't include Christmas or much else of a noticeably cheerful nature.

Early on comes the annual remembrance of the fallen in battle, which, 60 years after World War II began, is likely to be particularly poignant this year for those with long memories. As has happened in recent years we shall be encouraged to pause for a couple of minutes at 11 o'clock on the 11th, but there will also be the national observances the following weekend. Once again there will be a Service of Remembrance in St. Mary's Church, Patricbourne, and although it's timed for 11.00am those coming should be ready and waiting if possible a good five minutes beforehand so we can keep the silence precisely on the hour.

Like the last two years, we are holding a general Memorial Service in St. Peter's Church, Bridge at 6.30pm the same evening, when we shall honour family and friends who have departed this life and now rest in the peace of Christ. Once again a list is being compiled of names to be read out in prayer at the service, and we turn to you for assistance. There are forms in Bridge, Patricbourne and Bekesbourne Churches for you to print clearly the usual Christian and surname of any departed you want mentioned in the service. Naturally, we look forward to your being with us at the service, which should last under an hour. Those whose loved ones died in the last twelve months are especially invited.

Another recent addition to our pattern of worship in St. Peter's, Bridge is the Advent Carol Service at 6.30pm on the 28th November, the first Sunday of Advent. This differs from a Christmas Carol Service in that the carols and readings anticipate rather than celebrate our Lord's birth. So we turn to the Old Testament for all but one of the readings, and the carols and hymns reflect the traditional Advent themes of expectation and preparation.

* * *

Advance notice is given of the Family Gift Service in St. Peter's Church, Bridge on Sunday, 5th December, when we invite families to bring with them a Christmas present for one of the elderly residents of the New Close, Conyngham Lane.

Presents should be gift wrapped and, for to aid the staff it would be helpful to indicate if your present is specifically for a man or woman. We discovered last year that it's best not to use a 'from ... to' label as some of the less distressed recipients worry that they don't know who it's from and so can't say 'thank you' for it.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas cards are being sold on behalf of the Society, whose funds benefit by 40p in every £1, after printing costs. In Kent alone last year over £120,000 was raised from sales for the Society's work with disadvantaged children.

Please contact Kathy Eynon (830466) for details, brochures and sight of cards already available. Postage and packing charges are avoided by using this sale or return scheme.

BRIDGE CHURCH: A programme of care

Ever since St. Peter's Church Bridge was redecorated and acquired new carpetting its interior has been much admired. Unfortunately we tend to forget it needs regular work with the vacuum cleaner and duster, not to mention cleaning the brasses, and that this needs someone to wield the appropriate utensils.

For many years this has been done by a very small but very diligent team of ladies who, not surprisingly, are desperate for some additional help. On the basis of the-more-the-merrier won't some of you out there (and it can be men as well as women) help lighten the load by volunteering to appear on a rota of Church Carers so that not only do the existing cleaners get a break but the job can be done in a fraction of the time, with nobody having to slave single-handedly. Reports come in of churches where the menfolk concentrate on buffing up the brasses while the women deal with the rest. It's a thought! Where we are concerned church caring may be something a whole family could tackle once in a while, or somebody in need of a bit of exercise and with a certain amount of time to spare. Either way, the need is urgent, so won't you please consider it? Names a.s.a.p. please to Churchwarden John Anderson, 830260.

BEKESBOURNE REPAIRS COMPLETED

by Jane Millyard

We have now reached a point when the current repairs to St Peter's are almost completed and the efforts of the last two years in raising funds and dealing with architects and builders are nearing an end. The internal walls of the vestry have still to be plastered, once they have dried out sufficiently, but this is not likely to be done for some time. The nave and tower have retiled roofs (with the weather

vane replaced after 12 years), work has been done to combat damp in the vestry, including new guttering, three memorials in the church have been restored, the stonework on the east windows has been replaced and various other small maintenance jobs carried out. New bell ropes (bought by the Friends and the bellringers) have been hung and the bells are now ringing out again.

