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March 2018	St Mary NACKINGTON	St Mary LOWER HARDRES	St Peter BRIDGE	St Mary PATRIXBOURNE	St Peter BEKESBOURNE
4th Mar Ex. 20. 1-17 John 2. 13-22	8.00am BCP Holy Communion	11.00am Family Communion	6.00pm Evensong	9.30am Sung Eucharist	All welcome at the other services of the Benefice
11 th Mar Mothering Sunday Col. 3. 12-17 John 19.25b-27	9.30am Sung Eucharist RH	9:30am Family Service MC 3.30pm Evensong MC	MC & EL 9:30am Family Communion EL	All welcome at the other services of the Benefice	10.00am Songs of Praise Lay led
18th Mar Heb. 5. 5-10 John 12. 20-33	All welcome at the other services of the Benefice	9.30am Family Service MC	11.00am Choral Eucharist DL	8.00am BCP Holy Communion RH	9.30am Sung Eucharist JT
25 th Mar Palm Sunday Mark 11.1-11 Isa. 50.4-9a	All welcome at Bridge		11.00am Palm Sunday Benefice Service 10:45am Procession starting from the Vicarage Community Worship with Communion EL	All welcome at Bridge	
29 th Mar Maundy Thursday	All welcome at Patrixbourne			7:00pm EL	All welcome at Patrixbourne
30 th Mar Good Friday	All welcome at Bekesbourne				2:00pm Good Friday Service EL
1st Apr Easter Sunday Acts 10. 34-43 John 20.1-18	8:00am BCP Holy Communion Rev Estella Last	11.00am Family Communion EL & MC	6.00pm Evensong	9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Estella Last	10.00am Songs of Praise Lay led

There is Holy Communion every Tuesday at 9.30am to 10.00am at Bridge Church, followed by coffee. All welcome



The Vicarage 23 High Street Bridge

Tel: 01227 206272

E-mail: estellalast@gmail.com March 2018

Dear Friends

Firstly I need to say a big thank you – to everyone who has welcomed us so warmly to the Benefice, to those who have sent cards and gifts, to all those involved in my licensing, first services in the different churches and the attendant 'bun fights'! It has been a joy to meet so many of you and to begin to get to know these beautiful villages a little better.

As I write this I am contemplating what it means to begin the journey of Lent in a new place alongside a new community of people and I am wondering what we will experience together and how God will be present among us during this time of waiting and preparation.

Journeying will be an important theme for me this March as I will be making my first trip to the Holy Land – a long awaited and much looked forward to event. I hope to bring lots of photographs and experiences back with me to share with those of you who might be interested.

Journeying will also feature in our worship life together as a benefice when we join together at 11am on Sunday 25th March (Palm Sunday) in St Peter's Church in Bridge for a Benefice service of Community Worship with Holy Communion. Hopefully something for everyone – young and old! Palm Sunday begins the week during which we commemorate the events leading to Jesus' death (Good Friday) and Resurrection (Easter Sunday). Holy Week is in itself a journey which, for those who would like to, we will begin (weather permitting!) at 10.45am on Palm Sunday on the Vicarage driveway for the Blessing of the Palms and a procession (anyone got a donkey?!) to the church in time for the 11am service. Everyone is welcome!

I also intend to walk from St Peter's Church Bridge to St Peter's Church Bekesbourne on Good Friday arriving in time for the 2pm Service of reflection with the Cross. Anyone who wishes to join me for this short pilgrimage is welcome – I will be setting off from Bridge at 1pm.

If we haven't already met I look forward to meeting you, there will be further opportunities to join me for coffee at the Vicarage – look out for the lists! Otherwise I look forward to hearing from you if there is anything that we in the church can help you with.

Yours in Christ

OBJ

Rev. Estella Last, Vicar

Dates for the diary – March 2018

Tuesday 6th

9:30am - Holy Communion, St Peter Bridge

3:00pm - Holy Communion, Bridge Haven

7:30pm - Lent Discussion Group, Mansfield Court

Tuesday 13th

9:30am - Holy Communion, St Peter Bridge

2:30pm - Holy Communion, Mansfield Court

Wednesday 14th

10:00am - FISH pop-in coffee, Bridge Village Hall

2:00pm - Social Afternoon, Lower Hardres

Tuesday 20th

9:30am - Holy Communion, St Peter Bridge

3:00pm - Holy Communion, Saxon Lodge

7:30pm - Lent Discussion Group, Mansfield Court

Wednesday 21st - 3:00pm - Hymns at Bridge Haven

Tuesday 27th – 9:30am - Holy Communion, St Peter Bridge

FOSP Event - Our local Betjeman Players will perform their latest presentation on Sunday 22 April in Bridge Church at 3pm followed by tea & cakes.

