

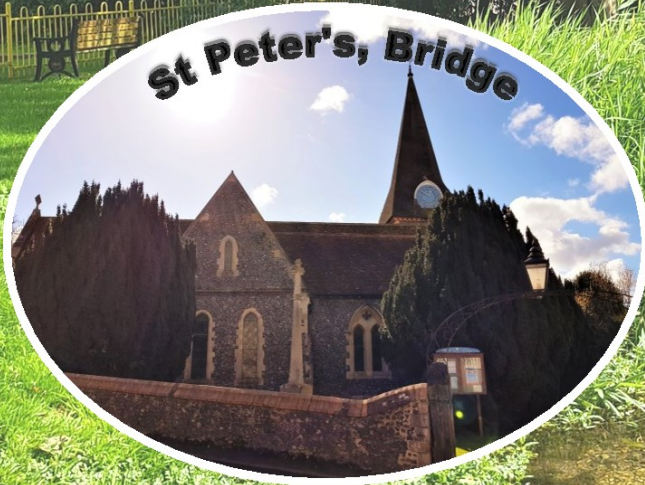


On the Nail

A magazine for the
villages along the
Nailbourne



St Mary's, Patrixbourne



St Peter's, Bridge



St Peter's, Bekesbourne

**December
2023/
January
2024**

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December 2023/January 2024

Dear Friends

As I write, it's the middle of November, bonfire night and Remembrance are behind us and I am just about beginning to feel as though it might be ok to start thinking about Christmas. I am also marvelling at the fact that suddenly the New Year that was 2023 is entering its final weeks and we will soon herald in a new 'New Year' – 2024!

We are just about to enter the season of Advent which I know everyone has an idea of, whether a churchgoer or not. Advent, popularly, is the season when everyone ramps up their preparations for Christmas. In the church though, whilst it is a season of preparation it is also a season of waiting. A time when once again we try to pause to think about what the real importance of the event we celebrate at Christmas – the birth of Christ really is. When Jesus was born, when God entered into his creation as a human, to walk alongside us and teach us about how to live in harmony with one another and in full reconciled relationship with the Divine, the waiting should have been overbut, to coin a phrase from scripture, we are a 'stiff-necked' people; stubborn, rigid, obsessed with doing things our way rather than God's way.....and so still we wait for the promised peace and harmony of the world.

I wonder if at the moment, when you're watching the news or reading the paper, or scrolling through social media and seeing all that's going on in the world and even in our own country, you have perhaps felt the absence of anything hopeful. The sense that things are going to improve and get better. I think we all as humans have that underlying need to have hope.

At Christmas, in the midst of all the bustle and busy-ness as we buy presents, send cards, visit family and friends, and indulge in feasting, I hope that we will remember that all of this comes back to one thing. The extraordinary love of a Divine Creator who not content with creating us and leaving us to get on with it, cares so deeply about our thriving and flourishing and ability to live well together that he entered bodily into our human experience, to share with us all that the freedom we have allows and to guide us in how we use that freedom in order to thrive and flourish together. At a time when perhaps the world feels or looks a bit hopeless, this is the source of our hope and whilst we might feel as though we are waiting for God to act in some way – perhaps its just the other way around. Perhaps God is waiting for us.

In the popular carol 'In the bleak midwinter' we sing the words

What can I give him? Poor as I am

If I were a shepherd I would give a lamb

If I were a wise man I would do my part

But what I can I give him, give Him my heart (from 'In the bleak midwinter' by Christina Rossetti)

My prayer for us all as one year draws to an end and a new one begins, is that we may soften our 'stiff necks', and genuinely open our hearts, to truly see the other, and act to restore hope and harmony in our world.

Yours in Christ

Estella Last

Rev. Estella Last, Vicar, The Bridge Group Parish

December 2023 Dates

Fri 1st- 8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church

10-11am Advent Group at Bridge Church

Sat 2nd 10am Friends of Bekesbourne Christmas Bazaar

Mon 4th - 1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground

Tues 5th—2pm Year 2 Nativity at St Peter's Bridge

Weds 6th—9.30am Year 2 Nativity at St Peter's Bridge

7.30 pm Salvation Army Concert at St Mary's NAckington

Thurs 7th - 9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion

1pm (tbc) Senior Citizen's Tea Party at Bridge and Patrixbourne CEP

Fri 8th – 8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church

10-11am Advent Group at Bridge Church

10.15-11.30 Fish Scheme Coffee Morning Bridge Village Hall

Sat 9th- 10.15-11.30am Advent Coffee Cake and Concert

4pm-6pm Messy Church at Bridge School

Mon 11th - 1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground

Weds 13th -10 am Bekesbourne Village coffee morning, Bekesbourne Village Hall

7.30pm Nailbourne Scouts Christmas Service at St Peter's Bridge

Thurs 14th – 9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion

Fri 15th – 8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church

10-11am Advent Group at Bridge Church

Sun 17th 2.30pm Community Carols at Chalkpit Farm in Bekesbourne

Mon 18th 1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground

Tues- 19th 3pm Bridge Christmas Farmer's Market followed by Community Carols at The Red Lion