The total project has cost about £52,000, of which the Friends of Bekesbourne Church have raised about £5,500. It is as a result of all the efforts of the Friends and everyone who supports them that it was possible to apply for grants, demonstrating that the village cares about preserving its church building. Do come to the Service of Thanksgiving on 21 November and see what has been achieved so far. If, however, you can't get to the service the church will be open that afternoon between 2.00 and 4.00pm.

St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne
SERVICE of THANKSGIVING
to mark the completion of the current
phase of repairs to the church fabric
SUNDAY, 21st NOVEMBER
at 11.00am

BEKESBOURNE CHURCH: all-age events coming up

This month's FAMILY SERVICE on 28th will be a church parade service to which we shall welcome the 1st Bekesbourne Brownies and the Bridge Rainbows. Starting at 11.00am it should all be over by about 11.40, leaving time for some liquid refreshments.

* * *

The December Family Service will be a CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE at which we invite gifts for British Humanitarian Aid. Any children in the Benefice who wish to take part in the service please come to a rehearsal in St. Peter's, Bekesbourne at 10.00am (approximate finish 11.30-12noon) the previous Sunday, 12th. If you're unable to come to the rehearsal but would like to be involved in some way on the day please give Pat Kusel a ring on 830272.

SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE 1999

Patricxbourne

Once again we would like to offer a big 'thank you' to all those involved in the 1999 Friends of Kent Churches Cycle Ride. On a day which was blessed with good weather, Marian Harlow, David Morgan, Monty and Dianne August, Peter Morris and Viv Pritchard raised the magnificent sum of £254.50 between them - a great achievement which would not have been possible without all you willing sponsors out there. Our thanks, too, to Celia Morris, Mary Evans, John and Ailsa Williamson and Andrea Nicholson who so readily gave up their time on a busy Saturday to oversee proceedings in the church.

Bekesbourne

Jill Gillanders writes to thank riders Clive and Cheryl Barker, Joan Atkins and walkers Syd and Gill Moon, as well as church sitters Romany Cowans, John and Janet Street, Mrs Watson and Pat Kusel. A total of £350 was raised for St. Peter's Church and the Friends of Kent Churches.

Bridge

The final figure for Bridge is not yet in but I am reliably informed that the eventual result will be up on last year, for which many thanks to all concerned.



NAILBOURNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The society's Social Evening this year will take the form of a quiz (not too difficult) and light supper and will be held in the Village Hall in Bridge on Thursday, 25th November, starting at 7.30pm. There will be a small charge of £2.50, which will include a glass of wine and, of course, no village event is complete without a raffle. We look forward to seeing members and friends on the night.

K. Walder

AN EVENING OF DELIGHTS

by Rosalie Stacey

Harvest and Harp came together gloriously in Patricbourne Church on 8th October. Even the starlit night seemed to celebrate the occasion.

Camilla Pay gave a varied and delightful concert. An appreciative audience nearly filled St. Mary's Church as the harp music soared around the beautifully decorated building.

Many thanks to all who came - we raised £326 for much needed church repairs - to Margaret Marsh and her expert team for the lovely harvest decorations, to Andrea Nicholson for making the programmes and especially to the soloist, whose choice of music and sensitive playing made it all possible.

ANNUAL TREE DRESSING

Sunday, 5th December, 2.30pm

Place - the grounds of Cobham Court, Bekesbourne, adjacent to the gravel path up to the church (same as last year, for those who came).

Children are particularly welcome with their families - please bring an 'all weather' decoration this year, on the theme of light and the millennium.

People were very inventive last year and the tree was a delight to behold on a dark winter's day. It would be lovely to see lots of people. Refreshments afterwards.

Pat Kusel & Jill Thomas

FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Bridge & Patricbourne School's annual Fireworks Display is on Saturday, 6th November in Church Meadow, Brewery Lane. Gates open at 5.30pm - Fireworks from 6.30pm. Tickets in advance from the school office (Family tickets £5, Adult £2, Child £1) or at the gate (Family £6, Adult £2.50, Child £1.50). A family ticket includes two adults and up to three children. Refreshments will be available. Please note, there will be no parking in Brewery Lane.

