



On the Nail

A magazine for the
villages along the
Nailbourne



February
2023

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November 2022

Dear Friends

I can't really start a February letter with 'Happy New Year' can I? Even though the last letter I wrote was in November for the December / January edition of our Parish Magazine! I also want to say that I hope you were able to enjoy something of a more normal Christmas! At various times over the past 3 years we have heard the phrase 'new normal' but this Christmas was the first since 2019 that I really felt as though we were truly back to some sort of normality for Christmas in our churches. With lots of people attending carol services, Christingle services and carol singing events in all our villages (even though there were still lots of 'seasonal bugs' still whirling around) it was a joy to be able to celebrate the incarnation, the moment God became human, with so many of you all together once again.

In the weeks since Christmas, in our churches at least, the celebrations have continued. We held a 10am Sunday service each week in January in a different church and enjoyed healthy congregation numbers everywhere we went as throughout Epiphany season we connected again with the various ways in which scripture reveals Jesus as Messiah, Saviour and King for all people. Mid-January it was also our joy to bring back the popular Messy Church and thanks are due to our team of volunteers and especially Headteacher James Tibbles who bravely manned the kitchen and served up a smashing hot meal for everyone who attended. Dates for our services this month are included over the page so do join us if you can.

February brings brief respite from seasonal comings and goings as we enjoy three weeks of 'Ordinary Time' in our churches before Lent arrives on Ash Wednesday (22nd February). We will of course be running a Lent course this year but details are not yet finalised so look out for further information in our weekly Pew Sheets or on Social Media when we get a bit nearer the time.

For some, one of the hi-lights or possibly 'low-lights' of February is Valentine's Day. For a couple weeks everywhere is awash with red hearts and treats and cards to inspire us to show the person we love just how much we love them. Teenagers and young people perhaps wait fervently in the hope that they will receive some sort of token of love from an admirer, maybe in your own families you have traditions for marking the occasion. The cynic in me says this really is just another ploy to get us to spend our money! But actually it is so important to know that we are loved. One of the core values of our faith is that we are all created and loved by God not because of anything we do but simply for the very fact of our existence. So much of the landscape of love in our secular context places love as a reward to be earned but whilst through the ages the church may have seemed to have done its best to hide it, the fact is that God's love, mercy and grace towards us does not need to be earned. The simple truth is we are created in God's love to love and be loved.

My prayer is that this February, whether you recognise Valentine's day or not, you may know that you are loved and you are worthy just because you are you.

Yours in Christ

Estella Last

Rev. Estella Last, Vicar, The Bridge Group Parish

February 2023 Dates

Thurs 2nd 9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion

Fri 3rd – 8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church

Mon 6th - 1pm-3pm BREW, Bekesbourne Recreation Ground

Weds 8th -10 am village coffee morning, Bekesbourne Village Hall

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

Fri 10th – 8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church

10.15-11.30 Fish Scheme Coffee Morning Bridge Village Hall

Sat 11th – 4pm Messy Church at Bridge School

Mon 13th - 1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground

2.30pm Caring and Sharing

Thurs 16th 2pm-3pm Communion at Mansfield Court

Mon 20th - 1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground

Thurs 23rd – 9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion

Fri 24th – 8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church

Sat 25th – 10.15 am Coffee Cake and Concert at St Peter's Bridge

Mon 27th - 1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground

2.30pm Caring and Sharing

Service details and readings for February 2023

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	Isaiah 58:1-12; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20	8am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington 10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bekesbourne
Saturday 11 th February			Messy Church at 4-6pm at Bridge School
12 th February	2 nd Sunday before Lent	Genesis 1:1-2:3; Romans 8: 18-25; Matthew 5.21-37	10 am Communion at St Peter's Bridge
19 th February	Sunday before Lent	Exodus 24.12-18; 2 Peter 1.16-21; Matthew 17.1-9	10am Traditional Sung Holy Communion at St Mary's Patixbourne 4pm All Age Family Service at St Peter's Bridge
Wednes- day 22 nd February	Ash Wednes- day	Joel 2:1-2,12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6,16-21 or John 8:1-11	10am Communion Service at St Peter's Bridge
26 th February	1 st Sunday of Lent	Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7; Romans 5.12-19; Matthew 4.1-11	10am Parish Communion St Mary's Lower Hardres
5 th March	2 nd Sunday of Lent	Genesis 12.1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4.1-5,13-17; John 3.1-17	8am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington 10am Parish Communion St Peter's Bekesbourne 6pm Choral Evensong St Mary's Lower Hardres

A note about our Churches

We will do our best to ensure our churches are warm when we have services taking place in them. Please note though that they are all ancient stone buildings and are difficult to heat cost effectively. Please ensure you wear suitable warm clothing when you come to church. Thank you.

