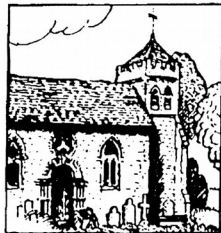


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May 2015 50p



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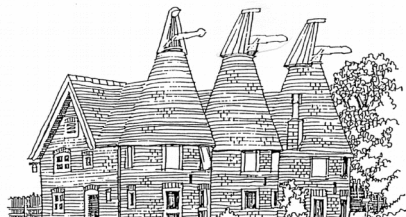
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<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b> <b>3 May</b>	<b>8.00am</b> BCP Holy Communion	<b>11.00am</b> Family Communion	<b>12.00noon</b> Holy Baptism of Ruby & Ivy Moon <b>6.00pm</b> Evensong	<b>9.30am</b> Sung Eucharist	<b>9.30am</b> Family Service with Holy Baptism of Zachary Moon
<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b> <b>10 May</b> <b>Start of Christian Aid Week 2015</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Sung Eucharist	<i><b>NB Evensong today is at Bekesbourne at 5.00pm</b></i>	<b>11.00am</b> Family Communion with Holy Baptism		<b>8.00am</b> BCP Holy Communion <b>5.00pm</b> Evensong <i>Preacher: Canon Caroline Pinchbeck</i>
<b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b> <b>17 May</b>		<b>9.30am</b> Family Service	<b>11.00am</b> Choral Eucharist	<b>8.00am</b> BCP Holy Communion	<b>9.30am</b> Sung Eucharist
<b>PENTECOST SUNDAY</b> <b>24 May</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Sung Eucharist		<b>8.00am</b> BCP Holy Communion <b>11.00am</b> Parish Eucharist	<b>9.30am</b> Mattins	
<b>TRINITY SUNDAY</b> <b>31 May</b>	11.00am at Bridge	11.00am at Bridge	<b>11.00am</b> Benefice Trinity Sunday Eucharist	11.00am at Bridge	11.00am at Bridge

Every Tuesday at 9.30am-10.00am Benefice Holy Communion at St Peter's Church Bridge.

On Ascension Day, 14 May, there is a Benefice-wide Service at 7.00pm at Bridge.

All are warmly invited to all services.

## **Bishop Richard Llewelin, retired Bishop of Dover, was our guest preacher at Bridge on Easter Day and he shares here his Easter message:**

Easter Day 2015

Bridge

The first Easter was a foretaste of things to come, a trailer, a promise, a kind of pilot project for the whole cosmos. What God did for Jesus that explosive first Easter morning is what He plans to do one day for the whole of his creation.

We who live on this planet in the interval between Jesus' Resurrection and the final rescue and transformation of the whole world are invited to live as *new creation people* in the here and now, grasping in our own lives before this final rescue and transformation the new style of living of the life of the world yet to come.

Now, this may sound fantastic. You may say, "We don't even know what this new style of living is all about!" But we do! We have already seen it in action in the life and death of our friend and Lord, Jesus. His was the life of the kingdom of God, lived out in the dust and dirt of this planet. And he invites us to do the same, in His strength, in the power of His Holy Spirit. That is the hidden meaning of the greatest festival Christians have.

This true meaning has remained hidden because the Church has trivialised it, and the world has rubbished it. The Church has turned Jesus' resurrection into a "happy ending" after the dark and messy story of Good Friday, often scaling it down so that "resurrection" becomes a fancy way of saying "He went to Heaven". Easter then means: "There really is life after death".

But "resurrection" to first-century Jews wasn't about "going to Heaven": it was about the physically dead being physically alive again. Some Jews (not all) believed that God would do this for all people on what they called 'the last day'. Nobody, including Jesus' followers, was expecting one person to be bodily raised from the dead ***in the middle of history***.

The stories of the resurrection are certainly not "wish-fulfillments" on the part of the first disciples, nor are they the result of a refusal on the part of his friends to accept that their master and teacher had been taken from them, after they had expected so much from him. Indeed the opposite is true: disillusioned and frightened, they simply scarpered: as far as they were concerned, it was all over, finished.