FISH NEWS

The AGM of the Fish Scheme took place during October's Coffee Pop-In, and was kindly chaired by Mr John Anderson. A successful year was reported, including 196 transport journeys, as compared with 133 the year before. As a result we badly need more volunteer drivers. Do please consider coming on the list. The duties are light and you'll make great new friends. Telephone Ann Medhurst on 830762 for all the details.

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

If you are interested in a possible visit to the Marlowe Theatre pantomime please telephone Mrs Mavis Parsons on 832042. A.R.

FRIENDS of BEKESBOURNE CHURCH

Special Raffle to be drawn at our Christmas Bazaar

Your chance to win a magnificent hand stitched patchwork quilt, being raffled in aid of Bekesbourne Church. It has been skilfully worked by Shirley and Daphne, daughters of Mrs Dorothy Hogben of School Lane, and this family enterprise has produced a truly beautiful heirloom of the future. Get your raffle tickets (£1 a strip of five), by dialling either 831007 or 832133 or at the Christmas Bazaar.

Wine & Wisdom Evening Friday, 26th November at Bekesbourne Village Hall. Phone 768925 right away to be sure of tickets for this popular event.

Christmas Bazaar Saturday, 27th November at 10.30am in Bekesbourne Village Hall. All offers of gifts or items for our stalls will be most welcome. Do please come and support us and the Brownies, who have lots of surprises in store. There will be the usual magnificent Raffle, plus, this year, the HOGBEN QUILT.

Advance Notice Carols at The Unicorn, 15th December

* * *

All who came to the Autumn Dance enjoyed the music of Jimmy Lennox and raised £130 for our funds. The Conker Competition at The Unicorn was fun, thanks to Clive and Cheryl, and it boosted our funds by £101.

BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL: October meeting report

Millennium lighting Canterbury City Council has notified parish councils of funding which is available for millennium lighting in villages. It is intended to apply for funding in Bridge for the purposes of displaying illuminated Christmas trees in the High Street. These will take the form of a 5/6ft high tree with lights, installed with a bracket on the first floor exterior of premises. A contractor would be employed to install the trees. Any parishioners or businesses with premises overlooking the High Street, and wishing to be considered for such a tree, should contact the clerk on 01227 832219.

Affordable housing Alison Fitzgerald, Housing Enabler for Kent Rural Communities Council, attended the October meeting to report back on the results of the affordable housing survey undertaken earlier this year. Although the return was relatively low, the survey showed that 71% of respondents would not object to an affordable housing scheme. The overall outcome, Alison Fitzgerald said, showed a need for a small scheme of 6 - 8 houses with 2 or 3 bedrooms, with

perhaps 2 bungalows for the elderly, on a mixed tenure of rent and shared ownership.

Footway/cycleway survey Councillors would like to thank parishioners for their excellent response to the survey relating to the proposed footway/cycleway between Bridge and the Gate Inn. Kent Highways are currently processing the data and the results and outcome will be notified through the parish magazine and village column in the press.

Traffic management The parish council is aware of concern amongst parishioners about traffic in the village. Fears have been expressed for the safety of the elderly and of children walking or cycling to school due to the parking of vehicles, speeding and lorries using the village. As a result, the parish council has opened a dialogue with the Highway Manager at Kent Highways to attempt to ease the situation with a traffic management scheme. Any comments which parishioners wish to make in this connection should be addressed to the clerk at 50 Riverside Close, Bridge.

BRIDGE & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

Minnis Memories The season got off to a good start on Tuesday, 28th September. Speaker David McDine said that the common land at Stelling Minnis is because two successive owner families chose not to fence off its 125 acres under the various Enclosure Acts, whereas at Swingfield and Rhodes its was lost forever because it was fenced in. Uniquely, Wheelbarrow Town fell outside any Parish and so the area became a haven for non-conformists. Now redundant, the Methodist chapel has been bought by the community and it is planned to convert it for community use, including religious services.

Day out in Rochester On 16th October a guided party set off from the Visitor Centre for a tour of the city that for almost a thousand years has been dominated by the huge keep of the Norman castle, and the cathedral. Other places included in the tour were Richard Watt's house for Six Poor Travellers, offering food, drink and a bed *since 1579*, Restoration House where Charles II stayed overnight on his way to London for his restoration in 1660, and Eastgate House, Charles Dickens's family home.

