



On the Nail

A magazine for the
villages along the
Nailbourne



St Mary's, Patrixbourne



St Peter's, Bridge



St Peter's, Bekesbourne

March
2023

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March 2023

Dear Friends

I don't know about you, but it always seems to me that I just about get used to writing the new year on things (2023!) and all of a sudden its March! January often seems interminably long but February whistles by and now the Churchyards are full of snowdrops, and we even have some optimistic daffodils in bloom in the Vicarage Garden.

With March comes Lent and the time of preparation before the celebration of Easter early next month. By the time you read this we will already have had Shrove Tuesday (with yummy pancakes!) and Ash Wednesday, a moment of solemnity and repentance at the start of this season of preparation. For many, the religious practice of fasting is still a way in which this time of year is marked; for others, it's about being more intentional in these 40 days about reading the bible, prayerful practice or reading a book which helps with personal spiritual growth.

The point of Lent though is derived directly from the bible and the days Jesus himself spent in the Wilderness before he even began his ministry of preaching and teaching (which we understand to have only lasted around 3 years) before his ultimate journey of death and resurrection. And the point of Jesus' time in the Wilderness is not self-deprivation for its own sake. The point of Jesus' time in the Wilderness is that this is time when he draws deeply close to the heart of God, to know what it is to depend on God, the word of God in scripture and the prayerful constancy of God in the face of worldly temptations.

Our world is full of challenge at the moment, war waged by Russia, the effects of climate change, the rise in the cost of living (I could go on....) all perhaps give us cause and tempt us to despair. Lauren Daigle in her song 'Look up child' asks where God is, when darkness seems to be winning and the world crumbling and sings 'Look up child', look up to the God who is 'not threatened by the war... not shaken by the storm... in control / Even in our suffering / Even when it can't be seen...'*

And so this is our goal in this season. To spend time seeking after God and drawing deeply from God's love and constancy. We can choose to fast from goodies (wine, chocolate or cake...) or choose to fast from worldly distractions (social media, trashy telly, excessive shopping...) or anything else which helps us get through the week, but resisting these temptations only helps if we then take the things we wish to cope with or escape from to God in prayer in some way and seek to draw closer to God's wisdom, love and constancy. Our churches are open daily** for quiet personal prayer and there is worship every week on Sunday morning at 10am in one of our five churches (see the rota over the page). We don't have all the answers but here we seek to draw closer both to each other in community and to the heart of God and you are always welcome to join us.

As the season of Lent begins I pray that we will all find time to take stock, perhaps to do a little bit of spring-cleaning in our lives and begin to prepare for the glory of the Easter season.

Yours in Christ

Estella Last

Rev. Estella Last, Vicar, The Bridge Group Parish

*

Look up child performed by Lauren Daigle is available to listen to on Spotify or YouTube or wherever you get your downloads

**Bekesbourne Church is not open during the day but can be by appointment.



11.00am

St. Stephen's Church

Hales Drive, Canterbury

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Soup Lunch after service in church hall

Limited on-street parking

Service details and readings for March 2023

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 at St Peter's Bekesbourne 6pm Choral Evensong St Mary's Lower Hardres
Saturday 11 th March			Messy Church at Bridge School
12 th March	3 rd Sunday of Lent	Exodus 17.1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5.1-11; John 4.5-42	10 am Communion at St Peter's Bridge
19 th March	4 th Sunday of Lent / Mothering Sunday	Exodus 2.1-10; 2 Corinthians 1.3-7; John 19.25b-27	9.30am Morning Prayer at St Mary's Nackington 10am Traditional Sung Holy Communion at St Mary's Patrixbourne 10am Songs of Praise at St Peter's Bekesbourne 11am Tea, Cake & Celebration Service at St Mary's Lower Hardres 4pm All Age Family Service at St Peter's Bridge
26 th March	5 th Sunday of Lent	Ezekiel 37.1-14; Romans 8.6-11; John 11.1-45	10am Parish Communion St Peter's Bridge
2 nd April	Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50.4-9a; 29; Philippians 2.5-11; Matthew 21.1-11	9.30am Procession with Donkey from Bridge School 10am Parish Communion St Peter's Bridge

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.