First-century Jews who followed 'would-be messiahs' knew that if your leader got killed by the authorities, it meant you had backed the wrong person. You then had a choice: give up the revolution or get yourself a new leader. The disciples of Jesus gave up. Going around saying that he'd been raised from the dead wasn't an option.

Unless, of course, he had been.

Jesus of Nazareth was certainly dead by the Friday evening. Roman soldiers were professional killers, and wouldn't have allowed a not-quite-dead rebel leader to stay that way for long. When the first Christians told the story of what happened next,

they were not saying: "I think he's still with us in a spiritual sense" or "I think he's gone to heaven". They said, "He is alive, wonderfully alive, gloriously alive, alive with the life beyond death and the grave ... and it is the very last thing we expected or hoped for!"

The responsible historian must explain how else Christianity got going in the first place, and why it hailed Jesus as Messiah despite His execution. After all, he hadn't defeated the Romans, or rebuilt the Temple, or brought justice and peace to the world, all of which a Messiah should have done. The only explanation that will fit the evidence is the one the early Christians insisted upon — Jesus really had been raised from the dead. His body was not just reanimated. It was transformed, so that it was no longer subject to sickness and death.

Let's be clear: the stories are not about someone coming back into the present mode of life. Lazarus did that; Jesus didn't. They are about someone going on into a new sort of existence, still emphatically bodily, if anything, more so.

Now, suddenly, the real meaning of Easter comes into view, as well as the reason why it has been trivialised and sidelined. Easter is about *a new creation that has already begun*. It is worth saying that a second time: Easter is about *a new creation that has already begun*. God is remaking His world, challenging all the other powers that think that is their job to do so. This diverse and magnificent order of creation, will all its glorious, abundant beauty, is reaffirmed on the other side of the thing that has always threatens justice and beauty — death.

Christianity's critics have always sneered that nothing has changed. But everything has. The world is a different place, because of the resurrection of Christ. We now know that evil, sin and death will be finally defeated, and that goodness, truth and beauty will prevail. This gives you and me, for instance, the confidence to work with real hope in apparently hopeless situations, where the cynic would say, "What's the point?" We can be confident that a life lived out in love and trust and in the service of others will not be a life lived out in vain!

*[Adapted from an article by the Right Rev Dr Tom Wright/formerly Bishop of Durham]*

### **Easter Workshop**

We had a great time with over 50 Children. IT WAS FUN! It was lovely seeing so many parents with the pre-school age children. I think they enjoyed it was much as their children. A great big THANK-YOU to all the helpers, who worked so hard. Thank-you too to all of the children who participated. It was good to see Canon Johnathon, who led us in prayer.

### **Easter Day**

The church looked very beautiful. The cross was decorated with golden daffodils, and the memorial lilies and all of the arrangements of flowers were splendid. The Paschal Candle enhanced the magical feel of the service. The children enjoyed the traditional Easter Egg hunt in the sunshine, whilst mums and dads had coffee and chocolate biscuits. Sincere thanks to everyone who made Easter Day so memorable.

Margaret

## Sylvia Joyce Hopkins

The family of Sylvia Joyce Hopkins would like to say thank you to all family and friends who joined us for her funeral service and to Margaret for everything she did.

Mum enjoyed the village life making many friends at W.I. and the 'League of Friends'. She also played in the darts team at the Plough & Harrow and went into competitions at horticultural shows.

She will sadly be missed by all.

Mary, Eric, Ray, Mike and Linda.

Vicar in Shepherds Hut Jonathan, your Vicar, is in The Shepherd's Hut at Chalk Pit Farm on Wednesday afternoons this summer between 2pm and 4pm starting on 10 June. Baptism, wedding, funeral enquiries, prayer requests or just a cup of tea and a chat! No appointment needed. All welcome.







## Week 2015

The focus for 2015 is Ethiopia and particularly on empowering women to improve their own lives and lift themselves and their families out of poverty. Adi was left with no cattle and just one sheep after her husband died. She was eating just once a day, and very little even then. Now with her new cow and loans from a self-help group, Adi can eat properly. Adi is building a shop and building a future.