THE FRIENDS OF BEKESBOURNE CHURCH

Invite you to their BARN DANCE

The first to be held in several years
Saturday, 22nd September, 2018
In Bekesbourne Village Hall
More information will be issued in forthcoming magazines,
but meanwhile please put this date in your diary ~ it will
great fun and good exercise

St. Peter's Bridge. Stonework Repairs



Good News! 98% of the exterior stonework repairs have

been completed.



The scaffolding was finally removed just before Christmas.



After a period of drying out it is hoped interior repairs / plastering / painting will commence by the end of April

Patrixbourne with Bridge Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is to be reviewed. If you are already on the Roll you need do nothing.

If you would like your name to be added please complete a form which will be at the back of the church from 21st March 2018 and hand it to one of the churchwardens or leave it at 54 Bridge Down by 4th April 2018

St. Peter's Bridge Flower Arrangers

Easter is fast approaching and the time has come for the flower arrangers of St. Peter's Bridge to think about decorating the church. Anyone who would like to purchase a Easter Lilly in memory of a loved one please contact either a churchwarden or Viv Brasier. I am hoping to maintain the cost of previous years and therefore each lilly will be £3.

The numbers of ladies on the flower rota is gradually declining and so we are always looking for volunteers for this very rewarding job. We are only a country church, not the cathedral so please do not be daunted, a vase of hedgerow flowers and greenery is all that is needed to make the church look welcoming to its visitors. Help will be readily given if you are interested. Viv Brasier.



CHRISTIAN AID LENT LUNCHES

Please come to lunch!

The annual home-made soup and bread lunches will take place again in Bridge this year on Thursdays.

When: the 6 Thursdays of Lent – February 15th & 22nd, March 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd.

Time: any time between 12 noon and 1.30pm.

<u>Where</u>: at 1 Riverside Mews, Bridge (off Riverside Close). This invitation is to everybody, not just church members. It's friendly and informal and if you haven't been before you would be very welcome.

All donations will go to Christian Aid.

Please ring 831956 the day before to book.

Alan & Jean Barber.



HRISTIAN AID LENT AND EASTER APPEAL 2018

Across the world more than 40 million of our neighbours have been forced to flee their homes. They are refugees but, remaining *inside* their own country, they are mostly overlooked and ignored. Will you walk with them this Lent, and bring them hope?

<u>Dimma's Story</u>. Before drought hit northern Kenya, Dimma's life was good. Her goats and sheep gave her family meat, milk, and an income. But two years ago, the rains stopped – and her livestock began to die.

Drought forced Dimma's family to travel far in a desperate search for water. Now, her family is separated, as her son travels hundreds of kilometres with their remaining animals, searching for pasture to keep them alive.

How Christian Aid is helping. Thanks to the generosity of people like you, Dimma is now receiving money for food and animal feed from Christian Aid, which keeps her animals alive. She says: 'Our life is on the line. If it wasn't for this kind of aid, we couldn't have survived.'

How we can help.

The 'Count Your Blessings calendar' gives us an opportunity to reflect each day through Lent on the blessings in our own lives and to pray, take action or donate a small amount to support those who don't enjoy these blessings. Copies of the calendar are available in church.

By donating to the Lent and Easter Appeal on line at www.christianaid.org.uk or by placing a donation in an envelope and passing it to me. I will make sure all donations go to the Christian Aid Appeal.

Many thanks Jean Barber (01227 831956)

Fish Scheme (Neighbourly Help) News

The March Pop-In is on Wednesday 14th in Bridge Village Hall from 10 to 11.15. There will be a representative of Hi Kent there to help with hearing aids. Everyone is most welcome. Our telephone number is 07953 966 080.

The Spring Outing will be on Thursday April 19th. Please phone the Fish number if you would like to go and were not able to pick up a form at the February Pop-In.

Bridge & District History Society

The next meeting will be on Thursday March 15th in Bridge Village Hall at 7.30pm. Chris Price will give a talk on the Catch Club which existed in Canterbury for those interested in music and singing from 1779 - 1865.

Members £4.00, non-members £5.00 to include refreshments.

Further details from David Gilmour Tel:832450.

