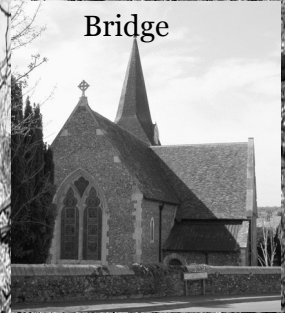


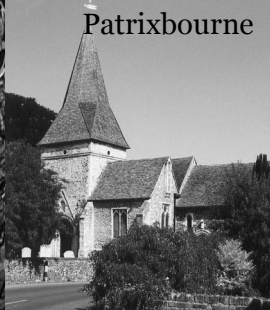
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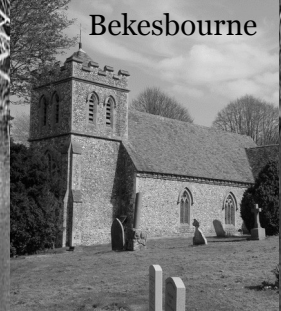
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5th May Easter 3 Acts 9:1-20 [Rev. 5:11-14] John 21: 1-19	8:00am BCP Holy Communion	11.00am Family Communion	6.00pm Evensong	9.30am Sung Eucharist	10.00am Songs of Praise
Saturday 11th May	Messy Church at Bridge School 4-6pm				
12th May Easter 4 Acts 9: 36-43 [Rev. 7:9-17] John 10:22-30	9.30am Sung Eucharist	6pm Evensong	11am Family Communion	<i>All welcome at the other services in the Benefice</i>	8:00am BCP Holy Communion
19th May Easter 5 Acts 11: 1-18 [Rev. 21:1-6] John 13: 31-35	<i>All welcome at the other services in the Benefice</i>	9.30am Family Service	11.00am Choral Eucharist	8.00am BCP Holy Communion	9.30am Sung Eucharist
26th May <u>Rogation Sunday (tbc) / 6th Easter</u> Acts 16: 9-15 [Rev. 21: 10, 22:1-5] John 14:23-29	9.30am Sung Eucharist	<i>All welcome at the other services of the Benefice</i>	8:00am BCP Holy Communion 11.00am Community Worship	9.30am Matins	<i>All welcome at the other services in the Benefice</i>
30th May <u>Ascension Day</u> Acts 1:1-11 Daniel 7:9-14 Ephesians 1:15-end; Luke 24:44-end				6pm Communion Service for The Ascension	
2nd June Easter 7 Acts 16:16-34 [Rev. 22: 12-14, 16-17]; John 17:20-end.	8:00am BCP Holy Communion	11.00am Family Communion	6.00pm Evensong	9.30am Sung Eucharist	10.00am Songs of Praise

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
May 2019

Dear Friends

We have already arrived in May and the year hurtles on. This month sees the retirement of our Bishop, Bishop Trevor, who I know is well known by many of you and who will be much missed. Since we are now well into Easter season I am sharing here his inspirational Easter message to all the parishioners of the Diocese of Canterbury entitled 'Hard-won hope':

"The true story of Easter – for it is no fairy tale – is a story of hope. *The* story of hope from which all others take their meaning. Hope can often be considered to be something of a wishy-washy phenomenon – a positive state of mind, an optimistic glass half-full perspective, which may bear no resemblance to reality – but at least it makes us feel better.

Such hope is a pale resemblance of what we encounter in the risen Christ on Easter morning. Christ does not give us cause for optimism, but rather the concrete assurance of a victory already won. It is this truth, this hope grounded in reality that every one of us and our increasingly divided society so desperately needs right now. Vain optimism will not solve the divisions of our age. Neither will the temptation to give in to despair – though, for many, the challenges of life seem so overwhelming. Signs of inequality, injustice and exclusion obscure the possibility of hope for many. Many in our own communities who feel increasingly excluded from a sense of common purpose, politically, economically and socially. Hope can feel like a pipe dream, an impossible and pointless exercise.

As St Paul says in his letter to the Hebrews, "faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Faith is the gift of God to his people and the Church is called to live in and embody the kind of hope made real by faith – life-changing, concrete hope. The call to be a beacon of hope in our parishes and communities is not a call to ignore the signs of suffering and discontent around us. We must pay attention to these signs, lest they cause greater division and despair. Hope is hard. It is always costly for those who seek a different way; the way of reconciliation, justice and truth. For we cannot arrive at the joy and triumph of Easter morning without first travelling the path that leads to the cross, the way of Christ.

