

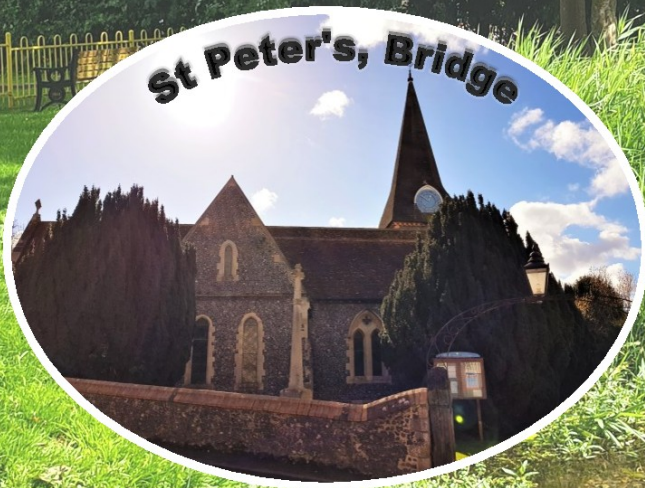


On the Nail

A magazine for the
villages along the
Nailbourne



St Mary's, Patrixbourne



St Peter's, Bridge



St Peter's, Bekesbourne

December

2022/

January

2023

DESIGN & PRINT | WEB DESIGN & HOSTING | VEHICLE WRAPPING & GRAPHICS | SIGNAGE

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November 2022

Dear Friends

Well by the time you read this the Football World Cup will be in full swing in Qatar and we will be hurtling towards Christmas at quite a rate I should imagine! This bumper edition of the magazine contains information about all the church Services, concerts and fundraising events taking place in the coming weeks in the run up to Christmas and into January. I expect we are all hoping for a more 'normal' Christmas this year, perhaps even something slightly scaled back and more personal given the financial situation at the moment.

At the beginning of this month the term, 'Permacrisis' topped a list of 10 words which the producers of the Collins dictionary said summed up 2022. The word is defined as "an extended period of instability and insecurity", which some may argue is an accurate summary of the past few years. Collins said it chose the word as it "sums up quite succinctly how truly awful 2022 has been for so many people". I wonder if 2022 has been 'truly awful' for you? I really do hope not, I do hope that even amidst the challenges that life has brought over the past year, you have found something good, perhaps even in the smallest things.

Our reflections in church this Advent are based around themes often associated with the Advent Candle Wreath that you will find in most churches and even some homes at this time of year. Each of the 4 outer candles representing Hope, Peace, Joy and Love and the fifth one in the middle usually lit on Christmas day to represent the birth of Christ. And I'm thinking if it's ok now to just pop the word 'perma' in front of other words to create new ones now, maybe in this time of waiting and reflection we will discover:

'permahope', that however challenging life is right now there is always hope;
'permapeace' knowing that God is with us in the tough times as well as the good ones;
'permajoy' as we reconnect with God and each other; and
'permalove' as we remember that we are created in and for love, and that God sent Jesus to show this.

I pray too that when we light that fifth candle on Christmas day, when we gather together to celebrate this most special day, we will remember how precious and special it is when we can bring light to one another by sharing our hope, our peace, our joy and our love. Our beautiful village churches stand as witnesses to this 'permalight' through successive generations over 100s of years and this year is no different as we raise money for the Salvation Army, Porchlight, the Children's Society and the Canterbury Foodbank at some of our carol events this month. We hope you will be able to join in at some point over the coming weeks or perhaps in January when the excitement of Christmas has calmed down.

Whoever you are, you are welcome to join us in church over Christmas and if you find something there you like perhaps you might feel you can join us during the year to come.

With my prayers for a blessed Christmas and a peace filled New Year.

Yours in Christ

Estella Last

Rev. Estella Last, Vicar, The Bridge Group Parish

Diary Dates – December 2022

Thurs 1st 9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion

Time tbc Salvation Army Concert at Bridge School

Fri 2nd – 8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church

Sat 3rd – 10am-12pm Bekesbourne Church Christmas Bazaar

Mon 5th - 1pm-3pm BREW, Bekesbourne Recreation Ground

Wed 7th – 7pm Friends of Nackington Carols with The Salvation Army Band

Thurs 8th 9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion

10.15-11.30 Fish Scheme Coffee Morning Bridge Village Hall

1.30pm Senior Citizens Tea Party at Bridge School.

