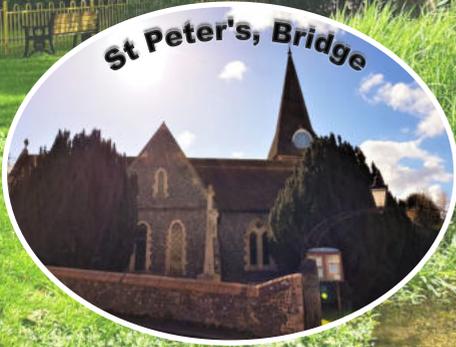


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September 2024

Dear Friends,

For many, the start of September brings a new and fresh start, especially those involved in education or with children or grandchildren who are. Perhaps this month you will see someone off to University for the first time, or perhaps it marks the start of a significant (read 'exam') year in their education journey. On Sunday 8th September we will be marking Education Sunday with a special service at Bridge Church at which we will pray for all those embarking on a new academic year. You are most warmly invited to join us and children are invited to bring their school bags along for a special blessing.

Throughout September, we will be marking in all our services, the Season of Creation, also known as Creationtide or Creation Time. This is a period in the church calendar that takes place from September 1 to October 4 each year. During this time, churches are encouraged to focus on creation and the responsibilities that come with being part of God's creation. Many churches hold special events and services to give thanks for creation and renew their commitment to caring for the planet.

The Season of Creation was started in 1989 by Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios and endorsed by Pope Francis in 2015. It's a time for Christians to:

- Pray
- Participate in community events
- Reflect on our lifestyles
- Take prophetic actions

Work towards life on the planet, not death

We are blessed in our villages with the beauty of God's creation on our doorsteps and perhaps as individuals and families we can also create our own traditions to celebrate the Season of Creation, such as planting a tree, helping to preserve a forest, or taking walks in nature.

At the end of the month on Sunday 29th September we will have a joint Parish Harvest Celebration Service at St Mary's Nackington at 10am and all are welcome to join us in the heart of our parish farmlands for this special service.

If environmental care is something you are passionate about, we would love to hear from you! We have a small Eco Team in our parish which provides some small support for living more sustainably but we would love to do more – do get in touch if you would like to join us.

Yours in Christ

Rev. Canon Estella Last, Vicar, The Parish of the Bridge Group, Area Dean East Bridge
Deanery Diocesan Adviser for Women's Ministry, Canterbury Diocese

Remembering our Dear Margaret

As I am sure many of you all already know we received the sad news mid-August, that our beloved Lay Reader Mrs Margaret Clarke had died, peacefully in hospital surrounded by the love of her family, after complications arising from a fall.

In our Benefice Service at St Mary's Patrixbourne on Sunday 18th August we remembered Margaret as one of a kind, a faithful servant of the church in our Benefice and beloved of so many.

At the time of writing, the details for her funeral are not yet known but these will be circulated when they are available.

At this time our thoughts and prayers are particularly with Margaret's family and of course all those who knew her and loved her.

In the locally produced booklet "Lower Hardres and Nackington – a few of its Characters" the opening paragraph in the section about her describes Margaret thus:

"There are some people who have a natural joie de vivre, find it hard to keep a smile off their face, invariably have an optimism in what they have to say and seem able to pack so much that is good into their life. Margaret is one of this rare breed. What a great pleasure it was to spend a couple of hours talking to her about her life and work. How lucky we are to have her so involved in the life of this Parish as the local minister for Lower Hardres and Nackington."
(June 2004)

We were indeed blessed to have Margaret as a Lay Reader in our Benefice and as her ministry embraced the wider Benefice community and the churches of Bridge, Patrixbourne and Bekesbourne (in addition to Lower Hardres and Nackington) so yet more people had the privilege of experiencing her deep love for God, for the church and for all people.

