

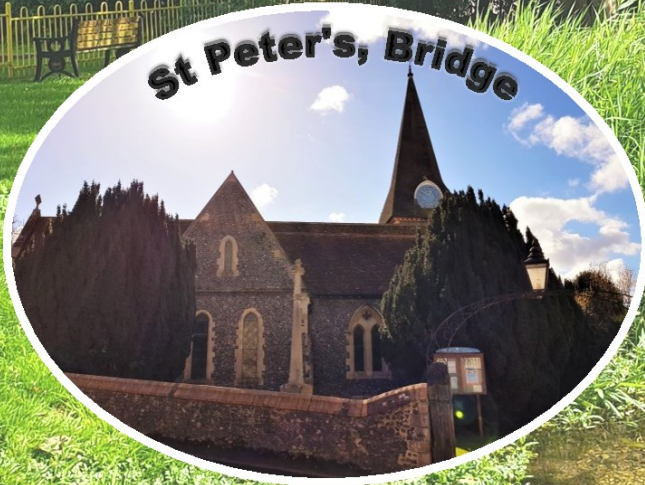


On the Nail

A magazine for the
villages along the
Nailbourne



St Mary's, Patrixbourne



St Peter's, Bridge



St Peter's, Bekesbourne

*July/
August
2023*

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July/August 2023

Dear All

I wonder what the word 'ordinary' makes you think of? In your mind, is 'ordinary' a good thing, or a not-so-good thing?

In the church calendar we have been through the sadness of Lent, and then celebrated the joy of resurrection at Easter. Now we have begun a season of what is called 'ordinary time.' This 'ordinary time' continues almost uninterrupted until we begin to prepare for the next big celebration – the celebration of Christmas. It seems a long way off, doesn't it?!

But life is like this, isn't it? There are times of great joy and celebration; and there are times of great sadness and grief. Human life is punctuated with these highs and lows, and in between, there are the 'ordinary' days – days where it's just a matter of getting up and carrying on, same as usual.

And as much as we enjoy the excitement of celebrations like Christmas, for some of us, the 'ordinary' days are the days we like the most. These are the days where everything is (more or less!) as planned and expected. The predictable rhythm and routine of the 'ordinary' can be comforting in its familiarity, as we all came to realise when 'ordinary' life stopped altogether during the covid lockdowns.

As well as longing to be together for the big celebrations and for the sad goodbyes, what some of us longed for most during covid was a return to the *ordinary* – the familiar, comforting, predictable routine, of getting up and carrying on with life as normal.

I'm not sure that there will ever be a return to that pre-covid normal. We are living in extraordinary times. But in amongst it all, there can still be the comfort of the ordinary – getting up, putting the kettle on, and carrying on, same as usual.

During these summer months, maybe you are looking forward to celebrating something with friends and family – perhaps you have weddings or christenings or birthdays or holidays to enjoy. May I encourage you to make the most of the celebrations?

Perhaps, though, you are walking through a time of sadness, illness, or grief. May I encourage you to reach out to others, and to take care of each other during times of sadness and loss?

And if, right now, you are just getting up and carrying on as usual, may I encourage you to pause, now and then, to be thankful for the small, ordinary mercies of the everyday?

And may I encourage us all, that in these extraordinary times in which we live, God is with us, and for us; in the ordinary days, and in all the days to come.