Its all Smash and UHT this month

I was taken by the piece in the November edition of the Parish Magazine suggesting we abandoned our Advent Calendars and contribute to the Canterbury Food Bank instead. I did just that, but then spoke to a collector of the contents of said yellow bins, who suggested I might like to volunteer and so I applied. I have now done my initial trial run and am on the rota at the Military Road Distribution Centre. I asked at this first visit what is most needed – the answer now is for UHT full fat milk, potatoes either in tins or as Smash, canned vegetables eg carrots and UHT orange juice. This will change no doubt and so to be contd....'Food for Thought'

IT Group

This will take place on the third Friday in the month at 10.30 am at the Red Lion, Bridge commencing on Friday 16th March 2018

For those wanting help and advice using mobile phones, tablets/i pads and laptops come and join us. Wifi is available at the Red Lion. Beginners especially welcome. Any 'Experts' able to come along to assist with the group, particularly welcome! For further details please ring landline 01227 830976 or mobile 07860591887. info@blackvanilla.org.uk

Bekesbourne 100 Club

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to the 100 Club which is now in its 18th year and still raising valuable funds for the upkeep of Bekesbourne church.

The winners in January were: Phyl Denne £50; Sarah Wetherell £25; and Amanda Barker £15.

The winners in February are: Wendy Howard £50; Mandy Williams £25; and Ned Walters £15.

David Farbrace won the £250 Christmas bonus prize. Steve Thomas

Annual Church Meeting at Bekesbourne Recreation Ground

Please note we have a new venue for our Annual meeting this year!

We will meet at Bekesbourne rec. on Thursday April 12th at 7.30 pm to elect two churchwardens for 2018/19. Everyone is welcome to attend and may vote at this meeting.

This will be followed by the Annual Church Meeting, at which the Parochial Church Council and Sidesmen/women for the coming year will be elected. It is an opportunity to thank all those people who have worked so hard to care for our church and churchyard and keep our church flourishing over the last year. We celebrate the achievements of 2017 look forward to continuing the journey together in 2018 If you are not on the church electoral roll (which entitles you to vote at the Annual Meeting) and would like to be included, please ensure that you complete a form and return it to Jill Gillanders, Nicky Fry or Lindsay Sharp-Kinsey.

If you would like to receive the agenda and reports before the meeting please ensure that I have your email address. There will only be a limited number of printed copies available on the





St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne SONGS OF PRAISE 10am Sunday March 11th



FOLLOWED BY TEA, COFFEE OR JUICE AND BISCUITS And lots of chatting!

St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne



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COME, JOIN IN YOUR FAVOURITE EASTER HYMNS
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And lots of chatting!





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Chartham's Coffee & Cake Concerts inspired our own

Phil will entertain us with songs, stories and tunes to tap our tootsies and to sing along to.

Suggested donation £3, children free
All proceeds are for repairs to the church building

Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute

On **Tuesday 20 March** at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall, **Eve Muggridge** will perhaps be giving away some secrets when she gives her talk with demonstration on "How I Make Stained Glass Items". The **competition** for March is for members to bring an interesting item beginning with the letter "C". Please remember that we are always delighted to welcome non-members and visitors to our meetings.

Nailbourne Horticultural Society

For our meeting on **Tuesday 13 March** at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall, **Steve Ware**, Whitstable Station Manager, is giving an illustrated talk on **Whitstable Coastwatch**, which is part of the National Coastwatch Institution and a registered charity. The station at Whitstable is manned by uniformed volunteers from the local community. Do come along to learn more about the vital service that Coastwatch provides. All are welcome. There is a small charge to cover refreshments.

And now for advance notice of our **Annual Spring Show** on **Saturday 7 April** in Bridge Village Hall and open to the public from 11.00 am until 1.00 pm. There are three classes which are open to all, not just members, with voucher prizes awarded to the winners. Please do think seriously of giving it a go. Details of these open classes are as follows:

5 sticks of **rhubarb** (pulled and leaves trimmed)

6 chitted seed potatoes in an egg box

"New Life" - a **photo**, unframed, not to exceed 8" x 6"

(NB photos not to be digitally enhanced and all entries to be produced within the last 12 months)

If anyone requires a Show Schedule or would like more information, please contact the Show Secretary, Kathy Walder (tel: 07791 656539), Chairman, Rajini Dasan (tel: 830313) or Secretary Brenda Wood (tel: 831704)

National Vegetable Society - Kent Association

The Society returns to Bridge Village Hall for its 2018 programme of evening talks, starting on **Wednesday 14 March** (7.30 for 8.00 pm) with the **Annual General Meeting** and a talk on "**What's New (and Not So New) in the Seed Catalogues**" by **Ian Clemens**, Fellow of the National Vegetable Society. Non-members are most welcome to come along to the meetings.