To walk this path we must intentionally place the poor, the marginalised, the disenfranchised and the voiceless at the heart of our work together. And in many, many different ways, we are already doing this. Every week I meet and hear the stories of those engaged in church-run food banks, night shelters, debt advice centres. I hear of people coming to faith through simple and honest human contact and compassion. Though we may be small in number and financially challenged, we will not give in to despair. We are a people of hope – hope for ourselves and for those we have yet to meet. Christ has declared hope for all of humanity and we are called to enact that hope in the hardest and most hopeless corners of our county. We will not walk away from being a living and serving presence on urban estates, in our seaside towns, in rural communities.

Transforming God, You bring hope to broken dreams and show us new possibilities. Renew us with open hearts, open minds and open wills, ready to follow wherever you lead.

Amen.”

As a church we are here to serve always and only a phone call or email away.
Yours in Christ



Rev. Estella Last, Vicar

May 12th - 18th - Christian Aid. Please be generous if you find a Christian Aid envelope in your door. Thank-you, Margaret.

Bekesbourne Rogation Walk and Barbecue

Reviving the old tradition

Please come and join us when we ‘beat the bounds’ of the parish on Sunday 26th May at 11.00am. Dogs welcome.

We are planning a short circular walk along part of the village boundary starting on the road by the gate going up to the church and finishing in the Old Palace garden.

There will be a barbecue in the garden starting at 12.30. Everyone is welcome even if you can’t manage the walk!

Please bring your own drinks.

Nicky Fry Tel 01227 830319 or 07720895593 for more details

Cyclone Idai

A recent appeal across the Benefice raised £235 which has been forwarded to the Red Cross. Thanks to all who donated.

Christian Aid Lunches

Many thanks to all those who supported the Lent soup lunches at Riverside Mews this year. We raised £400.47 which with Gift Aid will total nearly £470. This money will help pay for Christian Aid’s humanitarian and development work across the world, and especially in 2019 its work to improve the health and life chances of women and their babies in Sierra Leone.

Dates for the diary – May 2019

Wednesday 1st

2-3.30pm – Lower Hardres Community Café at the John
Baker White Hall

Thursday 2nd

9-11am - Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge
Pavillion

Tuesday 7th

9:30am - Holy Communion, St Peter Bridge
3:00pm – Holy Communion, Bridge Haven
7.30pm – After 8s, Mansfield Court

Wednesday 8th

10:00am - FISH pop-in coffee, Bridge Village Hall
2-3.30pm – Lower Hardres Community Café at the John
Baker White Hall

Thursday 9th

9am-11am - Little Lambs, Bridge Pavillion

Saturday 11th

4-6pm Messy Church at Bridge
School

Monday 13th

sharing 'Coffee & Chat'

Caring and

Tuesday 14th

9:30am - Holy Communion, St Peter Bridge
2:30pm – Holy Communion, Mansfield Court

Wednesday 15th

2-3.30pm – Lower Hardres Community Café at the John
Baker White Hall
3:00pm - Hymns at Bridge Haven

Thursday 16th

9-11am - Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge
Pavillion

Tuesday 21st

9:30am - Holy Communion, St Peter Bridge
3:00pm – Holy Communion, Saxon Lodge
7.30pm – After 8s, Mansfield Court

Wednesday 22nd

2-3.30pm – Lower Hardres Community Café at the John #
Baker White Hall

Patricbourne with Bridge Annual Church Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the parish of Patricbourne with Bridge took place on Thursday 4th April at St Peter's Church in Bridge.

Thanks were offered to all the volunteers who work so hard as members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) throughout the year and especially to our Electoral Roll officer who had conducted a full revision of the Ecclesiastical Electoral roll of the Parish which now stands at 68 members. Others are still welcome to join the roll so please do get in touch with a Churchwarden if you would like a form. Thanks were also offered especially to our Churchwardens Evelyn Andrews, Laurence Dunderdale, Pauline Pritchard and Andrea Nicholson who have all been elected for a further year. During the year the PCC held 7 meetings at the Vicarage at which the mission, business and maintenance of the churches in the parish were discussed and actioned. Thanks to the careful management and stewardship of our resources by this team, the continuing support of the 'Friends' of both churches and the work of our treasurer Devin Brougham the parish was able to meet all its financial obligations again this year although reserves are low. The monthly Coffee & Cake Concerts continued to be popular both for fund raising and community engagement.