Every blessing,

Miriam

Rev. Dr Miriam Bier Hinksman, Assistant Curate, The Bridge Group Parish

July 2023 Diary Dates

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

Thurs 6th 9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion

Fri 7th 8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church

Sat 8th 3pm-5pm Messy Church at Bridge School

Mon 10th - 1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground

2.30pm Caring and Sharing

Weds 12th -10 am Bekesbourne Village coffee morning, Bekesbourne Village Hall

Thurs 13th 9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion

Fri 14th – 8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church

10.15-11.30 Fish Scheme Coffee Morning Bridge Village Hall

Sat 15th- 12.30pm Friends of Bekesbourne Lunch at The Old Palace

Mon 17th - 1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground

Thurs 20th – 9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion

2pm Communion at Mansfield Court

Fri 21st – 8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church

Mon 24th 1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground

Service details and readings for July & August 2023

2 nd July	4 th Sunday after Trinity	Jeremiah 28.5-9; Psalm 89.1-4,15-18; Romans 6.12-23; Matthew 10.40-42	8am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington 10am Songs of Praise at St Peter's Bekesbourne 6pm Choral Evensong at St Peter's, Bridge
8 th July	Messy Church		3pm Bridge and Patrixbourne CEP
9 th July	5 th Sunday after Trinity (Sea Sunday)	Zechariah 9.9-12; Romans 7.15-25a; Matthew 11.16-19,25-30	10 am Communion at St Peter's Bridge
16 th July	6 th Sunday after Trinity (Disability awareness)	Isaiah 55.10-13; Psalm 65. (1-8),9-13; Romans 8.1-11; Matthew 13.1-9,18-23	9.30am Morning Prayer at St Mary's Nackington 10am Traditional Sung Holy Communion at St Mary's Patrixbourne 4pm All Age Family Service at St Peter's Bridge
23rd July	7 th Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 44.6-8; Romans 8.12-25; Matthew 13.24-30,36-43	10am Parish Communion St Mary's Lower Hardres
30 th July	8 th Sunday after Trinity	1 Kings 3.5-12; Romans 8.26-39; Matthew 13.31-33,44-52	10am Parish Communion at St Mary's Nackington

6 th August	9 th Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 55.1-5; Romans 9.1-5; Matthew 14.13-21	10am Parish Communion at St Peter's Bekesbourne
13 th August	10 th Sunday after Trinity	1 Kings 19.9-18; Romans 10.5-15; Matthew 14.22-33	10am Parish Communion at St Peter's Bridge
20 th August	11 th Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 56.1,6-8; Romans 11.1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15.(10-20),21-28	10am Parish Communion at St Mary's Patrixbourne
<u>27th August</u>	12 th Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 51.1-6; Romans 12.1-8; Matthew 16.13-20	10am Parish Communion at St Mary's Lower Hardres

Parish Giving Scheme – Regular Giving to our Churches – THANK YOU!

It is now a year since we first launched the Parish Giving Scheme in our Parish, so we wanted to write to say a huge thank you to everyone who has embraced this change and now donates to the churches in our Parish this way. It has made a huge difference to our income and our Gift Aid claims so thank you.

If you give regularly by standing order or in some other way, thank you too, we do still really appreciate your gift. If you would like to consider giving to church via the Parish Giving Scheme which is a Direct Debit scheme here's how you can do it:

Changing over is easy! You can do so online at www.parishgiving.org.uk or calling the Parish Giving Team on **0333 002 1271** and using our **Parish code** which is **06A606008**; If you prefer you can use a paper form which we can let you have. If you have any queries about signing up to the **Parish Giving Scheme** please contact our Assistant Treasurer Evelyn Andrews on 01227 830960.

The Bridge Group Parish Finance Team



The Bridge Group Parish Baby and Toddler Group
Thursdays during term time
9am-11am

in Bridge Sports Pavilion, Bridge Recreation Ground.

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For more information email estellalast@gmail.com

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Caring and Sharing

There will be no Caring & Sharing Group meetings in August. There will be the annual summer 'Out for Tea' event in July. This summer we are booked to go Coppers Bistro, Preston 3pm 10th July. The next informal meeting will be on Monday 11th September 2.30 pm at the usual venue. It is planned from

September for our monthly 'Speaker Event' to be held in the Sitting Room, Mansfield Court to which residents will of course be invited to attend. There will be a small charge to the group members for the use of the room that will be covered by our usual fund raising activities.

'The Bridge Group Parish Caring and Sharing Group has a Christian ethos but is open to all; those of faith, those of none and those who are not sure. All are welcome.

For further details of the group's activities please leave a message on 01227 832058, alternatively send an e mail to: peggypryer@icloud.com

Fish Scheme

Nobody in Bridge, Patrixbourne, Bekesbourne and Bishopsbourne need be lonely. Come to the July Coffee Pop-in in Bridge village hall on Friday 14th between 10 and 11.30 and you will be very welcome. Everyone there once came for the first time and they are all friendly. If you need a lift ring 07935 966 080 and someone will pick you up and take you home. Do come.