Friends of St Peter's Church, Bridge

COFFEE & CAKE & CONCERT

Saturday 25th February 10:15 to 11:30am

A warm invitation to this event



THE BOURNE PLAYERS
present chamber music
by Beethoven & Mozart

Suggested donation £5, children free

Proceeds to Porchlight & our Heating Fund

Bridge & District History Society

Our next meeting will be on Thursday February 16th at 7.30pm in Bridge Village Hall when Imogen Corrigan's talk is about Thomas Becket, one of the most famous Archbishops of Canterbury who was murdered in the Cathedral in December 1170. Imogen will show how Becket rose from being a sport-loving scholar to become one of the most powerful men in the land.

£4.00 at the door to include refreshments. All welcome.

Fish News

Every one is welcome at the Coffee Pop-ins at Bridge village hall to meet old and new friends. The next one is on Friday 10th February from 10 o'clock. And on the second Friday of the month thereafter.

If you live alone you may consider investigating Lifeline 365. It uses Global Positioning System (GPS) so you can get help wherever you are. For details or a demonstration ring 01303 242615 or visit www.lifeline365.org

Coffee, Chat and Prayer

Every Friday during term time from
8.45am-9.30am at Bridge Church

**An opportunity to join in with
a group for prayer, coffee and a chat.**

For more information contact Revd Estella on
estellalast@gmail.com



Nailbourne Scout Group news

Happy New Year! Our Scout group took a well-deserved break over Christmas after a busy December, which included a Christmas service at St Peter's and the annual Scout post in Bridge – thanks to everyone who supports us with this every year. Scouts, Cubs and Beavers returned fresh-faced in January, with New Year celebrations, outdoor challenges and planning for the term ahead. Future activities will include celebrating the Chinese New Year, a Cub camp and preparing for our AGM.

Our AGM is the next big event on our calendar and will be on the amended date of 1 February, 8.00pm at Barham Village Hall. The AGM will be youth-led rather than a traditional stuffy meeting, and Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will be presenting through a variety of media what they've been doing and what they'd like to see happen. The AGM should be a great night and is open to all – parents, prospective parents, helpers and anyone with a possible interest in Scouting! The AGM is also the time at which we elect our Executive Committee for the coming year. As we will have some members stepping down, there will be some roles to fill.

The running of Nailbourne Scout Group depends completely on volunteers, both to lead and help at sessions and on our Executive Committee. We are always looking for help at meetings, and particularly need help with our Beavers group at the moment. It is also vital that we have a full committee to help with the running of the group. There are specific roles such as 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! Without our volunteers, Nailbourne Scout Group can't run, so we would love to see some of you at our AGM to 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

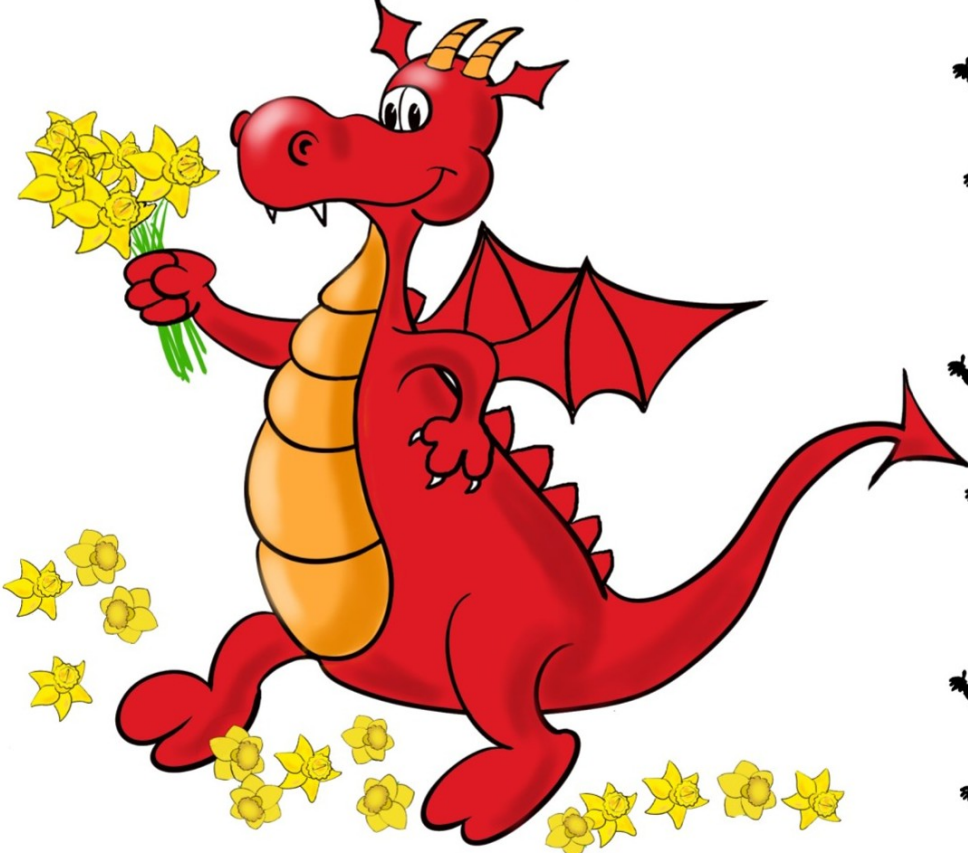
Please note that the venue is subject to frequent change, particularly in the summer, when we meet outside as often as possible!