After free time for lunch and individual visits to the Charles Dickens Centre in Eastgate House, the Cathedral or the Castle, the last stop of the day was for a cream tea to round off a most enjoyable day out.

The society's next meeting is on 23rd November, and next Day Out by coach is to Winchelsea and Rye, 29th April. Society information from the secretary, Bill Dawson, tel 831044.

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

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

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

Dr AM Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patricxbourne (830947)

Hon Secretary Mrs A Williamson, Beechmount, Conyngham Lane, Bridge (830399)

Hon Treasurer Mrs JB Stingemore, 5 Dering Road, Bridge (830763)

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

Organist (Bridge) Mr JF Atterbury, 18 Mount Road, Canterbury (760293)

Organist (Patricxbourne) Mrs RM Stacey, Joslet, Keepers Hill, Patricxbourne (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, Patricxbourne (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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Items for *On The Nail* should reach the editor by the 15th of the preceding month.

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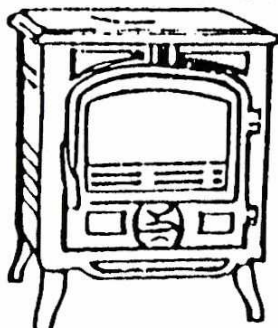
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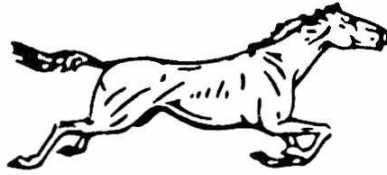
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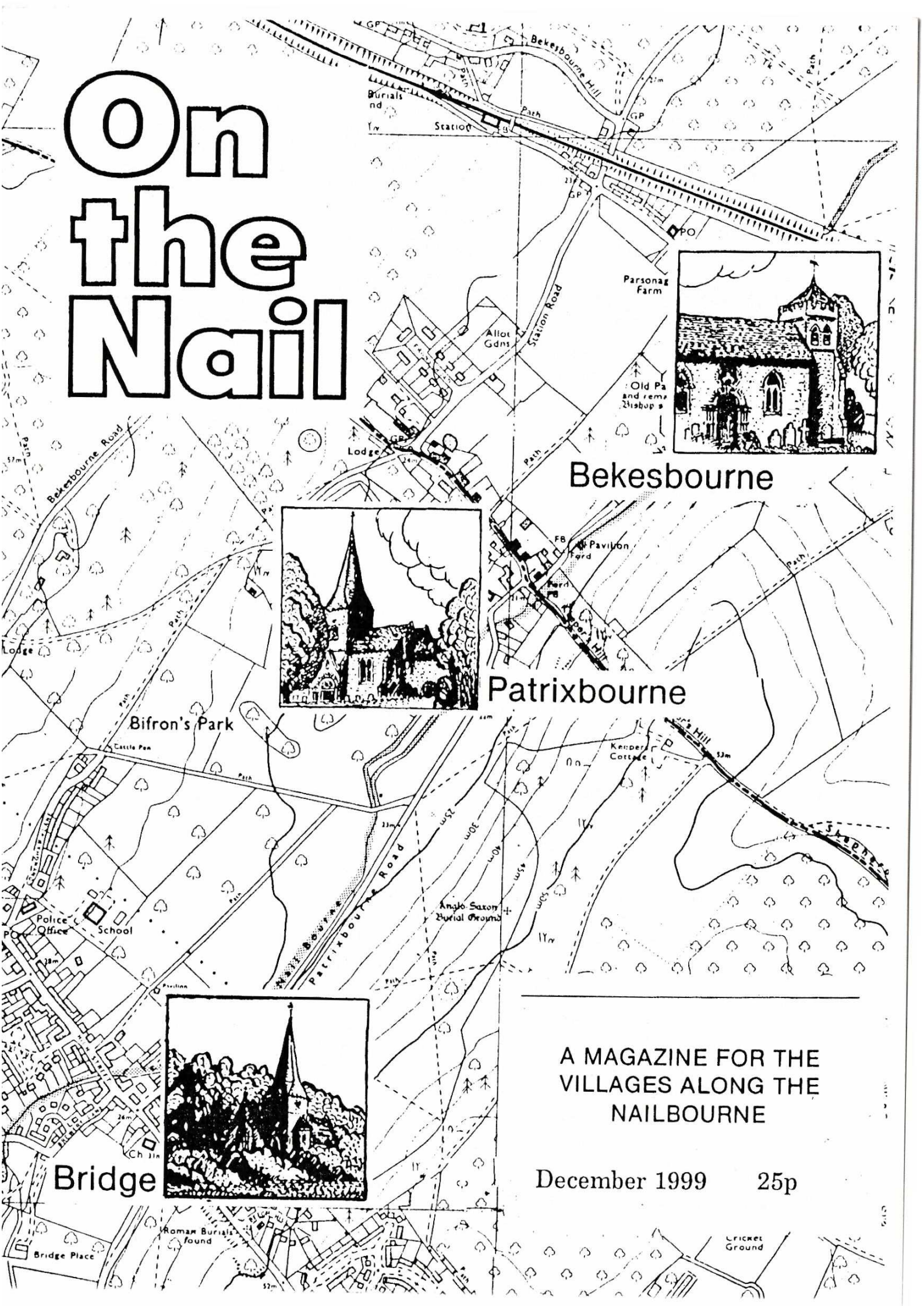
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SUNDAY WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