March 2023 Dates

- Thurs 2nd 9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
11.30-1pm Growing Good Lent Group
- Fri 3rd 8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church
11am World Day of Prayer Service at St Stephens Church
- Sun 5th 3pm -4pm Snowdown Colliery Male Voice Choir at St Mary's Patricxbourne
- Mon 6th 1pm-3pm BREW, Bekesbourne Recreation Ground
- Weds 8th 10 am Bekesbourne Village coffee morning, Bekesbourne Village Hall
- Thurs 9th 9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilio
- 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 9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
- Fri 17th 8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church
- Mon 20th 1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground
- Thurs 23rd 9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
2-3pm Communion at Mansfield Court
- Fri 24th 8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church
- Sat 25th Spring Coffee Morning in Bridge Village Hall
- Mon 27th 1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground
2.30pm Caring and Sharing
- Thurs 30th 9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
- Fri 31st 8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church

Bridge Church Spring Coffee Morning

Saturday 25th March

10:00 – 11:30

Bridge Village Hall



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For further info, please contact Sue Briant on 07936147965

A close-up photograph of several pink tulips with green stems, set against a soft pink background. The tulips are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others just starting to unfurl.

Mothersing Sunday

Sunday 19th March 2023 in the
Bridge Group Parish

9.30am Morning Prayer at St Mary's
Nackington

10am Communion at St Mary's
Patricbourne

10am Songs of Praise at St Peter's
Bekesbourne

11am Tea, cake and celebration service
at St Mary's Lower Hardres

4pm Family Service St Peter's Bridge

*Services include posies for the special mother
figures in our lives and quiet reflection and
prayers for those who feel sadness on this day.*

Coffee, Chat and Prayer

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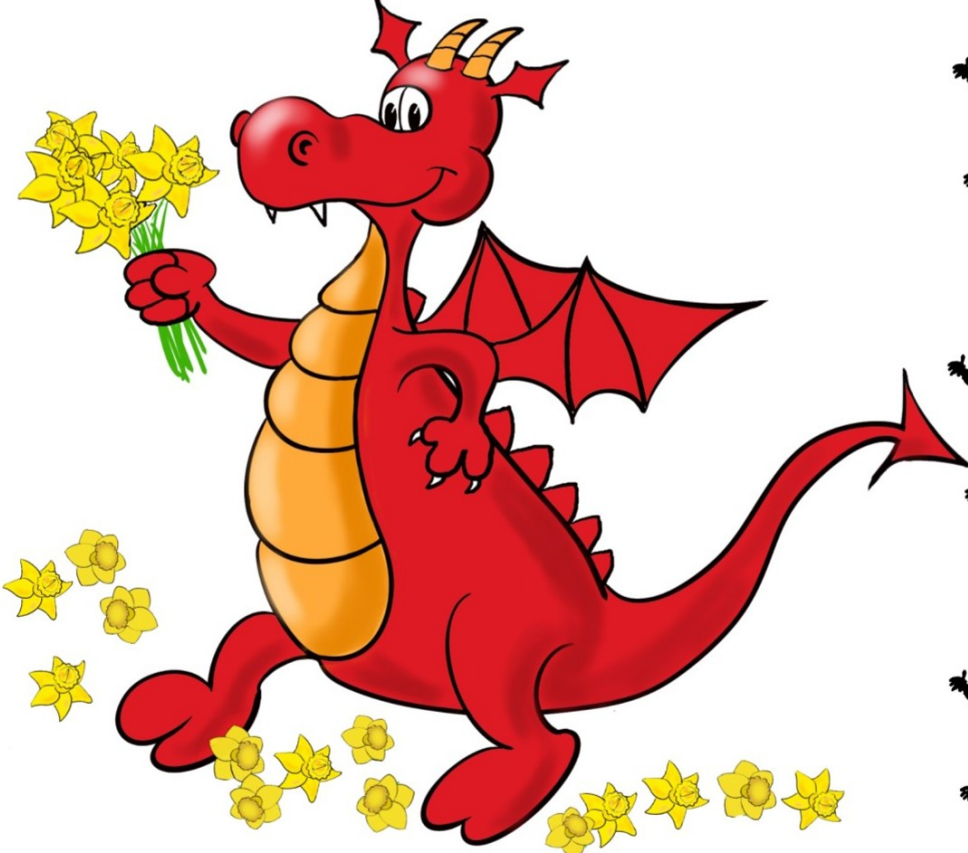
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Littlebourne & District Royal British Legion

We had an enjoyable meeting this month attended by 13 members and friends. We have several members unwell at present and we send them our best wishes.