### Our challenge

Jesus challenged us to love our neighbour and our global neighbour too, especially those suffering through poverty. Together with churches, supporters, partners and staff, Christian Aid works to save lives now and inspire lasting hope for the future. It doesn't give handouts, but instead chooses its partners on the ground with care, working with all kinds of local groups who are innovative and effective in helping communities to change their situations for the better.

### How the money is spent

For every pound raised Christian Aid puts 86p directly into fighting poverty. Another 13p goes back into fund-raising so they can raise the next pound. The last penny pays for its running costs, ensuring it can keep carrying on the work.

### What we can do

On Sunday 10 May there will be a presentation during the 11am service at Bridge Church, telling about women like Adi and the Christian Aid partners who are helping her. Also, at 3.30pm the annual Canterbury Christian Aid service takes place at St Peter's Methodist Church, Canterbury. Everyone is warmly invited to these services.

If you are able to help during Christian Aid Week in any way, please contact Jean Barber ([jeanbarber@uk2.net](mailto:jeanbarber@uk2.net))



## **Fish Scheme (Neighbourly Help) News Tel.no: 07935 966 080**

At the monthly Coffee Pop-In on Wednesday May 13th in Bridge village hall you will be able to pick up a form for the summer outing on June 25th. This year it will be a trip to the Turner Gallery at Margate and lunch in a nearby pub

## **Bridge & District History Society**

The annual conference of the Kent History Federation will take place at Elham on Saturday 9th May. Further details from David Gilmour Tel: 832450.

The next meeting of the History Society will be on Thursday 19th May. Following her talk in March on the restoration being carried out on stonework at the Cathedral, Heather Newton will lead a tour at the Cathedral to see the work first hand.

Numbers are strictly limited to Society members only (cost £12.50) so please apply as soon as possible to Meriel Connor Tel: 830487. Meet at 6.30pm at the Guided Tour Ticket Office inside the precincts. (Cathedral Pass required).

Bekesbourne Annual Church Meeting Seventeen parishioners attended the annual meeting of St Peter's Church on 25th March. The PCC reported another successful year in terms of church attendance and special services. Jane Millyard stood down as churchwarden. The vicar thanked God for her energy, faith and dedication which has been central to our life and growth over the last 2 decades. She was presented with flowers and a small gift as a token of our appreciation for all she has done for Bekesbourne Church. The accounts for 2014 showed a small surplus. We had a very busy year of fund-raising events. The Flower Festival was very successful, raising over £2,000. It was a happy church and community event which involved a band of 40 helpers. Thanks were given to everyone for their hard work, enthusiasm and generosity throughout the year. Thanks to the Friends of Bekesbourne Church for agreeing to continue to pay our church insurance and raise funds to keep the church building and churchyard in good repair. Jill Gillanders was re-elected as churchwarden for the coming year. Pat Kusel continues as vice chairman, Nicky Fry as PCC secretary and Zan Clifford as treasurer. Graham Duplock represents The Friends of Bekesbourne Church. Lindsay Sharp-Kinsey was appointed Electoral Roll Officer. The remaining members of the PCC are Amanda Barker, Jonathan Cowans and Jane Millyard. A building sub-committee has been set up to look after the fabric of the church. Nicky Fry (PCC Secretary)

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*Patricxbourne with Bridge PCC*



# *Coffee Morning*

*Bridge Village Hall  
Saturday 23rd May  
10 am–12 noon*

**Cake Stall, Raffle, and  
Bring and Buy Stall**

*Come and meet friends  
Over a cup of coffee.*



### **Nailbourne Horticultural Society**

Following on from our successful Spring Show, the next event on our programme this year is a presentation by a local organisation, **Natural Pathways**, on "**Foraging Wild Plants and Cook Up**". I am sure there will be a chance to sample and taste and it might even inspire us to broaden and enliven our eating habits without major expense! The talk will be on **Tuesday 12 May** at the usual time of 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall and everyone is welcome. There will be a small charge to include refreshments.