5th: The Second Sunday of Advent

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

12th: The Third Sunday of Advent

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Bekesbourne*)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (*Bridge*)
- 11.00am Matins (*Patricbourne*)

19th: The Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Patricbourne*)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (*Bridge*)
- 11.00am Christmas Family Gift Service (*Bekesbourne*)
- 6.30pm Carol Service (*Bridge*)

26th: St. Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr

- 11.00am Benefice Eucharist (*Bridge*)

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *5th, Toy Service*, The Revd David Marshall. *12th*, The Revd Donald Lugg. *19th, Christingle Service*, The Revd David Marshall. *26th*, The Revd Maurice Weatherup.

FOR YOUR DIARY AND PRAYER LIST

- 2nd Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm
- 4th Bridge Village Playgroup Christmas Fair, Village Hall, 10.30-2.30
- 5th **The Second Sunday of Advent**
A reminder that the 11.00 Family Service at Bridge is the time to bring a present for one of the residents of The New Close. The theme of the service is *The Advent Wreath*, when the significance of it will be explained and the second candle lit.
- 6th *St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c326*

- 7th *St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Teacher of the Faith, 397*
 Bridge Church flower arrangers meeting, 'The Archway', 7.00pm
- 8th *The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
 Pray for the clergy of East Bridge Deanery, who meet in Chapter this
 lunchtime.
- 9th Bridge Parish Council Meeting, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
- 12th **The Third Sunday of Advent**
- 13th *St. Lucy, Martyr of Syracuse, 304*
- 14th *St. John of the Cross, Mystic, Teacher of the Faith, 1591*
- 16th Prayers for Health & Healing concerns, The Vicarage, 7pm
- 19th **The Fourth Sunday of Advent**
 Bridge's Candlelit Christmas Carol Service is at 6.30pm.
- 21st Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute Party Night
- 23rd Patrixbourne Carol Service, St. Mary's Church, 7.00pm
- 24th **Christmas Eve**
 Christingle Service, Bridge, 4.00pm
 Midnight Mass, Bridge & Bekesbourne, 11.30pm
- 25th **CHRISTMAS DAY**
 Holy Communion, Bridge, 8.00am
 Christmas Eucharist, Patrixbourne, 9.30am
 Family Carol Service, Bekesbourne, 11.00am
- 26th **St. Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr**
 The one service today will be a Eucharist in St. Peter's, Bridge at 11.00am
 and celebrating the feast of St. Stephen.
- 27th **St. John, Apostle & Evangelist**
- 28th **Holy Innocents**
- 29th *St. Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1170*

Collections will be taken during the Christmas services at all three churches, unlike on Sundays. Those at Patrixbourne and Bridge will be given to the missionary society we traditionally support, the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG). Money received from the purses presented at the Christingle Service will, as always, go to The Children's Society.