Fri 9th – 8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church

Sat 10th 10.15am Christmas Coffee, Cake and Concert at Bridge Church

Sun 11th – 2.30pm Community Christmas Carols at Chalkpit Farm

Mon 12th - 1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground

2.30pm Caring and Sharing

Weds 14th -10 am village coffee morning, Bekesbourne Village Hall

6pm Nailbourne Scouts at Bridge Church

Thurs 15th – 9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion

Fri 16th – 8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church

6pm Community Carols Lower Hardres Village Hall

Sat 17th– 11am-2pm Bridge Haven Christmas Fete

Mon 19th - 1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground

Service details and readings for December 2022 and January 2023

4 th December	2 nd Sun- day of Advent	Isaiah 11.1 -10; Psalm 72.1-7, 18- 19; Romans 15.4-13; Matthew 3.1-12	8am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nack- ington 10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bekesbourne (Advent Carols) 6pm Choral Evensong St Mary's Lower Hardres
11 th December	3 rd Sun- day of Advent	Isaiah 35.1 -10; James 5.7-10; Matthew 11.2-11	10 am Communion at St Peter's Bridge
18 th December	4 th Sun- day of Advent	Isaiah 7.10 -16; Ro- mans 1.1- 7; Matthew 1.18-25	9.30am Morning Prayer at St Mary's Nackington 10am Traditional Sung Holy Commu- nion at St Mary's Patrixbourne 7pm Bridge Carol Service at Bridge
Friday 23 rd December			4pm Crib and Carol Service St Mary's Lower Hardres 7pm Carol Service St Mary's Patrixbourne
Saturday 24 th December	Christmas Eve	Isaiah 52.7 -10; He- brews 1.1- 4; 2.5-12; John 1.1- 14	3pm Christingle Service at Bridge 5pm Christingle Service at Bridge 10pm Christmas Eucharist Nackington
Sunday 25 th December	Christmas Day (1 st Sunday of Christ- mas)	Isaiah 9:2- 7; Titus 2:11- 14; Luke 2: 1- 14, [15-20]	9.30am Christmas Communion St Pe- ter's Bridge 11am Christmas Carol Service St Pe- ter's Bekesbourne
Please note in order to keep our heating costs down we are having a 5 Sun- day Service Rotation during January. You are welcome to attend any of the services in any of the churches.			
1 st January	2 nd Sun- day of Christmas	Isaiah 63:7 -9; Hebrews 2:10-end; Matthew 2:13-end	10am Benefice Communion at St Mary's Nackington

8 th January	Epiphany	Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12	10am Benefice Communion Service at St Peter's Bokesbourne
14 th January			4-6pm Messy Church at Bridge School
15 th January	2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	Isaiah 49:1-7; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1: 29-42	10am Benefice Communion Service at St Mary's Patrixbourne
22 nd January	3 rd Sunday after Epiphany	Isaiah 9:1-4 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4: 12-23	10am Benefice Communion at St Peter's Bridge
29 th January	Epiphany 4 (or Candlemas)	1 Kings 17: 8-16; 1 Corinthians 1:18-end; John 2:1-11 (Malachi 3: 1-5; Hebrews 2: 14-end; Luke 2: 22-40)	10am Benefice Communion at St Mary's Lower Hardres
We are continuing with a slightly reduced Service rota in February to help with our heating costs. We plan to be back to our usual rota in March 2023.			
5 th February	3 rd Sunday before Lent		8am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington 10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bokesbourne
Saturday 11 th February			Messy Church at Bridge School
12 th February	2nd Sunday before Lent		10 am Communion at St Peter's Bridge
19 th February	Sunday before Lent		10am Traditional Sung Holy Communion at St Mary's Patrixbourne 4pm All Age Family Service at St Peter's Bridge
26 th February	1 st Sunday of Lent		10am Parish Communion St Mary's Lower Hardres