Thurs 21st 9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
2pm Communion at Mansfield Court
Fri 22nd – 10-11am Advent Group at Bridge Church

Jan 2024 Dates

Thurs 4th 9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 5th – 8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church
Mon 8th - 1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground
2.30pm Caring and Sharing
Weds 10th - 10 am Bekesbourne Village coffee morning, Bekesbourne Village Hall
Thurs 11th 9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 12th – 8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church
Sat 13th - 4pm-6pm Messy Church at Bridge School
Mon 15th - 1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground
Thurs 18th - 9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
2pm Communion at Mansfield Court
Fri 19th – 8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church
Sat 20th - 10.15-11.30am Coffee Cake and Concert at Bridge Church
Mon 22nd 1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground
2.30pm Caring and Sharing
Thurs 25th 9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 26th – 8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church
12noon Fish Winter Warmer Lunch Bridge Village Hall
Mon 29th - 1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground

FISH SCHEME NEWS

The Coffee Pop-in will be on Friday December 10th and we hope Jean will be there to accompany carols with the playgroup children also popping in. Do come.
The Winter Warmer lunch will be on Friday 26th January from 12 noon, also in the village hall.
The number to call for lifts remains 07935 966 080

Service details and readings for December 2023

3 rd December	Advent Sunday	Isaiah 64.1-9; Psalm 80.1- 7,17-19; 1 Co- rinthians 1.3-9; Mark 13.24-37	8am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington 10am Songs of Praise at St Pe- ter's Bekesbourne (Advent Car- ols) 6pm Choral Evensong at St Pe- ter's, Bridge
9 th December	Messy Church		4pm Bridge and Patrixbourne CEP
10 th December	2 nd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 40.1-11; 2 Peter 3.8- 15a; Mark 1.1-8	10 am Communion at St Peter's Bridge
17 th December	3 rd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 61.1-4,8- 11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessaloni- ans 5.16-24; John 1.6-28	9.30am Morning Prayer at St Mary's Nackington 10am Traditional Sung Holy Communion at St Mary's Patrixbourne 7pm Bridge Carol Service at Bridge
Friday 22 nd December			7pm Carol Service St Mary's Patrixbourne
24 th December	4 th Sunday of Advent Christ- mas Eve	2 Samuel 7.1- 11,16; Romans 16.25-27; Luke 1.26-38 Isaiah 52:7-10 Hebrews 1:1-12 John 1:1-14	10am Parish Communion St Mary's Lower Hardres 3pm Christingle Service at Bridge 5pm Christingle Service at Bridge 10pm Christmas Eucharist Nack- ington
25 th December	Christ- mas Day	Isaiah 52:7-10 Hebrews 1:1-12 John 1:1-14	9.30am Christmas Communion St Peter's Bridge 11am Christmas Carol Service St Peter's Bekesbourne
31 st December	1 st Sunday of Christ- mas	Isaiah 61:10- 62:3 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2: 15-21	10am Benefice Communion St Mary's Nackington

Service details and readings for January 2024

7 th January	Epiphany	Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72: [1-9] 10-15 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	10am Benefice Communion Service at St Peter's Bekesbourne 6pm Choral Evensong (Come and sing)
13 th January			4-6pm Messy Church at Bridge School
14 th January	Epiphany 2	1 Samuel 3.1-10, (11-20); Revelation 5:1-10; John 1.43-51	10am Benefice Communion at St Peter's Bridge
21 st January	3 rd Sunday of Epiphany	Genesis 14:17-20; Revelation 19:6-10; John 2:1-11	10am Benefice Communion Service at St Mary's Patrixbourne 4pm Family Service at St Peter's Bridge
28 th January	4 th Sunday after Epiphany	Deuteronomy 18.15-20; Revelation 12:1-5a; Mark 1.21-28	10am Benefice Communion at St Mary's Lower Hardres
4 th February	2 nd Sunday before Lent		8am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington 10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bekesbourne 6pm Choral Evensong (Come and sing)

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Advent Study Programme for The Bridge Group Parish 2023

'The Songs of Advent'

studies based on materials written by Ed Rowell ©2008 Christianity Today International

As familiar as we are with the songs of Christmas, there are four songs recorded in the Bible to celebrate the birth of Jesus that we might not be as familiar with. Zechariah, an elderly priest sang after being visited by an angel. The angels sang a song to the shepherds (we know part of their song: "And on earth peace and goodwill toward men"). Mary sang a song to God after she had time to get over the shocking news that she was going to be the mother of the Savior. Simeon also had a song.