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).

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to ensure enough cake, or just come on the day.

Messy Church is back!!!

4-6pm Saturday 11th February

Bridge and Patricxbourne School Hall

**Crafts, Stories, worship and a hot meal for all of
the family**

All welcome.



**For more details email
estellalast@gmail.com**



The Bridge Group Parish Baby and Toddler Group

Thursdays during term time

9am-11am

in Bridge Sports Pavilion, Bridge Recreation Ground.

Suggested donation £1.50

For more information email estellalast@gmail.com

Supported by Bridge Parish Council



Littlebourne & District Royal British Legion

We had an enjoyable first meeting of the new year, attended by 13 members and guests.

We have some events being planned for the coming year in aid of the Poppy Appeal. More details later.

We are seeking to recruit new members to the branch. You do not have to be an ex-service person - just someone who is interested in supporting the branch and the Poppy Appeal. For contact, either look in our branch notice board outside Littlebourne Village Hall or ring the Vice Chairman on 10227 472023.

Our next monthly meeting will be held at the Littlebourne Recreation Club on Tuesday 14 February. We wish everyone a peaceful and positive 2023.

Mature Drivers Presentation

Bekesbourne Village Hall- Wednesday 22nd February 2023 @ 6.30pm
We have been asked by Tom from KCC to hold a presentation aimed at Mature drivers (65+) but would like to invite drivers from the age of 50+ to attend. The evening will consist of some short videos and a questions and answers session. Approx 1hr.

In response to an ever-ageing population, resulting in an emerging trend of casualties aged 65 and over, Kent Road Safety have developed a road safety presentation. This will cover general road safety advice, including motorway driving, motorway breakdowns, Smart motorways, and eco driving, as well as topics specific to this age group, such as decline peripheral vision, reduced mobility, and impairment through prescribed medications. A free copy of the current Highway code will be available to all who attend.

Tom, a member of the KCC team will be presenting the talk with a Q&A at the end.

Due to limited spaces please book with Tara via email at enquiries4bvh@gmail.com or on 07871422072.

A suggested donation of £2.50 to attend. Refreshments will also be available to purchase. Thank you. BVHMC

Forthcoming Event – Save the date!

Bekesbourne village hall quiz night.

Saturday 18th March 7.30pm

More information in March magazine.

BRIDGE CHURCH RECYCLING STATION

Don't forget that you can bring your soft plastics (bread, veg, frozen goods, plastic bags, wrappings etc) to our Church Recycling Station. These cannot be put in our home bins collected by the Council. Check the packaging if you are not sure which plastics are acceptable.



We have a team of volunteers who regularly take the plastics to their supermarket recycling facilities when they do their weekly shopping. If you would like to join the rota of volunteers please let us know.

For a comprehensive list of places where you can take other items for recycling please see the list on Bridge Church notice board.

Bridge with Patricxbourne Womens Institute

The year started with a fascinating talk by Anne Booth, a local author who lives in Bridge. Anne has turned her hand to many and varied jobs but as an author, has so far published 23 children's books, and 'Small Miracles' is her first novel for adults. She is now working on the sequel, entitled 'Sweet Mercies', which is due out in October.

Also in January, members enjoyed a pleasant lunch to celebrate the New Year at The Granville pub/restaurant.

At our next meeting **on Friday, 17th February at 2pm in the Village Hall**, Carl Whitewood will be talking about 'Chocolate' – likely to be a very popular subject!

It is with sadness that one of our long-standing members, Pam Beacham, died peacefully at her home, having spent Christmas with members of her family in Petersfield. Our President gave a tribute and a minute's silence was held. Details of the funeral will be circulated as soon as it is known.