January 2023 Dates

Thurs 5th 9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion

Fri 6th – 8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Pavilion

Mon 9th - 1pm-3pm BREW, Bekesbourne Recreation Ground

2.30pm Caring and Sharing

Weds 11th -10 am village coffee morning, Bekesbourne Village Hall

Thurs 12th 9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion

Fri 13th – 8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Pavilion

10.15-11.30 Fish Scheme Coffee Morning Bridge Village Hall

Sat 14th – 4pm Messy Church Relaunch at Bridge School

Mon 16th - 1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground

Thurs 19th – 9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion

Fri 20th – 8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Pavilion

Mon 23rd - 1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground

2.30pm Caring and Sharing

Thurs 26th – 9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion

Fri 27th – 8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Pavilion

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The Holly & The Ivy

An early mention of this Carol's title occurs in William Hone's 1823 work *Ancient Mysteries Described*



Holly is best known at Christmas but by then the blackbirds have eaten all the berries. I can see a very tall holly tree in my neighbour's garden. As I write this in late Autumn it is full of berries, but only on my side as it faces South. There are no berries on the North side. How unfortunate for the owner of the tree.

However, the birds are descending already, and it will soon be stripped. It is a lovely sight in the meantime. As it has berries it is a female tree with a male tree nearby. It is perfect for wildlife and so the fact the berries are eaten worries me not. I would rather have the blackbirds survive winter. I have read that hedgehogs like to shelter underneath – perhaps the prickly dead leaves do not worry them but keep them protected. In the summer we welcome visits from the Holly Blue butterfly, prevalent in the south of England, so holly is an all-round winner.

This tree is a common holly and will grow eventually to a great height and live for up to 100 years. There are others that can be grown in pots and small gardens, but I have tried this and had little success, so I admire the one I have over the fence instead.



Now ivy is very much a love it or hate it plant. I have it in different guises – small trailing bicolor for pots and baskets and then one large green leaf variety in the corner of the wildlife area as well as a new large, leafed green/white one for covering a gap in a fence where a pyracantha died. In autumn, ivy flowers provide a late source of nectar for bees and attracts other insects, which in turn provide food for robins and wrens. When the black berries appear in the middle of winter, they're again a much-needed boost of energy devoured by everything from thrushes, waxwings, starlings and jays to finches and blackbirds.

Combined holly and ivy make excellent wreaths for the front door, and it does not matter if the berries have been eaten. I have a Nandina which looks promising for red berries so may just pop these in for colour instead...

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas

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3rd December 2022



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Sunday 4th December

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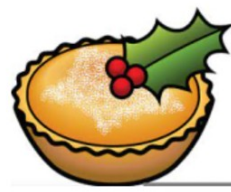
Bridge Village Hall, 10am to 11.30am Thursday 8th December

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Christmas Sale Extravaganza at Essentially Hops Shop

As local customers and community members are aware, our shop at Chalkpit Farm has been closed since lockdown and we've had numerous enquiries about when it will re-open again. With that in mind, we've decided to re-open the shop for a limited time for everyone to come in, have a catch-up and pick up a bargain or two.. or three.. or four!

The shop will be open Monday to Friday at 10am to 3pm from 28th November to the 9th December 2022, so make a note in your diary to pop down for a natter and a load of bargains

Pre-order Christmas Trees & Christmas Wreaths

<https://essentiallyhops.co.uk/product-category/christmas/>

FISH Scheme News

We have been asked to help the playgroup accommodate more children by moving our Coffee Pop-in to FRIDAY in future, starting in January. We do hope you will understand.

The next Coffee Pop-in will be on THURSDAY December 8th with carols and mince pies. Do bring a friend along and if you want a lift ring 07935 966 080 .

If you miss doing your own shopping do consider the Kent Karrier Dial a Bus service. On Wednesday and Friday a bus will pick you up from your door in Bridge, Patribourne, Bekesbourne and Bishopsbourne and take you to the supermarkets and the bus station and return you home. The help line is 03000 41 35 67. An application can be made on line and we can help with doing so.