Christmas Communion from the reserved sacrament can be taken to the sick and housebound after Christmas Day, by prior arrangement with the vicar.

A special Millennium Candle and copy of the Millennium Resolution will be given to all households in the three villages. This is a gift from the Church to mark Jesus Christ, the Light of the World's coming 2000 years ago, and should be lit at dawn on New Year's Day. A special short service with bell-ringing will take place in all three churches at 11.45am on New Year's Day. Do join us!

FROM THE VICAR

Made all your plans? Christmas cake and puds done, presents bought, festive invitations sent or replied to, millennium bug eradicated? Thought not! If you're like me you'll be as tardy with your seasonal preparations as usual; and the millennium with its extended holiday won't make a blind bit of difference!

Nevertheless there's already a suggestion of uncharacteristic panic in the air, even if fuelled more by millennium fever than Christmas. It's all the fault of those with a vested interest who are trying to make us believe this Christmas and what comes after will be unlike any other end-of-year celebrations. They say we're all in for a week of high excitement - for which book extra early to avoid disappointment.

In the middle of all the razzmatazz I forecast an even rawer deal for Advent than usual. No doubt, with the kids in mind there'll be Advent calendars; although early indications were that proper Advent calendars, i.e. with a religious theme and a crib scene behind the last door, are scarce this year. Most of the calendars on sale have been severely secularized, presumably to up the sales.

Nevertheless, the Church sticks doggedly to Advent, the spiritual season of preparation for Christmas, lighting the traditional Advent candles Sunday by Sunday to pave the way for celebrating the first coming of Christ, and in addition dropping a gentle hint of his foretold final coming at the end of time. This isn't a religious scare tactic to put a damper on the proceedings and stave off the Yuletide excitement, but an incentive to be forward looking, well beyond yet another Christmas. God has a divine plan for his people that is more thrilling than an annual whoopee that's over and done with in a few days - at least when there isn't a millennium to tack on the end. The plan concerns eternity, which may be years away or immanent, but is without doubt the most glorious climax to human existence. This future survival has so much to offer than a new millennium, so let's welcome the coming kingdom, irrespective of how far in the future it dawns.

*The advent of our God
With eager prayers we greet,
And singing haste upon his road
His glorious gift to meet.*

HEARTFELT THANKS to all kind friends who, during my recent illness, helped me by professional expertise, visits, flowers, cards, and messages; but most especially by your prayers. 'To God by the glory, great things he has done!'
Rosemary Gilbert

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Monday, 13th December

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at Bridge School

Refreshments will be served.

Please contact Mrs Andrews on 839276 if you wish to come, also if you require transport.

SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE

The sponsorship at Bridge for this year's Bike Ride totalled £145.20. Many thanks to our riders, the Parsons family and Chris Maclean at the Plough & Harrow, who saved the day with his ideas. Thanks also to those who helped on the day and manned the church.
Christine Beer

BRIDGE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Tuesday, 21st December is party night. Entertainment and festive snacks are provided but members are asked to take a glass and a prize for the Christmas raffle.
J.H.

OUR JOYS & SORROWS

Baptized into Christ

On 31st October in St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne, the vicar baptized HONOR LOUISE POLLARD, daughter of Piers and Marietta and granddaughter of Ian and Elizabeth Johnston. At Bridge's Family Eucharist on 7th November he christened ANYA JADE SOCHACKA, daughter of Frank and Sheila of Silver Birches, Patricxbourne Road.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

The whole of the local community was shattered by the news of the sudden death in the early hours of Thursday, 18th November of JOHN WILLIAMSON, of Beechmount, Conyngham Lane.

John was a truly gentle man whose charm captivated everyone he met. He was always interested in people and was regularly to be seen walking along Bridge High Street, stopping frequently to pass the time of day with those he met. He was renowned as a local historian and a great supporter of the church, serving a term as churchwarden and for many years on the PCC. His circle of friends and acquaintances was legion and went well beyond this village. A funeral service in St. Peter's Church prior to cremation at Barham, was conducted by the Vicar on Thursday, 25th November. Our prayers and sympathy go to his wife Ailsa, children Rupert, Toby and Tessa and their families.