The Friends of Bekesbourne Church Invite You To



A Wine & Wisdom Evening

Bekesbourne Village Hall

SATURDAY, 10th March, 2018 Start promptly at 7.30pm

Don't miss this opportunity to test your knowledge with your friends

It will be great fun ~ bring your own drinks and 'nibbles'

Tables from 6 to 8 team members can be booked by calling Graham Duplock on 01227 830271 or Vicki Woolnough on 01227 379126

Entry price at the door: £5.00 per person



1 Day Workshops in Bridge 9.30 to 15.00 £18.00

5/4/18 Patchwork Bag

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19/4/18 Design Day

• Use transfer paints to develop your designs

3/5/18 Develop your designs

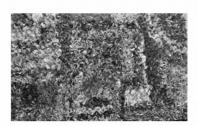
 Combine your transferred painted backgrounds with machine and hand embroidery

17/5/18 Rag Rug Day

· Turn scraps of fabric into a small rug, an up-cycling treat

7/6/18 Catch-up session £5

• Use this session to complete any unfinished projects



Venue – The Pavilion, Bridge Recreation Ground, Bridge, CT4 5BL Phone or Email for details:

Mara - 07981226810 - longley139@btinternet.com

Lesley - 07532110918 - finney.55@hotmail.co.uk

Jean - 07544500338 - jean.hopkins162@gmail.com

NAILBOURNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Whitstable Coastwatch

An illustrated talk by

Steve Ware, Whitstable Station Manager

> Tuesday 13 March 7.30 pm Bridge Village Hall

All welcome

small charge to include refreshments

Bring Along a Friend for Free!

Littlebourne & District Royal British Legion

Now that Spring is on its way we hope everyone is recovering from the Winter "bugs" that have been besetting us in the past weeks!

With not too much to report on at present, could we mention that we are always seeking new Legion members to join us in the Branch. You do not have to be exservice - just someone interested in the aims of the Legion. If you would like more information please ring the Secretary on 01227 472023.

As mentioned last month, we are looking forward to the 1918-2018 commemorations in November to mark the end of World War 1. Talented people locally will be needed during the year to knit or crochet poppies for a display at Littlebourne Church. If you can help please contact the above number.

Our next two monthly Branch meetings will be held on Tuesdays, 13 March and 10 April both at 8pm at the Recreation Club, Littlebourne.

Snowdown Colliery Welfare Male Voice Choir

On Saturday March 3rd, Snowdown Colliery Welfare Male Voice Choir will be performing their traditional St David's Day Concert at the Aylesham Community Project, Ackholt Road. This year the Special Guests will be Aylesham Ladies Choir. Admission £3 at the door. Doors open 7.00pm for 7.30pm start.

News from St Mary's, Lower Hardres

Mothering Sunday - This falls on March 11th. At 9:30 am we will have a Family service when posies and cards will be given to everyone. Obviously we will have our traditional Simnel cake. Lots for children to participate in.

On March 18th we will have our usual Family service.

Good Friday Workshop - This on March 30th and we are thrilled to welcome Revd. Estella. She will lead a short service at the end of our Children's Workshop. The Workshop runs from 9:30 until 12 noon. Please ring Julie; 788316 or Margaret; 765598 to book a place. If your child is under school age be stay with them. Donations towards the cost of materials are welcome. We will have fun!

Easter Day - April 1st On this day we will have a Family Communion at 11:00 am, when Revd. Estella will officiate. Refreshments will be served at the end, and we will have our Easter Egg Hunt. Children will decorate our lovely white cross to God's Glory. Do come!

A Very Happy and Blessed Easter Margaret

Women's World Day of Prayer-March 2nd at Bridge Church. Women and men are welcome for this service, prepared by Christian women of Suriname

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Do get in touch!



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SPRING FLOWER WORKSHOPS

By popular demand, we will be hosting our first batch of flower design workshops.

Open to all abilities; we welcome you to join us!





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Entry Form available from www.artinbridge.org.uk and from our sponsors:-

The Bourne Gallery, Bekesbourne - preferential rates for exhibitors

and in **April** from **Colebrook Sturrock & Co**, Estate Agents, High Street, Bridge

Further information on the web site and from John Corfield - tel: 01227 830976



Emily Renshaw, Mezzo Soprano
Jamie Rogers, Piano

Recital to include

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