Exciting encouragements in the work of the church this year have been the establishment of a new Baby and Toddler Group 'Little Lambs' which meets in the Pavilion on the Recreation Ground every Thursday morning during term time and in early 2019 the start of 'Messy Church' which is supported and hosted by Bridge and Patricbourne School and has seen great attendances at the first three sessions. Numbers attending regular services have also seen a slight increase.

At the end of the meeting Revd Estella presented a report encouraging us to continue to look forward and to build on the work of the past year and we have worshipped together as a whole Benefice more frequently. In the coming months all three parishes in the Benefice will begin discussions towards the possibility of amalgamating into one parish. If you would like to be involved in these discussions or are interested in joining the PCC please do get in touch.

Alan Barber Hon PCC Secretary

Bekesbourne Annual Church Meeting

Eighteen parishioners attended the annual meeting of St Peter's Church on 3rd April in the village hall.

The PCC reported another successful year. Attendances at the 8.00 and 9.30 Holy Communion services remain the same as last year. Our Songs of Praise service continues to be very popular. It is a short, informal, lay led service with lots of enthusiastic singing and is followed by coffee biscuits and a chat. The theme changes each month and is led by different members of the congregation. We want to encourage more people to join the team.

Zan, the treasurer, presented a healthy set of accounts for the year to December 2018. The church had, with the help of 'The Friends', met all its expenses in the last year.

Jill Gillanders retired as churchwarden. She was given a big thank you for all her hard work and dedication to the church. Nicky Fry was elected as the only churchwarden for the coming year. Pat continues as PCC lay chairman, Nicky Fry as PCC secretary with Pat taking the minutes of the meetings. Zan Clifford was re-elected as treasurer. Graham Duplock represents The Friends of Bekesbourne Church. Sue Holmquist did

a great job as Electoral Roll Officer and will continue in the role. Stuart Field and Jill Gillanders were voted onto the PCC and the remaining members are Amanda Barker and Martin Gall.

Nicky Fry (PCC Secretary)
April 2019

Jill Gillanders retires as churchwarden in Bekesbourne

Jill has been the friendly welcoming face of Bekesbourne Church for more than 17 years. We said a big 'thank you' to her at the APCM and hoped she would continue to be very involved in our church for years to come.



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 12 - 18 MAY 2019



Sierra Leone is the world's most dangerous place to become a mum. Every day 10 women die giving birth and many babies do not survive. Tenneh Bahwoh has a happy, bouncy baby, Ansumana, but her first pregnancy ended in tragedy. There was no health centre or trained nurse in her village. Tenneh nearly died giving birth and the village birth attendant could not cope. Her baby lived just three months.

Christian Aid partner, RADA (Rehabilitation & Development Agency) saw that mothers like Tenneh were in desperate need of healthcare. It started working locally, building a small clinic and teaching simple interventions to improve hygiene. It trained a local woman, Judith, as a midwife and it was she who delivered baby Ansumana. But conditions were still very basic – the clinic roof leaked, there were only two delivery beds and no lighting at night.

For 62 years ordinary people have been taking to the streets in the UK to raise money during Christian Aid Week. Last year 57,000 volunteers raised £8.5 million. Here in Bridge, Patixbourne, Bekesbourne and Lower Hardres we collected nearly £3,000. All the money raised this Christian Aid Week will be used to build bigger, better health centres in Sierra Leone and other poverty-stricken communities and to train more midwives.

Please will you help – either by volunteering to collect in a road near you, or by giving generously when the familiar red envelope comes through your letter box? This is our chance to give the world's poorest mums and babies a chance of life.

Thank you for your support.
Jean Barber (01227 831956)

St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne
SONGS OF PRAISE - 10am SUNDAY 5th MAY

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SONGS OF PRAISE 10am SUNDAY 2nd JUNE



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Fish Scheme (neighbourly help) news. Tel no: 07935 966 080

Please remember that the Pop-In on May 8th will also be the Bring and Buy when we need all the support you can generously give us.

The June Pop-In will be on 12 th when we hope a representative from Hi Kent will be there to help with hearing aids.

A huge thank you to all our volunteer drivers. Two more have recently joined us and they are very welcome. Not everybody can fit it into busy lives but if you think you possibly could, however infrequently, do please let us know. Our greatest use is for medical appointments.