We sadly record also the death of Mrs RITA OWEN, wife of the Revd Bill Owen of Bridge Down and mother of Jane. A simple funeral service at Barham crematorium was conducted by the Revd John Shorrocks.

BRIDGE and the MILLENNIUM

by John Shirley

The Bridge Millennium Committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Alan Walton, separate from but with the tacit support of Bridge Parish Council.

The aim is to celebrate at the end of June with music, games and general fun, supported by perhaps extended opening of shops, including outside displays. The aim is to close off part of the High Street to motorised traffic. The committee's application for road closure under the 1847 Town Police Clauses Act has received a negative response from the police, but the intention is to pull out all the stops to appeal against this.

The committee will endeavour to keep villagers abreast of developments as we head towards June. Any support or contributions towards either the event itself or lobbying for the road closure would be welcome.

NAILBOURNE SCOUT GROUP NEEDS YOU!

Hello! Can you spare approximately two hours a week? We are looking for someone who can help with the local Scout Group. Our boys have a full, active schedule. Our aims are to educate and entertain and some extra adult assistance would be most welcome.

What we want from you: a little energy, a lot of enthusiasm and some of your time. **What you will get from us:** a little break from the routine, a lot of fun and some great camaraderie.

Please telephone Brian Geliot on **01227 750974** for a chat.

BRIDGE CHURCH

Cleaning Rota - week ending

4th December - Kath Pierce/Gladys Lemar

11th December - Pat Hulyer

18th December - Kath Pierce/Gladys Lemar

24th December - Any volunteers, after decorating!

Brasses - John Hill, 4th and 18th

Volunteers to go on the rota are still urgently needed - with thanks to the two who volunteered after the last appeal.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Viv Brasier invites all the church flower arrangers and anyone else prepared to help, to a meeting at her home, 'The Archways' Conyngham Lane on Thursday, 9th December at 7.00pm to discuss the Christmas decorations and next year's flower rota.

PATRIXBOURNE CHURCH: One in a Thousand

About a week before his untimely death John Williamson submitted the following article for 'On The Nail', feeling Patribourne's accolade deserved publicity. It is printed with Ailsa's consent.

Readers will be pleased to know that St. Mary's Church, Patribourne is included as one of the 1000 Best Churches in Simon Jenkins' (a *Times* leader writer) new

book. He is ecstatic about the south door and the Five Orders, especially the one with the hat and moustache. The Swiss glass comes in for praise and is considered more 'lush' than Flemish Art and a genius of European Art; some may not agree when he says the church has been 'over restored' in the interior but will be amused to know that a church was eliminated for a mention if it took more than half an hour to find the key.

THE END OF AN ERA

From now on the familiar figure of Jack Hopkins may not be seen quite so often in Bridge, for after years of service he has decided to retire as vergers of St. Peter's Church. He hung up his gown for the last time after the Parish Communion on 21st November but will be paying us a visit on 12th December so that we can bid him a proper farewell during coffee after the service.

Bekesbourne Church Cleaning & Decorating

4th December - Romany Cowans

11th/18th December - Jane Shorrocks/Jane Mason

All help welcome with Christmas decorating from 10.00am

Wednesday, 22nd December.

BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL: November Meeting

Traffic management Councillors were pleased to welcome Mr A Phillips, Highway Manager from Kent Highways, to their November meeting to discuss traffic management issues for the village. As reported last month, there is concern about the quantity of traffic and its speed, passing through the village as well as the level of illegal parking. Mr Phillips reported that with the decriminalisation of parking regulations the City Council had set up a Parking Services Unit with 28 parking attendants - an increase on the previous level. Although the unit is to be urban based parking attendants should be able to visit those villages with parking restrictions, such as Bridge, on a more regular basis. Additionally, Mr Phillips had identified the speed at which traffic approaches the village from all directions as a major cause for concern. As a result of his visit a small working party is to be

set up including parish councillors, police and representatives from Highways Department, to develop means of alleviating the traffic problems. Comments from residents who contacted the clerk about these matters will be passed on to the working party.