The January Pop-in will be on Friday 13th (!) and we will have our Winter Warmer lunch on Friday 27th January .

Littlebourne & District Royal British Legion

We held our branch AGM in November. The Chairman expressed his thanks to all who had supported us during the past year. Branch officers were elected as followed - Chairman Bob Catt, Vice Chairman Barbara Hunt, Secretary Kevin Costello, Treasurer Bob Hoy. Branch Committee - Anne Hill, Tracy Bergin and Geoff Preston. Poppy Appeal Organiser Jan Catt, Deputy Organiser Bob Catt, Welfare member and publicity Barbara Hunt. Standard Bearer Kevin Costello, Standard escorts Dennis Beer and Barbara Hunt.

We held the 11/11/11 Silence outside the Hay wain when Paul Howson sounded the last post and reveille. Our remembrance service was well attended at Ickham Church on Sunday 13 November and the branch was also represented at Stodmarsh church the same evening for a remembrance service held at 6pm.

We will be having a quiz evening at Staple Branch on Thursday 8 December and our next branch meeting will be on Tuesday 13 December (special Christmas meeting) at 8pm at the Recreation Club, Littlebourne.



Bridge Haven Christmas Fete

Saturday 17th December

11am-2pm

Raffle, Lucky Dip, Cakes, Brick a Brack and much more!!!

All welcome.

Donations for the raffle would be gratefully received.

Contact 01227 831607

Nailbourne Scout Group news

Scouts, Cubs and Beavers have been busy this month as always. Beavers had fun on a Halloween trail and are currently working on their Communicator Badge; Cubs have started on their Science Badge, with lots of cool experiments, after working on their Pioneering Badge; while Scouts are working on their Survival Skills Badge and went on a recent night hike.

On Halloween, our Scouts carried out a new variation on the usual 'trick or treat'. They went around the houses in Barham collecting donations for the food bank - plus a few treats for themselves! They collected a huge amount to donate to Canterbury food bank – please take a look at our Facebook page to see just how much! Many thanks to all those in Barham and further afield who donated, as well as to the fantastic Scouts who helped on the night.

On Remembrance Sunday, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts represented Nailbourne Scout Group at Bridge Church's remembrance service, acting as flag bearers during the silence. Some of our other members represented Nailbourne at their own village services and processions.

By the time you read this we'll be into December, and we will be doing our usual Scout Christmas post in Bridge. We will deliver all your Christmas cards (only within the village, please, as deliveries are done on foot – many thanks!) in exchange for a donation to Nailbourne Scout Group funds. Delivery will be on Sunday 18 December – keep an eye out for our postbox in the local shop!

Our AGM will be on 25 January and everyone is welcome – parents, helpers and anyone with a possible interest in Scouts! Keep an eye on our Facebook page and this magazine for more details. We are still looking for help on our Executive Committee. There are specific roles on the committee (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) and we are hoping to fill a new fundraising role in particular, but we also need people to be general committee members and help share the load. You don't have to be a Scout parent, although parents are very welcome too! Our leaders do an amazing job running sessions, but it's important to have a good number of people behind the scenes, as leaders can't – and shouldn't – do it all! We meet via Zoom, so there's no pressure to attend physical meetings. There is also no commitment to help or join the committee if you attend our AGM, although this is, of course, a great opportunity to join or find out more!

Nailbourne Scout Group welcomes both boys AND girls and meets during term time as follows:

Beavers (6–8 years) – Wednesdays, 5.30–6.30pm, Barham Village Hall

Cubs (8–10 years) – Wednesdays, 6.30–7.30pm, Barham Village Hall

Scouts (10–14 years) – Fridays, 6.30–8.00pm, Denton Village Hall

Please note that the venue is subject to frequent change, particularly in the summer, when we meet outside as often as possible!

For more information on joining or volunteering, please email Nick Gore at skipnailbourne@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/Nailbourne-Scout-Group-public-108853207216429).

News from Woodpeckers Nursery

Woodpeckers Nursery are looking to expand the hours and age range they cater for. To do this we are looking to access local demand. If you would

be interested in using a nursery in Bridge that offers the hours 8-6 and cares for children from 12 months please call 01227 831159 or email

woodpeckerscommittee@gmail.com for a questionnaire.