Join us for some time to study and pray together in the busy weeks in the run up to Christmas, taking some time to deepen our faith as we prepare for the celebration of Christmas. The Sessions run on Friday mornings throughout December at St Peter's Church in Bridge and each one stands alone so you don't have to come to all of them if you aren't able to.

Christmas and New Year at Chalkpit Farm

It's certainly starting to feel like winter here at **Chalkpit Farm in Bekesbourne**, but we do still have a few activities and festive treats to warm you up as we approach Christmas and the New Year! Our stunning **Christmas door wreaths, decorated table garlands** and **Christmas decorations** are available at the farm shop and on our website, so make sure you **order before the 8th December**; call 01227 830666 or visit www.essentiallyhops.co.uk We also have our annual **community Carol Singing on Sunday 17th December @ 2.30pm** to help raise money and awareness for the **Motor Neurone Disease Association**. Whether you are a singing or not; you are more than welcome to join us at the farm for a festive hour (and for a mince pie and mulled wine); what better way to celebrate a Merry Christmas! We'll also have a whole new schedule of our popular events and workshops in the New Year, so what better way to make a new resolution and learn a whole new skill; from creating your own wedding flowers to picking your own fresh hops! Pop into the shop at Chalkpit Farm or give us a call to find out more about our events and the hops and dried flowers we have in store!

Bridge & District History Society

Join us for a Christmas Social Evening on Thursday December 21st at 7.30pm in Bridge Village Hall.

Enjoy mulled wine and mince pies as Geoff Doel explores Christmas ghosts through songs, stories and old traditions.

All welcome. No entrance fee but donations appreciated for Porchlight which supports the homeless.

Further details at www.bridgehistory.org.uk



St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne

CHRISTMAS



BAZAAR



10.00 am Saturday



2nd December 2023



Bekesbourne Village Hall



Santa



Stalls



Gifts



Raffle



Refreshments



Proceeds to St Peter's Church Bekesbourne



Friends of St Peter's Church, Bridge

COFFEE & CAKE & CONCERT

Saturday 9th December 10:15 to 11:30am

*A warm invitation to this Annual Concert &
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Supported by our Community Choir

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Friends of St Peter's Church, Bridge

COFFEE & CAKE & CONCERT

Saturday 20th January 10:15 to 11:30am

*A warm invitation to this performance
by Tom Klidzia violin & Mary Hill piano*



*Tom & Mary present music by
Edvard Grieg & Franz Schubert*

Suggested donation £5, children free

Proceeds to Porchlight & our Heating Fund


The Bridge Group Parish Baby and Toddler Group
Thursdays during term time
9am-11am
in Bridge Sports Pavillion, Bridge Recreation Ground.

Suggested donation £1.50
For more information email estellalast@gmail.com

Supported by Bridge Parish Council



Nailbourne Scout Group news

As always, it's been a busy month, before the Christmas preparations begin! Beavers have been learning about fossils and Harvest traditions and have been undertaking some very cool science experiments, including dissecting owl pellets (with thorough handwashing, of course!). Cubs have turned each other into mummies (using toilet roll and imagination!), made spooky pine cone spiders and role-played bats looking for moths, after learning about echolocation. Scouts have been working on their skills challenge badge and their navigation skills, as well as getting ready for a 'round the world' Christmas party to explore different cultures and traditions. They also honed their sewing skills, making poppies for our Remembrance wreaths. Explorers have made willow wreaths, played lots of games, worked on their survival skills and helped to plan their own sessions for this term, including an exciting new outdoor meeting location.

Recent events include the Explorers' first camp – this was an expedition camp in Essex, where Explorers had a great time chopping wood, building fires, cooking their dinner and night hiking, despite the weather not being as kind as it could be! On Halloween, Explorers went door to door in Barham, collecting donations for the food bank. And on Remembrance Sunday, young people from all sections took part in a short parade through Bridge, before joining in the Remembrance service.

As we move towards Christmas, all sections will be taking part in plenty of fun Christmassy activities, including our annual whole-group Christmas service at Bridge Church. We will also be delivering

Scout Post in Bridge on 17 December – look out for our post box in Bridge Stores!