The 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.



From the arable side this is probably the quietest month of the year with the only thing to report is MUD so we keep off! Maintenance is ongoing, - falling trees always seem to fall across fences, and this year particularly the icy roads have meant several cars have left the road and gone through the fencing which all has to be repaired/replaced.

It is a crucially important time for sheep farmers – the ewes in the fields will be heavily pregnant and it is vital that they do not experience any trauma from dog walkers to avoid abortion or worse, -as you may have seen recently in the press. Due to the weight of their wet fleeces and their extra body limitations they sometimes manage to get stuck on their backs unable to get up. If you see one with their legs in the air please try and contact the farmer as they can die very quickly in that position. ~Don't try to turn them yourself unless you are very strong and dressed appropriately as they are a dead weight and once righted will be disorientated and very unstable. Likewise if you see any animal away from the others standing alone in a corner or under a hedge this usually indicates they are sick and need attention. Leave them alone but a text to the farmer would be appreciated although he/she probably will be aware given they are checked very regularly and fed daily.

You won't see them as they are all in their winter quarters but dairy farmers are now busy calving in their cattle sheds. Most cattle are tough enough to remain outdoors but they lose condition and require a lot of daily feeding so it's a convenience as well as kinder to them to be kept with a roof over their heads where they are kept under 24 hour surveillance whilst calving takes place. All livestock is accounted for with ear tags and cattle require passports, given numbers by DEFRA which shows their genetic traceability and all the calves are registered at birth. These passports follow them at all times and indicate which fields they are in and where they are moved to. If one dies DEFRA is informed of how and why and the passport cancelled. This ensures traceability throughout and is particularly important for dairy and beef cattle given that both the milk and meat go into the food chain. UK producers are leaders in the world for their ability to identify problems in all the food industry quickly with traceability right back to the farms.

Fruit farmers spend their winter pruning all those trees cutting back excess growth from last year to keep the trees neatly in their uniform lines. You may notice many random trees still have their fruit on. These are the pollinators, - usually not commercially sold varieties but identified easily at this time of year as they stand out as "different" - they ensure the bees are capable of transferring the fertilized pollen in the spring to ensure the best cropping.

The days ARE getting longer – the chickens know and have started laying eggs again!!!!

Enjoy this quieter month with the glorious countryside gleaming with frost on a bright sunny day. Stay safe and warm and please keep our livestock in the fields safe too.

TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF



Pamela Beacham

Friday 10 February at 12 noon

St Peter's Church, Bridge

After the service the family invite you to join them at

The Red Lion, High St, Bridge CT4 5LB



Family flowers only. Donations in memory of Pam to

The British Heart Foundation.



In your garden with Marie Gold



If I had a flower for every time I thought of you ...

I could walk through my garden forever

Alfred Lord Tennyson

Tennyson's poem featured in the People's Choice Garden at Chelsea Flower Show last year, which prompted two couples to become engaged there. The power of flowers! However not all flowers are equal. It is essential for our well-being to grow flowers locally and to buy British.

We are now all aware of the problems that face the younger generation as we stumble towards Climate change. Hopefully, many of us are planning to do at least one thing in our gardens to alleviate the impending disaster. I have decided not to just have a Wildlife Corner but aim to have the whole of my garden suitable for wildlife to enjoy. With Peat Free compost already in use, a full water butt ready for action, and a compost bin needing to be dug out I am ready for the better weather.

However, February is not always the best month to be out in the garden – it is often very wet, cold, and sometimes impossible to manage. It is a good month however to sow some early seeds on the windowsill – this year try native flowers and plants. Spread spent or home-made compost/leaf-mould on top of the soil and let the worms do their job by pulling it down. No need to dig it in as this breaks up Nature's own soil structure. Cut back dead and diseased material, but do not compost the latter. Enjoy what is popping up and if you haven't already done this, cut back old hellebore leaves if they are damaged.

As a keen clematis grower now is the time for me to prune late flowering clematis down to 50 cm. The mantra is 'If it flowers before June, do not prune'.

Encouraging bees and other insects into the garden is high on my agenda and to this end I will be adding plants, that are bee friendly, for each month of the year.



Winter aconites, Spring-flowering crocus, snowdrops

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 to register your interest.

We also have some limited spaces available for 3 year olds at present.

Woodpecker Committee

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Since relocating to Canterbury from near Beckenham in 2020, Covid and childcare issues (as a result of covid) have both contributed to delays in restarting fully our driving business.

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Cover photos: Mrs Megan Shirley and Dr Daniel Edward Young