Margaret was widely loved and will be greatly missed. May she rest in peace, and rise in glory. Amen

(Rev'd Estella Last, August 2024)



Service details and readings for September 2024

The Season of Creationtide runs from 1st September – 4th October, during this season, the readings used in services may differ from those listed here

1 st September	14 th Sunday after Trinity (Creation Season starts)	Deuteronomy 4.1-2,6-9; Psalm 15; James 1.17-27; Mark 7.1-8,14-15,21-23	8am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington 10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bekesbourne 6pm Hymns and Pimms at St Peter's Bridge
8 th September Education Sunday	15 th Sunday after Trinity (Birth of the BVM)	Isaiah 35.4-7a; James 2.1-10 (11-13) 14-17; Mark 7.24-37	10 am Family Communion at St Peter's Bridge All those involved in Education are invited to this special service at which we will pray for staff, pupils and families at the start of this new school year.
15 th September	16 th Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 50.4-9a; Psalm 116.1-9; James 3.1-12; Mark 8.27-38	9.30 Morning Prayer at St Mary's Nackington 10am Traditional Sung Holy Communion at St Mary's Patrixbourne
Saturday 21 st September			4-6pm Messy Church at Bridge School
22 nd September	17 th Sunday after Trinity	Jeremiah 11.18-20; James 3.13-4.3,7-8a; Mark 9.30-37	10am Communion at St Mary's Lower Hardres

29 th September	18 th Sunday after Trinity (Michaelmas)	Esther 7.1 –6,9-10; 9.20-22; James 5.13-20; Mark 9.38- 50	10am HARVEST FEST- VAL Benefice Commu- nion Service at St Mary's Nackington
6 th October	19 th Sunday after Trinity	Job 1.1; 2.1-10; Psalm 26; Hebrews 1.1-4; 2.5- 12; Mark 10.2- 16	8am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington 10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bekebourne 6pm Choral Evensong (Come and Sing from 4pm) at St Peter's Bridge

Funeral Notice

John Frederick Eynon (of Bridge Down)

died peacefully on 7th August 2024 aged 96

Reunited with beloved wife Kathy and dear younger daughter Jackie Degg

Cherished by elder daughter Lindsay, sister Marion Wakeham, and Peter, Trish and Grace Degg.

Sqn Ldr John enjoyed a 36 year RAF career, joining Halton Apprentices 48th Entry in 1944, and later became an administrator at University of Kent in Canterbury, before a happy retirement near the sea.

Funeral at Barham Crematorium on Friday 30th August at 12 noon.

Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Royal Airforce Benevolent Society, Pilgrim's Hospices, Alzheimer's Society or British Heart Foundation via C.W.Lyons & Son Ltd

September 2024 Dates

Mon 2 nd	1pm-3pm BREW, Bekesbourne Recreation Ground
Thurs 5th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 6 th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church
Sat 7 th	10.15-11.30 Coffee Cake and Concert at St Peter's Bridge
Mon 9 th	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 Church 10 am Fish Scheme Coffee Pop in Bridge Village Hall
Sat 14 th	10am-6pm Ride and Stride 2pm-5pm Bell Ringing Event at Bekesbourne
Mon 15 th	1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground
Thurs 19th	11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion 2pm-3pm Communion at Mansfield Court
Fri 20th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 11am-12.30pm Lower Hardres Community Coffee Morning LH Village Hall
Sat 21 st	4-6pm Messy Church at Bridge School
Mon 23rd	1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground 2.30pm Caring and Sharing
Thurs 26th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 27 th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church

Bridge & District History Society

The first meeting of new season is on Thursday September 19th in Bridge Village Hall at 7.30pm. A short AGM will be followed by a talk by Jim Gascoyne.

"Churchill's Secret Army (The GHQ Home Forces Auxiliary Units)"

During the early part of WW2, Churchill set up a network of discrete teams of local volunteers trained to launch guerrilla raids against an invasion force. Many of these units were established in Kent, including the Bridge area. Their existence remained a secret for many years. Jim Gascoyne found out that his parents were volunteers and he is involved with a research team dedicated to finding out more about this little known aspect of the war.

All welcome. No membership fee, £4.00 at the door, to include refreshments.