The lunch outing to Coppers at Preston Gardens on June 15th left us all happy and very well fed

Bridge with Patrixbourne Womens Institute

Our annual Tea Party held at the Pavilion on a sunny afternoon, was a success and delicious cakes and tea were enjoyed by all.

Kevin Tooher's talk 'Planting for Containers and Baskets that won't die' aroused much interest and a lively question-time followed.

We have been asked to judge the Cake Competition at the Village Fete.

Our next talk on Guatemala – a land of beauty, is on **Tuesday, 18th July in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

Our annual outing will be to Preston Garden Centre for tea. Details to follow later.

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

June 2023

DO YOU ENJOY SINGING?

There has been a choir at St Peter's, Bridge, since the 19th century, but you will have noticed that we are now very few in number and not getting any younger! The choir has an important role in leading the singing in worship and it would be a great pity if this could not continue. Could you help?



We sing at two 10am and one 6pm Sunday services every month, plus occasional special services, weddings and funerals. Rehearsals are at Bridge Church on Fridays from 5pm to 6pm.

You don't need to be an expert, just able to keep in time and sing in tune! If you – or someone you know – are interested and would like to come to a 'taster' rehearsal please contact Jean on 01227 831956.

Occasional singers to deputise when one of us is absent would also be welcome.

Nailbourne Scout Group news

Finally we have some sun, and the warmer weather has enabled lots more outdoor activities for Nailbourne. Beavers sessions over the last month have focused on the Big Green Project, based around ecology and lots of hands-on work to create natural habitats for wildlife, including digging ponds and making snake dens and bug hotels. They've seen the potatoes and spring onions that they planted starting to grow, learnt about the importance of pollinators and attracting them with flowers and been on a nature scavenger hunt.

Along with the Cubs, Beavers also took part in an adventure day at Lower Grange Farm in Maidstone, where they tried out activities such as bus caving, target shooting, bubble suits, go-karting, archery, axe-throwing, climbing, human table football, metal detecting and what could best be described as mop hockey!

Cubs have been working on their Teamwork Challenge Award, completing both physical and logic tasks and learning the importance of listening to team members and that sometimes taking your time is the best strategy! They've also enjoyed cooking and eating popcorn, marshmallows and bananas during campfire sessions.

Scouts sessions have concentrated largely on first aid and gaining their Level 4 First Aid badge – and, of course, on preparing for their expedition camp! This involved two nights camping at Walderchain, Woods base camp, a day mission from Canterbury by bus, hiking with compass work, a return hike to Barham and lots of great cooking on our new Trangia stoves!

As mentioned last month, we are now in the process of setting up an Explorers section for boys and girls aged between 14 and 18, and we are welcoming expressions of interest for anyone who might like to join in September. Please email the address below and we will add interested parties to the waiting list. However, as always, we are still in need of volunteer helpers, both in sessions and behind the scenes, so if you might be able to offer some time for this, please contact us on the email below. We are also very keen to hear from anyone who may be able to support in running our Beavers section. We can only run with the help of our vital volunteers.

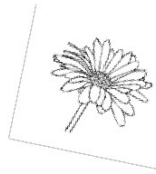
Nailbourne Scout Group welcomes both boys AND girls and meets during term time as follows:

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

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



In your garden with Marie Gold



We should learn from the snail:

it has devised a home that is both exquisite and functional.

Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959)

I make no apology for bringing snails into the picture this month. We gardeners may abhor them, so the following is aimed at the non-gardening younger members of our society and the older ones who find puzzles fascinating.

6 weeks ago, I had a snail inside the lid of my green bin and as I tipped waste into it the snail duly fell into the debris. Overnight, it returned to the same spot! I repeated this and it continued to return. The night before the bin collection I removed it. 10 minutes later I could hear the thrush doing what thrushes do, and so that was that.

Snails move very slowly about 0.28 cm per second, but can travel nonstop over 24 hours, so are able to travel further than might be imagined. If you find one on a fence, mark it gently with a small spot using a marker pen and move it a couple of metres away. You may discover it probably returns to the exact same place – albeit slowly.