Bridge & District History Society

The next meeting will be on Thursday May 16th at 7.30 in Bridge Village Hall. Alan Barber will take us back in time to see our village through the eyes of a journalist from Dover writing in 1902 at the time of the coronation of King Edward VII.

It contains several references to St. Peter's Church and its vicar Rev. Hubert Knight (appointed 1898 and retired 1940—when the vicarage was transferred from Patricbourne to Bridge.

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

Messy Church Easter Garden

This garden was made in the school grounds by children attending the Good Friday Messy Church event. 90 people attended and enjoyed many craft activities, songs and hot cross buns. Thanks to all who helped make this a special morning.



Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute

May is a very important month this year for our WI, being the month when we celebrate our Centenary.

Firstly, a reminder that we are holding our **Afternoon Tea** in the Pavilion from 2.30 until 4.30 pm on **Friday 3 May**. This is for everyone, not just WI members, and we hope that you will come along and join us in this pleasant location to enjoy a friendly cuppa.

Our main celebration of 100 years of the WI in Bridge is being held on **Saturday 18 May** when we have organised a special "**Cake and Coffee and Concert**" in St Peter's Church, Bridge (10.15 to 11.30 am). We will be marking this milestone with historical readings, music and song, along with a display of photographs and memorabilia from our archives. As with the Afternoon Tea, this is for everyone, not just members of the WI, and we would be delighted if as many people as possible would join us on this historically important occasion.

Our regular monthly meeting is on **Tuesday 21 May** at the usual time of 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall. At this meeting not only will we be discussing the two Resolutions to be debated at the National Federation of WIs' Annual Meeting at Bournemouth in June, but we shall also be taking the opportunity to celebrate once more our 100 years with the cutting of our **Birthday Cake**.



Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute

Afternoon Tea



at the Pavilion on Bridge Recreation Ground
Friday 3 May, from 2.30 until 4.30 pm

 £3.00 (to include tea and cake) 

Bring and Buy, Raffle (to be drawn at 4.00 pm)

All Welcome

Littlebourne Royal British Legion

We held a successful April meeting when our County Vice Chairman Cherrie Harris and her husband were our guests. We are busy planning new activities for the branch in the coming months. There will be a Social and Games Evening on Tuesday 21st May at 8pm at the Recreation club for Branch members and visiting members of Staple Royal British Legion to get together.

Our next two Branch meetings will be on the second Tuesday of the month at 8pm on 14 May and 11 June. Also we are still looking to recruit new Branch members - please come along to a Branch meeting for more information.



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Nailbourne Horticultural Society

The speaker at our meeting on **Tuesday 14 May** is **Chris Williams** who will be giving a talk and demonstration on “**Growing and Pruning Fruit Trees**”. This promises to be an interesting and practical evening full of advice and tips for all those who have fruit trees or are looking to planting one in the future. As usual, the meeting will be in Bridge Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Members and visitors are most welcome and there will be a small entry charge to include refreshments.

National Vegetable Society - Kent Association

On **Wednesday 8 May** (7.30 for 8.00 pm) in Bridge Village Hall, **Steve Edney**, Head Gardener at the **Salutation Garden** in Sandwich, will be giving a talk on the Garden's history, his 15 years of working there and, as it is, after all, the Vegetable Society, on vegetable oddities! Steve is a very entertaining and knowledgeable speaker and if you have missed him on previous occasions when he has come to Bridge, then you will be most welcome at this event.

NAILBOURNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Growing & Pruning Fruit Trees

a talk and demonstration

by

Chris Williams

Tuesday 14 May

7.30 pm

Bridge Village Hall

All welcome

small charge to include refreshments



You are invited!

When: Saturday 11th May, 4pm-6pm

Where: Bridge and Patrixbourne C.E.P

Come along for crafts, singing, stories and a hot dinner for all of the family. Donations to cover costs welcome. For more information call Rev Estella on 01227 206272

Charity Calendar of Bridge Photos 2020 Following the great success of the Bridge Calendar 2019 we are once again looking for donations of your lovely photos to compile a Calendar for 2020. Please send photos to charitycalendar2020@gmail.com Photos of Bridge and surrounding areas and abilities (providing photos are of a high quality) please submit photos by the end of May Any questions to Aaron and Amanda



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11.30am to 2pm

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All funds raised go towards the ongoing costs of the nursery.