Further details of the Society at www.bridgehistory.org.uk

Fish Scheme News

The Coffee Pop -in will be on Friday 13th between 10 and 11.15 in Bridge Village Hall. Tom, the volunteer from Hi Kent, hopes to be there to help with hearing aid needs.

The number to call for lifts is 07935 966 080

Bekesbourne 100 Club

July

£50 James Thompson
£25 Linda Ellis
£15 Alexander Cole

August

£50 Philip Croall
£25 Joanne Watt
£15 Jill Gillanders



Education Sunday

8th September 10am St Peter's Bridge

A service to celebrate and bless all those in
education as they prepare for the new school
year!

Teachers, support staff and students of all ages are
welcome to come along for a special
'school bag blessing'





Ten Years in a Walled Garden

An illustrated talk by

Chris Spree

Tuesday 10th September

7.30 pm

Bridge Village Hall

A small entry fee to include refreshments

All welcome!

After the success of our Summer Show at the end of July, we can now look forward to the Autumn season of events, starting on

Tuesday, 10th September with an illustrated talk, '**Ten Years in a Walled Garden**' by **Chris Spree**, who is known to many of us. The meeting will be at **7.30 pm at Bridge Village Hall** and we look forward to seeing you there. There will be a small entrance fee to include light refreshments. Everyone is welcome!



**Little Lambs
Toddler Group
Every Thursday
9am-11am (during
term time) at Bridge
sports pavilion.
Suggested donation
£1.50 per child.**

For more information call Estella on 01227 206272



Supported by Bridge Parish Council

National Vegetable Society – Kent District Association

Another good and knowledgeable speaker returns to Bridge Village Hall on Wednesday 11 September (7.30 for 8.00 pm start). Laura Brady from the Wonky Parsnip Market Garden and Farm based at Chartham will be giving a presentation on "Growing Your Own Vegetables, Especially the Unusual Ones" which should prove to be not only informative but also entertaining. As always, everyone is welcome, entry is free and refreshments are available as well as a raffle and sales table.

Bridge Haven Thrift Shop



Open every Saturday from 25th May 2024

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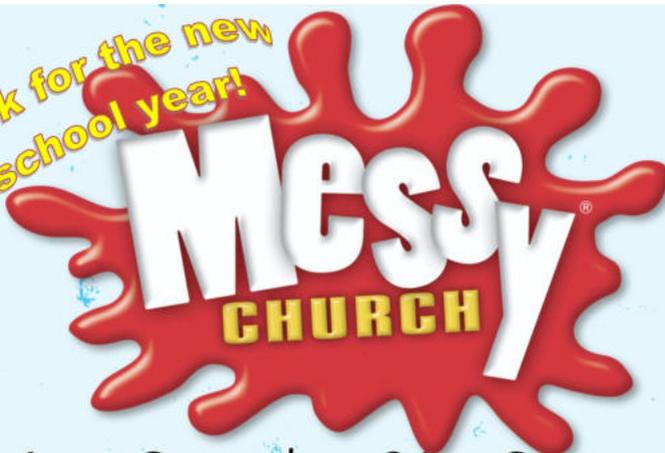
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All money raised goes to our Amenity funds to allow activities, to purchase trips out for our residents and other well needed equipment to help our residents continue to have a vibrant and fulfilling life. 01227831607.

*Back for the new
school year!*



4-6pm Saturday 21st September

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Saturday 7th Sept 10:15 to 11:30 am



Newspaper photo of the Wills' Bakery in 1905 - it stood opposite The Red Lion Inn.

Charles Wills ~ 95 years in Bridge

Come and discover the remarkable life story of Charles (Charlie) Wills (1848-1944). His name crops up in many local press reports and in 1913 he received this accolade: *"He is a pivot on which village life swings. Whatever the need, what social event to arrange, or sympathetic token is required, consulting Charlie Wills will not be in vain."* He was a member of Bridge Church Choir for 79 years and also a popular soloist for concerts. Today's concert will include some of his favourite vocal music.