### **National Vegetable Society - Kent District Association**

On **Wednesday 13 May**, the Society has invited back **Steve Bradley, Radio Kent Gardening Presenter**, to give a talk entitled "**A Practical Guide to Pruning**". As usual the talk will be in **Bridge Village Hall**, 7.30 for 8.00 pm, and everyone is welcome to come along and pick up some useful tips and advice

### **Bridge Allotment Association**

An allotment is expected to become available shortly. If you are interested in an allotment, either now or in the future, please contact James Logan by email: [jmslogan904@gmail.com](mailto:jmslogan904@gmail.com)

### **Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute**

May is a busy month for our WI.

Firstly, a reminder of our **May Day Tea** on Friday 1 May at the Pavilion on Bridge Recreation Ground from 2.30 until 4.00 pm. All are welcome.

On Thursday 14 May we have arranged a birthday celebration outing to **Merriments Gardens** in East Sussex prior to our regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday 19 May** at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall. As this is our Birthday and Resolutions Meeting there will be no guest speaker but the committee will be organising a buffet supper to complement the evening.



# Come and explore St Peter's churchyard at Bekesbourne in the Nailbourne valley



Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup> from 2.30 to 4.30pm

- ❖ follow our newly-launched churchyard trails – one for adults; one for young people
- ❖ enjoy the beautiful space - open to all every day of the year
- ❖ find out about the people remembered here
- ❖ get close up to a Tower of London poppy
- ❖ meet the bats who live in the roof
- ❖ hunt for bugs and other wildlife
- ❖ locate the graves of your ancestors
- ❖ learn about gravestone symbolism & poetry

Refreshments till 4.30pm

Followed at 5pm by a short celebration of Evensong  
for those who wish to stay

You will need sensible shoes as you will be walking across grass and uneven ground. We regret that there is restricted access for visitors with disabilities.

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**(In aid of the Poppy Appeal)**

**Saturday, 6th June 2015, at 2p.m.**  
**in the War Memorial Hall, Littlebourne**  
**Entrance £3 (including refreshments)**

***Come and have a chat over tea and scones***

**Stalls (cakes, raffle, etc)**

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MAY MARKETS: 9 and 23 May



# Bridge Village Fete

Saturday 13th June 2015

12 noon—4pm

In Bridge School Grounds

(free parking in recreation ground)

Plenty of family entertainment

BBQ, teas, beer tent, ices, toys, books,  
bric-a-brac, plants

Grand Raffle

Children's performances

Victoria Sponge competition

Craft Stalls

Fancy dress Parade (more details next month)

**Notes from a meeting of BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held on Thursday 9 April 2015**

**Matter raised by a member of the public.**

Mr Joe Connor expressed his disapproval at the felling of a copper beech tree at Beechmount. He asked if the Parish Council was aware that this was going to happen and what has been done since. Cllr Hill replied, quoting from an email received from the owner of the property and also from an arborist's report, commissioned by the owner. He said that Bridge Parish Council had never been consulted about the loss of this tree.

**Recreation Ground;**

Cllr Ward reported good use of the playground area over the holiday period with an attendant rise in litter. The moles seem to have been reactivated by the onset of spring. Cllr Hodges thanked volunteers who participated in the Recreation Ground working party on 21 March 2015. The Clerk reported that the new mowing contractor had already carried out two cuts of the grass. Discussion then ensued about charging for the use of the refurbished pavilion on the recreation ground. It was agreed that payment by users should always be to one source (BVST or Bridge Parish Council) with a partition of funds between these groups to take place before the end of the relevant financial year.

**Nail bourne**

Cllr Atkinson reported that the latest report on groundwater levels in the area indicated a fall of 1 metre in the last two weeks. Bridge Ford will remain closed for another month although the gaugeboards in the village have started to record a falling river level. There is no tankering or overpumping along the Nailbourne at present and very little prospect of flooding this spring. The Council supported Cllr Atkinson's suggestion that names should be forwarded to him of villagers who might be willing to participate in a research project being sponsored by King's College, London regarding the fear of flooding.