We are hoping to have some social events arranged for during the coming year. If anyone wishes to have a look at what the Branch is up to please have a look in the Branch notice board outside Littlebourne Village Hall. There are details of our current Committee listed in there and how to contact us. Also details of monthly meeting dates.

Our next monthly meeting will be on Tuesday 14th March at 8pm in the Recreation Club (back of the Hall)..

Fish Scheme News

The March Coffee Pop-in will be on Friday 10th from 10 to 11.15 in Bridge Village Hall. Do come. Everybody is most welcome.

We hope our kind volunteer from Hi Kent will be there to help with hearing aids. For lifts our number is 07934 966 080.



“If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need”

Marcus Tullius Cicero

Gardening and books, what a wonderful combination. With the adage ‘If March comes in like a Lion it leaves like a Lamb’ – or the opposite, then having a book to read is a good idea, especially if it is one related to gardening.

However, if we are lucky then we shall be experiencing the first signs of Spring just over halfway through the month – officially 20th March.

It is a good time to lift and divide perennials, prune roses, top dress containers and clear away any leaves that are still swirling around.

Early potatoes, shallots and onions can all be planted, providing the soil is not frozen and potatoes grow very well in a large pot. You do not need more than 3-4 seed potatoes which are available to purchase individually from good Garden Centres. First you must chit them which is to leave them to produce green shoots – an empty egg box is useful. Find a very large pot with holes in the bottom and broken pots for drainage and good compost. Plant them at the bottom on a compost layer to a depth of one quarter of the pot, and as the leaves grow through, cover them, again and again, until the compost is at the top. You should be able to harvest them mid-summer. Potatoes come as Earlies, Mid and Main Crop. Suggest a mid-crop as a starter, for example Charlotte, which is a delicious salad potato and takes about 15-17 weeks to produce a crop.

Adam Frost (Gardeners World) brought out his book, ‘How I Garden’ in the Autumn following his move to a smaller house and garden and found a vegetable patch in his sunny front garden worked well. He and his family had a tough time during Covid, and he found that gardening once again came to the rescue. His purpose is to get us to put our hands in the soil as it solves everything.



March bees love

Muscari, Anemone Blanda, Pulmonaria, Primrose, Ribes, Helleborus + Dandelion



WINE AND WISDOM

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To raise funds for village hall projects.

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Palm Sunday in the Bridge Group Parish Sunday 2nd April

**9.30am Meet at Bridge School to process to Bridge Church
(led by a real donkey!)**

**10am Palm Sunday Service with
Communion at Bridge Church.**

All Welcome

Come to Bridge school to meet our lovely donkey and then walk with us to Church. If you would prefer not to join the walk simply go to church as normal for the 10am service and we will see you there!

National Vegetable Society – Kent District Association

The Society returns to Bridge Village Hall on Wednesday 8 March to start the season of talks with their AGM followed by an in-house illustrated presentation by Carole Passey of visits over the years to shows and gardens. All are welcome. 7.30 for 8.00 pm start, refreshments, raffle and sales table.

Bridge & District History Society

Our next meeting will be on Thursday March 16th at 7.30pm in Bridge Village Hall. "Smuggling on Romney Marsh" is the theme of Sue Duckworth's illustrated talk. She will tell us when, what and why smuggling took place in this area and about the local people involved.

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

Nailbourne Scout Group news

The year seems to have gone very quickly so far, with Nailbourne already having finished their first term. Activities have included celebrating the Chinese New Year, with chopstick skills, dragons and some delicious food, a challenge evening, practising stave formation, working on communication and science badges and, of course, preparing for our AGM. Cubs are busy getting ready for a camp in March, which will focus on astronomy and navigation.

Our AGM took place on 1 February at Barham Village Hall, with Beavers, Cubs and Scouts serving drinks, demonstrating knot-tying and even showing a short film made by the Scouts. We sadly had to say goodbye to Layla Wilder, our secretary, and to Sarah O'Hara, our chair for over five years, both of whom have stepped down from their roles. We welcome Karen Scott as our new secretary and Phil Last, who has agreed to act as our new chair. Karen has previously been a Nailbourne Cub leader and has often volunteered with us over the years, while Phil has many years of experience as a Scout leader with other troops, and will be an asset to our Executive Committee. Many thanks to our departing members for all they've done, and to our new committee members for stepping up!