Then there are their amazingly beautiful shells. You may have learned about the Fibonacci Sequence – a series where each number is equal to the sum of the 2 numbers preceding it [0-1-1-2-3-5-8-13-21 etc].

A snail's shell spiral can be accurately reproduced with a series of rectangles based on the Golden Ratio. (derived from this sequence). Have a look online to see how it works. You will also find that many flowers have petals arranged in one of these numbers (buttercups 5, corn marigolds 13 as an example). Pinecones, tree branches, pineapples, sunflower seeds in situ, again all follow this Ratio, so if you are not a fan of snails these will be interesting factoids to investigate and impress your family in turn.

On a dull day this month, discover all the facts about these gastropods that are traced back to the Paleozoic era which was 520 million years ago...

Happy Holidays.



July & August bees love

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June

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£25 David Durell

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Special Summer Prize of £100 - Roger Nicholls

Indoor Boot Fair

Bekesbourne Village Hall

Saturday 8th July 2023

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Nailbourne Horticultural Society

The main event in our calendar, our **Annual Summer Show**, is on **Saturday 22 July** in **Bridge Village Hall**. The Show will be open to visit from 11.30 am until 2.00 pm, with prize giving at 1.45 pm. Refreshments will be available as well as a plant/bring & buy stall and a raffle, all to help raise funds for the Society. There is plenty to interest everyone - flowers, vegetables, floral arrangements and photography classes to name but a few. So do take time to pop in to enjoy the exhibits on display. There are also some open classes for everyone to enter, two photography classes, a floral arrangement and a scented rose, with vouchers for the winners. Further details are available from the Show Secretary, Kathy Walder (kath@askwalder.com/07791 656539/01227 830057). Alternatively, information about the Society is available on our website (nailbournehorticulturalsociety.uk) where show schedules can also be accessed and downloaded.

We look forward to seeing you on the 22nd!

Looking forward, we take a break in August and then have both a change of date and speaker for September. So, the re-scheduled meeting is now on **Tuesday 5th September**, at the usual time of 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall when Anna from **Anna's Country Flowers** near Chilham (we had an evening visit there a couple of years ago) will be entertaining us with a talk whilst doing a couple of arrangements for us. Anna's Country Flowers is a family run flower farm growing a wide selection of beautiful scented sustainable blooms. We should be in for a treat.

National Vegetable Society – Kent District Association

The Association has no meeting in Bridge in July because of the County Show and has arranged an evening visit for August. They will however be back in Bridge on 13th September. More details to follow in the September issue.

Nailbourne Horticultural Society



Summer Show



Saturday 22 July, Bridge Village Hall

Show open to public 11.30 am to 2.00 pm

Presentation of Prizes 1.45 pm

Includes Open Classes (for all to enter):

Please contact Kathy (details below) for more information



Refreshments

Plant/Bring and Buy Stall

Raffle

For Show Schedule and more details, contact Kathy on 830057/07791 656539/kath@askwalder.com

Family Fun at Chalkpit Farm

Pop down to our brand new Shop at 'Chalkpit Farm' in Bekesbourne this summer and join in with some new activities that we have going on; from picking your own fresh country flowers (8th – 20th July), workshops to help you arrange them (16th July), photo opportunities in our beautiful Lavender fields (July & August) and for the first time, pick your own Kentish fresh hop garlands!

We have a few local businesses located at Chalkpit Farm that offer a variety of rural shopping opportunities and services; including our new shop which has a large and vibrant display of Kentish hops, beautiful dried flower bunches and bouquets, and stunning dried wedding flowers. So whether you pop down to pick fresh flowers in a field or stop for a coffee and cake; we'd love to welcome you to the farm!

Find out more about our summer activities at www.essentiallyhops.co.uk or visit www.chalkpitfarm.co.uk to explore the farm!



Messy Church

3-5pm Saturday 8th July
Bridge and Patrixbourne School Field

Bring your own picnic and enjoy garden games on Bridge School field.

All welcome.