In the meantime we wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

Woodpecker Committee

NAILBOURNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The last of the Society's successful year of events will be our Christmas Social Meeting on **Tuesday 6th December** with a talk intriguingly named, 'Sloe Seduction'. Katherine Hook from Marden in Kent, will talk on the origins of gin, sloe gin and cocoa production with tastings of the specialty chocolates she produces. The entry fee of £5 for members and £7 for non-members will include a glass of festive fizz.

Our AGM will be held **on Tuesday 24th January 2023** when subscriptions, (which remain the same as last year's), can be paid and the new programme of events as well as show schedules for Spring and Summer shows will be available. We will have the pleasure of welcoming Pam Dobson, Sue Walton and Helen Groves de Milleret of Bridge Village Gardeners who will make a presentation about the splendid work they are doing in various locations around the village.

The meetings are at Bridge Village Hall and start at 7.30 pm. Do come along and support one of the oldest Societies in Bridge. Members, non members as well as anyone wishing to join the Society's Committee will be warmly welcomed.

Raffle Donations Needed

Items needed for the Parish Christmas Hamper to be raffled on Thursday 22nd December at the Christmas Farmers' Market to be held from 3pm in the car park of the Red Lion, Bridge at which the Community Carol Singing will take place. Items for the raffle to the Churchwardens please.

Bridge Village Playgroup

Our first term back has been a busy one, packed with lots of activities and learning! The children visited the Church for Harvest Festival, met lots of spooky characters at Hallowe'en and have been learning about the Solar System in Space Week! The older children also got to experience the Astrodome, an interactive space experience that landed in Bridge Village Hall. The children from Woodpeckers Nursery were invited to join us, and the Hall was transformed.

Now our attention turns to Christmas, and preparations begin for the Nativity, coffee morning and the much-anticipated Christmas party!

Following on from last year's success, we are running the hugely popular Bridge Village Playgroup Grand Christmas Raffle again this year! This year's prizes may even beat last year's, and we are so grateful to local businesses for their support and donations. Among the 20+ prizes are a meal for 2 with a bottle of wine at The Pig, a case of wine donated by Quinn Estates, afternoon tea at Eastwell Manor, a half spa day at Tor Spa, and a gorgeous print of Bridge from DEY Prints. Or perhaps you'd prefer a whole cake, baked by Mahoney's? Or tickets to the cricket, Howletts, Gulbenkian, or axe throwing?! The list goes on!

To buy your tickets and support the Playgroup, please e-mail bvtrustees@gmail.com and we will give you details of how to enter. Tickets are £1 and the draw will take place on Friday 16th December 2022. Good luck!

In other news, we have been chosen as one of The Co-operative's Local Community Fund charities for 2022/23. If you're a Co-operative Member, please do choose us as your charity of the year and we will receive funds to continue our renovation of the garden area every time you shop. Thank you! <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/68617>.

As the year draws to a close, we want to say thank you to everyone that continues to support the Playgroup both in the community and within the charity. We are extremely lucky to have an established team of experienced and dedicated playworkers. They give the children such a fantastic experience every day. The parents and Committee are so grateful to them for everything they do; they make Playgroup the happy, fun place it is! Thank you, team.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy Christmas season.

The Bridge Village Playgroup committee

Bridge Village Playgroup takes children aged from 2 up to school age. We are based in the Bridge Village Hall and operate in term-time as follows:

Monday to Wednesday: 9am to 3.30pm

Thursday and Friday: 9am to 12 noon

We accept Government Early Years Funding from age 2 including 30 hours' funding.

For more information, please contact the Manager, Julia Watt, on 07790 096325. Check out what we are up to at www.facebook.com/bridgevillageplaygroup or our website at www.bridgevillageplaygroup.com.

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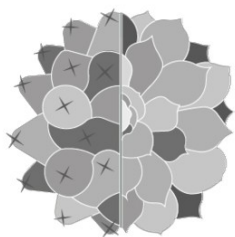
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