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 vital that we have some volunteers to act as Beaver leaders as soon as possible – otherwise, our Beaver section will have to close in September. This would be a great pity, as the group is very popular and has a long waiting list. We are also looking for volunteers to act as Explorer leaders for a group that we are hoping to set up this year. Help and training are given to all our leaders but without volunteers, we simply can't run. If you might be able to help, please contact Nick Gore on the number below. Thank you.

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).



NAILBOURNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

On Tuesday, 7th March at 7.30 pm at Bridge Village Hall, we will have Laura Brady of 'Wonky Parsnip Farm', giving an illustrated talk on the numerous, interesting and unusual vegetables that are grown there. Members and non members will be most welcome, so do come along to support this event. There will be a small admission charge to include refreshments.

Nailbourne Horticultural Society - Spring Show

The Society 's **Spring Show** this year will be held in Bridge Village Hall on Saturday 1 April and will be open to the public from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm, with prize giving at 12.45. Do come along to support us and to enjoy a colourful and beautifully perfumed display of spring flowers and more ... There will also be a bring and buy stall and raffle, with refreshments served during the morning.

Three of the classes in the Show are open to non-members:

6 chitted seed potatoes in an egg box

for flower arrangers: "Mellow Yellow": an exhibit, space allowed 61 x 61cm/24 x 24 ins, height unrestricted (accessories allowed) **NB: no floral foam (Oasis) to be used**

a photo entitled "Puddle(s)", unframed, produced within the last 12 months, not to exceed 8" x 6" and not to be digitally enhanced.

There are vouchers to be won in each class so do have a go.

For further information or if you would like a show schedule, please contact Kathy Walder, Show Secretary, on tel: 830057/07791 656539; email: kath@askwalder.com



Spring Show

Saturday 1 April, Bridge Village Hall

Show open to public 11.00 am to 1.00 pm

Presentation of Prizes 12.45 pm

News from Woodpeckers Nursery



Term 3 has been a busy one at Woodpeckers Nursery. We have made the first set of changes in our plans to offer wrap around early years care.

As of 20th February our opening hours are as follows:

Mon—Fri 8.30-am—3.30pm

We have also welcomed our new resident guinea pigs!



We currently have some limited availability for two or three year olds. Please get in touch if you would like a place or you can reserve a space for September ,when we aim to be open 8am-6pm and taking children from 1year.

Call or email Jo on 01227 831159 or info@woodpeckersnursery.co.uk for more information.

Woodpeckers Nursery Team

AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY KENT SURREY SUSSEX (KSS) NEEDS MORE VOLUNTEERS

Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex (KSS) needs your support! Having just announced that 2022 was the busiest year in its 33-year history – the life-saving charity responded to 3,224 incidents last year, with 1,353 call outs in Kent - KSS is urgently seeking to recruit more volunteers in order to help with more events and activities in the coming year.

The charity, which provides world-leading pre-hospital emergency care 24/7, currently has over 150 volunteers who help with a wide range of activities including managing collection boxes, marshalling at events, speaking at community events, office tasks and more. Volunteers offer a few hours on an occasional basis or regular hours each month.

Bridget Pepper, from the KSS Volunteer Development Team said, “Our volunteers are highly valued members of Team KSS, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who donates their time to support us. Over the last year, KSS has benefited from over 4,000 hours of support from volunteers and our volunteers were involved with raising or collecting over £250,000 on our behalf.”

“This year, with demand for our service at an all-time high and the need to raise even more funds due to the increased costs of operating our service, we need to recruit more volunteers and we have lots of opportunities available to suit people of all ages and abilities.”

“Alongside providing our charity with critical support, volunteers enjoy many benefits from working with us, including meeting new people, attending events and feeling a sense of pride in supporting an incredible charity in their local community.”

“We hope people from across the communities we serve will get in touch with us and find out more about how they can get involved. We really appreciate all the support we receive.”

KSS is an independent charity. It costs £16.6M a year or £45K per day to operate its world leading, life-saving service. This is a significant increase from the £15.2M required in 2022. 87% of KSS’s total income is raised through the incredible generosity of its supporters and 10% through NHS commissioning funds. If you are interested in finding out more about being a KSS volunteer, please contact volunteering@aakss.org.uk or visit www.aakss.org.uk

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