As always, we welcome new people to our groups and we are always looking for volunteers, both behind the scenes and helping in sessions. Please contact us for more details. 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, 6.45–8.00pm, Barham Village Hall

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

Explorers (14–18 years) – Wednesdays, 7.30–9.00pm, Bridge 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 Beavers, Cubs or Scouts or volunteering, please email NickGore at skipnailbourne@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/Nailbourne-Scout-Group-public-108853207216429). For information on Explorers, please contact Phil Last at explorersnailbourne@gmail.com

Nailbourne Horticultural Society

We warmly invite members and non-members to our Christmas Social meeting on Tuesday 5th December at the usual time of 7.30 pm at Bridge Village Hall. There will be a presentation entitled, 'Kent under Attack from Asian Hornets!' by Lisa Jenkins, Seasonal Bee Inspector, on a subject that has been causing serious concern and one which has been covered by the media recently. It should be of interest and importance and something we all need to be made aware of. On a lighter note though, not forgetting it is our Christmas Social, we will be serving glass of festive drink and nibbles included in the entry fee of £5, plus a ticket to the Christmas raffle. In addition there will be jars of honey for sale from a local beekeeper. We hope you will come and support this last event of the year as well as help celebrate a very successful one for our Society.

Nailbourne Horticultural Society - Annual General Meeting & Talk on Successional Planting

We start year 2024 with our AGM in Bridge Village Hall on Tuesday 23 January at 7.30 pm. Subscriptions for the year are due then, at £8 for single and £15 for joint/family membership. If you are interested in gardening and related matters, now is a good time to join when you can enjoy a full and varied programme of interesting talks as well as an afternoon outing, not forgetting our Spring and Summer shows, the schedules for which will be available. New and old members as well as those who wish to join our friendly committee will be warmly welcomed. So, please encourage your friends to come along and help the oldest Society in the Village to continue to thrive! Following the brief AGM we will welcome our guest speaker, Kevin Tooher, aka Sir Plantalot, who will give a talk 'Successional Planting'. Kevin has been a lecturer in horticulture at Hadlow College and at Brogdale. He currently runs his own horticultural courses. We very much look forward to seeing you. Refreshments will be available.



The Red Lion
Tuesday 19th December
3pm Bridge Farmer's Market
5pm Community Carols and Raffle
In aid of St Peter's Bridge

First Prize: A three course midweek lunch for two at The Pig at Bridge Place
Second Prize: 6 bottles assorted wine
Third Prize: fruit and vegetable hamper



In the Bleak Midwinter

Christina Rossetti

Christina Georgina Rossetti was an English writer of romantic, devotional and children's poems. She was the youngest child in an extraordinarily gifted family with 3 siblings, including Dante Gabriel Rossetti, as he was generally known, one of the founders of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood.

The text of this Christmas poem, first published in 1872, has been set to music many times. Made famous by both Gustav Holst and Harold Darke in the early 20th century.

In the poems, her vision of an earth which stands 'ashamed and dumb' because it is 'exposed and valued at man's worth' seems to predict human destruction of the natural world that followed in the wake of the industrial development. Little could she realise how this destruction was going to continue and escalate in our own times.

What does midwinter conjure up for a gardener? For my part it is mainly centred indoors with seasonal plants: cyclamen, poinsettia, and early, forced, paperwhite narcissus bulbs. The green leafy plants that have had a good summer need special care in a cold porch or conservatory. Succulents can take the cold and seem to survive in both the house and under protection in the greenhouse. The outdoor plants must now look after themselves, as all precautions have been taken, apart from unexpected winds, snow and heavy rain which may cause problems. Bird feeders and the bird bath will need to be regularly topped up – but the hedgehog house is still awaiting an occupant as I write this...

Bee identification has suddenly become very easy as there should only be 2 bee species flying at this time of year: buff-tailed bumblebees and the very occasional honeybee – find a log or two and place them out of the way so there is a small habitat available. And the finale of my year of the bee, a book: 'What a Bee Knows' by Entomologist, Stephen Buchmann.

Happy Christmas everyone.



December and January bees, not hibernating, will appreciate:

Mahonia and Ivy flowers, Helleborus Foetidus, Winter heathers, aconites, and snowdrops

Bridge with Patricbourne Womens Institute

The changed time for our meetings to afternoons has proved popular, as members prefer daylight to dark evenings. In October we had a most interesting meeting, when 'Adventures in Stained Glass and Decorative Art' was the subject of a talk given by Julia Till. This was followed by a talk in November on 'Christmas Cards' and was a popular subject at this time of year.

Our usual Christmas Party is on Friday, 15th December at 2pm, in the Village Hall, when it is hoped that many members will be able to come and enjoy a social time, with in-house entertainment some seasonal food and drink.

In January our speaker, Joyce Coomber-Sewell will be talking on 'This is Me' – so it will be interesting to hear what she has to say! WI welcomes anyone interested in becoming a member, or coming along firstly as a guest for a 'taster'. For more details, please contact the Secretary on 01227-830606.

Joan Hill

Nov. 2023

It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited

Let's do whatever it takes
to support people living with cancer.

Place: Bridge Village Hall

Date: 3rd Feb 2024

Time: 10 -11:45am

Contact: Fiona Hollands

fionahollands@hotmail.com

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Cover photos: Mrs Megan Shirley and Dr Daniel Edward Young