Playground equipment Councillors agreed that the old swings, which have been taken out of use for health and safety reasons, should be replaced with new ones as soon as possible. An application is to be made to the City Council to fund their replacement out of Capital Functions Grant.

Cricket Club: It was with regret that councillors learnt of the winding up of Bridge Cricket Club, due to a shortage of committed players, money and a captain. The Parish Council would welcome another club to the ground, especially one for young players or a team for Bridge residents. Anyone with an interest in this matter should contact the clerk on 01227 832219.

Street lighting A residents' survey of Conyngham Lane showed a majority in favour of additional street lighting. The Parish Council intends to install one additional lighting column, at the far end of the road, to provide a safer route for essential users.

Street furniture Seats, which have been removed due to damage through vandalism, are to be inspected to see if they can be refurbished at reasonable cost. It is hoped to re-install one outside the Post Office as soon as possible and the others to suitable locations next year.

Bridge Festival Committee The committee set up under the auspices of the Parish Council are planning a full day event to celebrate the millennium in the village. This will take place on the same day as the village fete - 24 June 2000 and will include events both before and after the fete. A grant is being requested from KCC and the Parish Council has agreed to provide some financial assistance.

Millennium lighting The Parish Council has successfully bid for funding to provide illuminated Christmas trees in the High Street over the Christmas and New Year period. Residents of the High Street who have already notified the clerk that they would like a tree on their property will be contacted shortly. Anyone who has premises in the High Street and would like an illuminated tree on the first floor of their property should contact the clerk on the number given above as soon as possible.

Planning applications The following application had been received and no objection made: CA/99/0985/BRI and CAL/99/0134/BRI - garden room to rear and lantern light over porch at 21 High Street.

The following application had been notified as granted with conditions: CA/99/681 - 5 bay mobile classroom at Bridge and Patricbourne School.

Bridge Village Playgroup is holding a CHRISTMAS FAIR on Saturday, 4th December from 10.30am to 2.30pm in Bridge Village Hall. Local craft stalls, tombola, children's lucky dip, cake stall and refreshments will all be there: will you? For more information call Joanne Watt on 832343.

* * *

Interested in birds and conservation in general? Then why not join us at Canterbury 'Swallows' YOC (the junior section of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds). We hold both indoor and outdoor monthly meetings at Bridge School on the first Tuesday of the month. It is open to young people between 8 and 13. For more details and a programme of events contact Brian Warren on 01227 751008, after 6pm please.

ANNUAL TREE DRESSING

Place - the grounds of Cobham Court, Bekesbourne, adjacent to the gravel path up to the church (same as last year, for those who came).

Children are particularly welcome with their families - please bring an 'all weather' decoration this year, on the theme of light and the millennium.

People were very inventive last year and the tree was a delight to behold on a dark winter's day. It would be lovely to see lots of people. Refreshments afterwards.

Pat Kusel & Jill Thomas

BEKESBOURNE CHILDREN at CHRISTMAS

This month's Family Service at Bekesbourne is on Sunday, 19th, and will be a CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE at which we invite those who come to bring gifts for Humanitarian Aid. Any children in the Benefice who wish to take part in the service please come to a rehearsal in St. Peter's, Bekesbourne at 10.00am (approximate finish 11.30-12 noon) the previous Sunday, 12th. If you are unable to come to the rehearsal but would like to be involved in some way on the day please give Pat Kusel a ring on 830272.



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PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

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

Dr AM Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patrixbourne (830947)

Hon Secretary Mrs A Williamson, Beechmount, Conyngham Lane, Bridge (830399)

Hon Treasurer Mrs JB Stingemore, 5 Dering Road, Bridge (830763)

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

Organist (Bridge) Mr JF Atterbury, 18 Mount Road, Canterbury (760293)

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)

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

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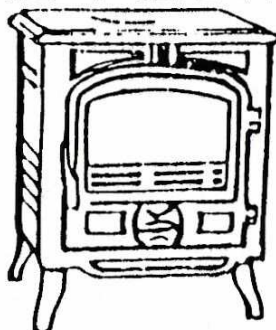
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