**Neighbourhood Plan**

Joe Connor reported that Bridge is well ahead of most councils for Neighbourhood Planning. The Bridge plan is heavily dependent on acceptance by relevant Inspectors of the Canterbury City Council Plan. This is likely to take some time.

**Matters for Discussion and Action**

- a. **To discuss the provision of a bin to deal with dog mess on the water meadow near the ford.** Cllr Edmonds led the discussion which culminated in an agreed proposed location of a green coloured bin in close proximity to the water meadows.
  
- b. **To review the election timetable in preparation for May 7 elections.**  
The Clerk reminded the meeting of key dates in the current electoral cycle and pointed out that full details are available from him.

- c. **To discuss the nomination for a KALC award in 2016.** Cllr Hodges' suggestion that Cllr Hill be nominated for outstanding length and quality of service met with unanimous approval.
- d. **Annual Parish Meeting - 30 April 2015.** Cllr Hodges ran through the arrangements for the evening.
- e. **Sale of the Mill Centre.** A 6 month moratorium on the sale of the building is now in place. The meeting agreed unanimously that there must be an energetic response to the issue once elections results are known.
- f. **A BPC response to the rural enforcement questionnaire from Canterbury City Council-**Cllr Hodges led the meeting through the completion of the response form for Canterbury City Council.
- g. **A BPC response to the Concurrent Funding questionnaire from Canterbury City Council-**Cllr Hodges led the meeting through the completion of the response form for Canterbury City Council.
- h. The Council **ratified the draft emergency plan** as published prior to the meeting. This was agreed unanimously.

### **Any Other Business**

Cllr Ward reminded all present of the forthcoming village litter pick on Saturday 18 April 2015 at 9.30 am, with volunteers meeting at the junction of Conyngham Lane and High St.

Cllr Hill expressed his deep thanks to all fellow councillors on the occasion of his final meeting after over 35 years of service.

Cllr Atkinson will attend a KALC meeting on 21 April 2015 to discuss future working relationships with the new committee structure of Canterbury City Council.

Cllr Hodges asked for interested parties to contact the Clerk if they wished to be involved in a national survey of war memorials. She also expressed her thanks to all councillors for the support she has received in her two years as Chairman of the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on **Thursday 14 May 2015 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.**

# Battersea Dance Off

## **Bust a move with the Battersea Dance Off!**

Battersea Dogs & Cats Home is asking schools to hold a Battersea Dance Off in June. Funds raised will help the lost and abandoned dogs and cats that arrive at Battersea's centres in London, Brands Hatch and Old Windsor.

The idea is simple: Pupils create a dance using dog and cat inspired moves and donate £1 to take part. Dance Offs can be as compact as a Chihuahua, or as massive as a Mastiff! Participants receive a free pack, including a dance DVD, posters, event guide and lesson plans.

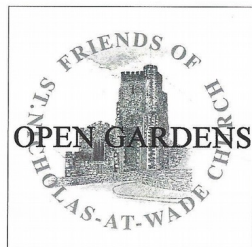
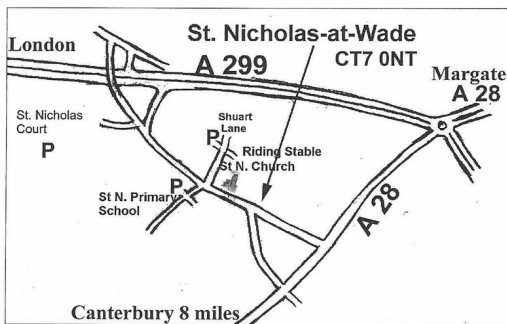
If you know a school that might like to take part, ask them to call Victoria on 07590 173456, email [danceoff@battersea.org.uk](mailto:danceoff@battersea.org.uk) or register at [battersea.org.uk/danceoff](http://battersea.org.uk/danceoff). Schools that register by 15 May will enter a prize draw to win a tour of a Battersea rehoming centre (Terms & Conditions apply).



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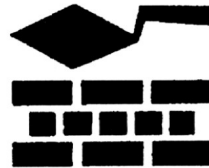


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