Suggested donation £5, children free
Proceeds to the Canterbury Foodbank

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Friday 20th September 2024

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Bekesbourne Village Hall Timetable

MONDAY	08.30– 4.30pm Private Hire
TUESDAY	Home Education Drama Group 1pm to 3pm – No Booking Required Circuits with Sarah 7pm – 8pm No Booking Required
WEDNESDAY	11.30am – 4pm Private Hire Every 2 nd Weds of the month Coffee Morning 10am – 11.30am Pilates with Marcela, Bring your own mat. 6.15pm to 7pm No Booking Required
THURSDAY	Tyler Hill Bridge Club 10.45am – 2.45pm. No Booking Required Cardio & Fitness Class – a very gentle class for all John 5.45 – 6.45pm £5 per class. No booking Required.
FRIDAY	Booking Available
SATURDAY	Available for parties
SUNDAY	Boxercise 9.30 am to 10.15am with John no booking required. Pilates with Marcela 10.45am to 11.45am bring your own mats. No booking required

BVH Booking enquires to Tara
enquires4bvh@gmail.com – 07871422072

Nailbourne Scout Group news

We hope that everyone had a good summer! At the time of writing, all the Nailbourne Scout Group sections are on their summer break, and our leaders and volunteers are having a well-earned rest. However, by the time you read this, we will be back and in full swing, preparing for our biggest fundraising event of the year: the Barham Garage Safari!

The Garage Safari will be held in Barham (of course!) on Sunday 15 September from 9am until 2pm. Maps of all the houses taking part will be available from the village hall from 9am (and no earlier!), to allow our stallholders time to get ready. We will also be serving refreshments: hot and cold drinks and cakes, plus breakfast baps, which will be available from 8.45am until they run out! We will be selling raffle tickets and already have some great prizes donated, including from Simpsons, Broome Park, Smith & Co and The Jackdaw, among others. In addition, there will be a car wash and a free scavenger hunt to keep the children amused. Profits will be going to Nailbourne Scout Group, so it's a brilliant opportunity to grab yourself some bargains and help a great cause while you're at it!

Barham residents who would like their driveway to be included in the Garage Safari can pick up a form from Barham Village Stores. These need to be returned in an envelope with £5 to the box in the shop by Thursday 12 September, to ensure that your house can be included.

We may also still have some spaces left in the hall when you read this – these are primarily for those local residents who live on the outskirts or who haven't got a suitable driveway. To cover the costs of the hall hire, these will be slightly more expensive at £10. If you would like a table in the hall, please contact us ideally via our Facebook page or on the email below.

If you are a local business (or just a kind individual!) who would like to help by donating a raffle prize, we would be very grateful! All prize donors will be credited on Facebook and at the event. If you can help, please contact us again ideally via Facebook or at the email below.

Finally, we hope to see as many of you as possible at the Garage Safari, either as stallholders or simply enjoying the event. There will be lots to do and lots of bargains to be had!

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, Barham 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 Lynn Purkins at akelanailbourne@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

Bridge with Patrixbourne Womens Institute

The last talk in our summer programme, ‘Do you like chocolate?’ was given by member Sarah Lane, who told us about the history of chocolate, going back to Christopher Columbus, who first introduced chocolate to Britain. Sarah had brought along many different types of chocolate and members were invited to try and compare them, which proved to be a very popular and interesting exercise!

Our Summer Outing took place on Tuesday, 20th August. A coach was organised to take us firstly to Pashley Manor and in the afternoon to Great Dixter – both venues having beautiful, but very different gardens. A lovely day was enjoyed by all.

Our next meeting will be on the **Tuesday, 17th September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**. This will be the first of our Winter Programme and will be a members’ social evening.

Looking ahead, on **Friday 18th October** we are holding an **Open Meeting** when Esme Clarke, a Solicitor from Furley Page, will be giving a talk entitled ‘**Do I need a Lasting Power of Attorney?**’ As this may well be the subject of interest to many people outside W.I., anyone who would like to come along will be welcome. There will be notices around the village and on the village Facebook site in due course.

WI always welcomes new members. For more details, please contact the President, Sheila Scrivener on 01227-831788,

Joan Hill

August 2024



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Alan Walton



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