For more details email estellalast@gmail.com



Very many thanks to everyone who donated to our Christian Aid Week Appeal this year, which we ran for the whole of May. The total collection from individual donations, soup lunches, Messy Church, Coffee and Cake Concert, grand raffle and Murder in the Cathedral refreshments amounted to **£1,578.06**. As we made the decision not to deliver envelopes around the villages this year, this was a very pleasing result.



Christian Aid is still at work in Malawi where Cyclone Freddie has caused so much devastation. Around 659,000 people have been displaced, with those living in poverty in makeshift homes being disproportionately affected. According to reliable sources, women and girls who have been moved to temporary camps are particularly vulnerable and at risk of harassment and abuse.

If you missed this year's appeal but would still like to donate, please go to the Christian Aid website www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week

Strawberries & Cream Afternoon

Bekesbourne Village Hall

Sunday 23rd July 2023

2.30 to 4pm

£5 Adult - £2.50 Child

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FOSTER FOR KENT

Call us on 03000 420 002 or visit
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Vicky and John
foster carers for Kent
County Council

I am Vicky and alongside my husband John, we have been Fostering with Kent County Council since June 2020.

After having my own children, my two girls and with 19 years of nursery life experience in an early year setting. I was ready to and wanted to embrace a new adventure. Fostering had always been at the back of my mind.

We came together as a family to discuss this next adventure as it wouldn't just be

John and myself, our girls would also play a huge part in our fostering role. We all felt happy to go ahead with our application and were now ready to take the next step.

The information evenings were so valuable to us learning about fostering and it was so helpful to speak with carers who had been fostering for some time. We felt very at ease asking any questions that we wanted to know and listened to the amazing stories from some of the carers.

We started the initial process and felt really connected and supported with our assessing social worker. She got to know us very well and the girls enjoyed doing lovely activities with her. When it came to the day of the Fostering Panel, I was very nervous, but they were all so welcoming and very professional in their roles and made a very nerve-racking time go lovely and smooth. It was such a memorable experience.

We chose Kent County Council to foster as we had done a lot of research and believed that this Council were the most supportive of their carers. Which has turned out to be so true! Kent lives up to that standard. As foster carers we have always felt supported by our fostering social worker and reassured that they will be on hand to answer any questions that we have via the phone or will respond to our emails as soon as they can. The six weekly supervisions are a great space to share any worries around the child/children you have at the time, and we are always asked how we are feeling/coping/managing and how our girls were adjusting to these changes at home.

When we moved on the children that we were caring for to adoption we had such fantastic support for our girls from our Fostering Social Worker. She came to our home and made lovely creative pieces for all the children to keep. They were told they could call her at any time if they needed to talk about this process. What really stood out was that Kent Fostering supported us as a family. They recognise that every member of our family is important and included in our journey.

As a very proud foster carer for Kent, I must share with you the wide range of training available and it's so easy to access such as with online training, face to face training and outstanding conferences that fill you with such knowledge. You can achieve even more by doing level 3 and level 4 Diplomas. I have found all the training of such good quality and learnt so much in such a short time. I honestly cannot rate this highly enough.

We are enjoying our roles as foster carers. It's not just a job though, you open your house, family, and heart to help these vulnerable children and being a key part in helping these children change their little lives around.....it is just so rewarding! It is hard to explain but being able to watch children grow and flourish is the most beautiful feeling in the world, and to know that we have made that happen as a family gives us such happiness.

Our birth children are thanked and rewarded for being young carers. My girls join in with fantastic activities such as pizza making workshops, water sports and many more! They have made some fantastic fostering family friends and they have also joined the children Who Care Council and feel they have a strong voice in helping care for these children.

I would really encourage anyone who is thinking about fostering to do it. We have met some great friends in our fostering role, and we never feel alone. We are like a big family, and it is the most supported role I have ever had. It was and still is the best decision we made to foster and to foster with Kent, and I look forward to many more years of fostering with the Kent Fostering Team.

If you've been inspired by Vicky's story and would like to find out more, please call us on 03000 420 002, send us an email at kentfostering@kent.gov.uk or visit our website page www.kentfostering.co.uk

Foster for Kent



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