Donations are warmly welcomed for more information contact the nursery on

01227 831159 or email woodpeckerscommittee@gmail.com





BOURNE VETS NEWS

Food Manufacturer's survey, 26% of households together with their life expectancy is an average of 11 years and the population is stable, that means that over 800,000 puppies enter the market annually, 250,000 of these come from Kennel Club registered breeders. The most popular breed is the French Bulldog whose popularity has increased over the past decade, to surpass even the Labrador retriever which has topped the popularity table for decades. The remaining half a million or so puppies come from a variety of sources. A relatively small number come from licensed pet shops and new licence requirements that came into effect in October will be a significant disincentive to selling puppies under a pet-vending licence. The other major source is almost certainly the internet. The anonymity of the internet allows a variety of illegal dog breeding activities, primarily puppy farming and the illegal commercial import of puppies via the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS). The trade is driven by the demand for puppies, the ease with which the point-of-sale and vendor can be obfuscated, poor detection and enforcement, and the derisory penalties following conviction. There is good evidence that organised crime is involved, because the profitability is high and the likelihood of a prison sentence is very low compared to smuggling drugs, weapons or people.

The new English Animal Activities Licence (AAL) reduces the number of litters requiring a licence from 5 or more to 3 or more litters per year, which will increase the number of licensed breeders, and any licensed breeder will have to display their licence number and will be inspected and issued with a star grading. Hopefully this will help to encourage high quality responsible breeders to produce more high welfare puppies, however puppy farmers will still be able to lie about the number of litters they are producing.

The reality is that hundreds of thousands of poorly bred, low welfare puppies are offered for sale each year. If you are thinking of getting a new puppy this Spring please think carefully about where to buy from. It is really important to be able to see the pup with its mother and siblings in the environment that it has been brought up in. At Bourne Vets we can offer you free pre-purchase advice with our qualified veterinary nurses to help you know what to look for when buying a new puppy. Please buy responsibly when looking for your new family pet so we can try and eradicate the hideous trade of puppy farms.

We are holding our annual Open Day on Bank Holiday Monday 6th May from 12-6pm. This is a chance to meet our staff, learn more about what we do and get a chance to look behind the scenes. We'll be doing our popular Junior Vet Challenge again and will have lots of unusual animals that you can meet. It's a great day out and all completely FREE so if you are thinking about getting a new puppy please come along and visit us for lots of useful advice.

Bridge Tennis Club

A thriving village-based tennis facility that welcomes players of all ages and levels. With 3 well-maintained asphalt hard courts, each with floodlights and an excellent adjoining clubhouse, BTC is a popular club with over 100 members drawn from the surrounding, beautiful Kent towns, cities and countryside villages. In close proximity to Canterbury and with easy access to the major roads, we encourage players of all ages and abilities to join us from far and wide.

Regular Sessions

We have fun club play open to all adult members from 6pm to 9pm (or later) on Wednesday evenings and from 9am to 12 noon on Sundays. There is also a Ladies morning from 9am to 11am on Tuesdays as well as a Men's practice evening starting at 6pm on Mondays for those members of a standard to play in the teams. These sessions are normally single set doubles before changing partners for the next game and are a great way to meet fellow members. So, if you're interested in joining the club why not come along and give it a try?

For details of membership, please click here:
<http://www.bridgetennisclub.co.uk/membership/>

The Arts Society Canterbury



Are you interested in learning more about the arts? The Arts Society Canterbury meet on a monthly basis in the Ashford Road Community Association Hall (ample parking and on a bus route) to hear talks on a variety of subject ranging from paintings, furniture and architecture to ceramics, gardens, glass and literature. The talks are given by superb speakers many with an international reputation. We also arrange a number of visits – this year to the Van Gogh exhibition at the Tate and the GF Watts Gallery in Guildford for example. Why not join us?

More details can be found on our website www.theartsocietycanterbury.org.uk If you would like to come as a guest contact our membership secretary Pauline Davis on 07879 492158



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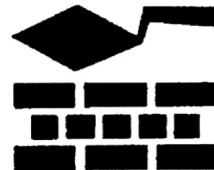


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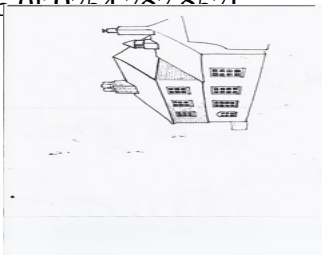
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