

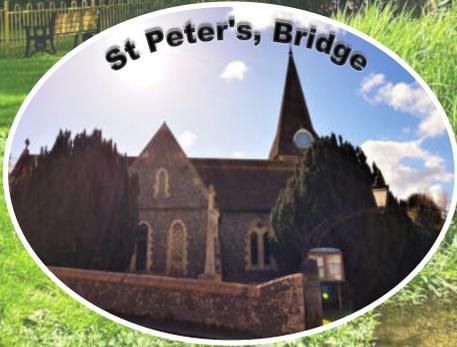


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October 2024

Dear Friends,

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:” so begins the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter of the book of Ecclesiastes in the Bible. As I write we have just had the first taste of autumn with some chilly mornings, and dewy grass and we have all had a good moan about the sudden change of temperature and the unreliability of the British weather as we like to do. Seasons though are important, not just the temporal seasons marked out by our weather conditions but the seasons of life as the writer of Ecclesiastes goes on to say.

This passage from the Bible is immortalised in a song covered by many artists but probably most memorably The Byrds and is often chosen by funeral families where their loved one has lived a long life as it articulates the variety of life that anyone who lives a long time has the privilege of experiencing. However, I think it holds deep relevance for all of us, regardless of the age or stage of life we are in.

In the span of life, we will find ourselves doing a variety of tasks and experiencing a variety of emotions, and we will inevitably see and/or experience birth and death, planting and harvesting, killing and healing, tearing down and building up, weeping and laughing, mourning and dancing, throwing stones and gathering stones, embracing and refraining from embracing, searching and giving up as lost, saving and throwing away, tearing apart and sowing together, being silent and speaking, loving and hating, and warring and enjoying peace. The world is a place of difficulty and enjoyments, and we will have our share of both. Our emotions will go up and down, and as times change, the purposes of things will change while other things must go. New things will come, things will pass on, challenges will arise, and times of peace may be found. Such is the transient and changeable nature and reality of life on earth. And the point? Well the point being that God is over all of this and that ultimately life in eternity won't have such ups and downs.

This October as Autumn begins, I wonder if we can find a peace in reflecting on the whole of life in the terms described by the writer of Ecclesiastes? An acceptance that there will always be circumstances beyond our control and that in life, taking the rough with the smooth is the point and perfection is always an illusion.

Last month we came with both sorrow and joy to the funeral of our dear Margaret Clarke who had made such a special contribution to the life of our communities. Sorrow that she has died and is no longer with us, and joy that she is now received into the glory of eternity, but also with deep gratitude for all that she gave in her life among us, not because life for her had always been perfect but because life for her, had been a life of ups and downs and yet she always knew that God was in it with her every step of the way.

May we too, continue our walk through the seasons life, with the peace that this knowledge brings.

Yours in Christ

*Estella Last*

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

## Service details and readings for October 2024

6 <sup>th</sup> October	19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Job 1.1; 2.1-10; Psalm 26; He- brews 1.1-4; 2.5 -12; Mark 10.2-16	<b>8am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington</b>  <b>10am Songs of Praise St Pe- ter's Bekesbourne</b>  <b>6pm Choral Evensong (Come and Sing from 4pm) at St Pe- ter's Bridge</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> October	20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Job 23.1-9,16- 17; Hebrews 4.12- 16; Mark 10.17-31	<b>10 am Communion at St Pe- ter's Bridge</b>
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> October			<b>4-6pm Messy Church at Bridge School</b>
20 <sup>th</sup> October	21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Job 38.1-7,(34- 41); Psalm 104.1- 9,24,35c; Hebrews 5.1- 10; Mark 10.35- 45	<b>9.30 Morning Prayer at St Mary's Nackington</b>  <b>10am Traditional Sung Holy Communion at St Mary's Patricbourne</b>
27 <sup>th</sup> October	Last Sunday after Trinity (Bible Sun- day)	Job 42.1-6,10- 17; Psalm 34.1- 8,(19-22); Hebrews 7.23- 28; Mark 10.46- 52	<b>10am Communion at St Mary's Lower Hardres</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> November	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday before Ad- vent /  All Saints (1 <sup>st</sup> Nov) /  All Souls (2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov)	Hebrews 9.11- 14; Mark 12.28- 34 /  Isaiah 25:6-9; Revelation 21:1 -6a John 11:32-44  tbc	<b>8am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington</b>  <b>10am Songs of Praise St Pe- ter's Bekesbourne</b>  <b>6pm Choral Evensong (Come and Sing from 4pm) at St Pe- ter's Bridge</b>

## Diary Dates October 2024

Thurs 3rd	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup>	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.15-11.30 Coffee Cake and Concert at St Peter's Bridge
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup>	1pm-3pm BREW, Bekesbourne Recreation Ground
Weds 9th	10 am village coffee morning, Bekesbourne Village Hall
Thurs 10th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 11th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 10 am Fish Scheme Coffee Pop in Bridge Village Hall
Sat 12th	9am-12.30 Canterbury COP Environmental Conference
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup>	1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground 2.30pm Caring and Sharing
Thurs 17th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion 2pm-3pm Communion at Mansfield Court
Fri 18th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 11am-12.30pm Lower Hardres Community Coffee Morning LH Village Hall
Sat 19th	4-6pm Messy Church at Bridge School
Mon 21st	1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground
Thurs 24th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup>	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church
Mon 28th	1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground 2.30pm Caring and Sharing
Thurs 31st	5-7pm Halloween Hot chocolates at St Peter's Bridge

## Additional Forthcoming events to note:

- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2pm Dick Bolton Friends of Nackington at Parsonage Farmhouse Barn
- Bridge Coffee & Cake Concert 5 Oct (Kerry Boyle directs Canterbury Ladies Choir & Canterbury Voices)
- Bekesbourne Musical Evening 11th October 7.30pm Bekesbourne Village Hall
- 31<sup>st</sup> October 5-7pm Hot Chocolate for families who are out and about at St Peter's Bridge
- Bridge Coffee & Cake Concert 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov (Allan Richardson)
- Nackington Salvation Army Carols Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December
- Bekesbourne Christmas Bazaar 7th December 10-12 noon
- Bridge Coffee & Cake Concert 14<sup>th</sup> December



## THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to all the people who welcomed visitors, rode or walked on 14th September to raise sponsor money for the Friends of Kent Churches. At the time of printing the final amount raised across all five churches was still being calculated but well done to the supporters of Patrixbourne church whose sponsorship helped us to raise over £250 for St Mary's.

## National Vegetable Society – Kent District Association

The Society's last meeting of the year in Bridge Village Hall will be on Wednesday 9 October (7.30 for 8.00 pm start) when Stella Cubison, a fruit researcher who has written a number of articles, guides and books relating to organic fruit growing, will be giving a talk on "Biological Pest Control". This is an interesting topic for all growers of vegetables and flowers alike. Stella is a consultant with Koppert, a company which believes in making our world more sustainable by partnering with nature to respond to the challenges of growing. Everyone is welcome, entry is free and refreshments are available as well as a raffle and sales table.

## Fish Scheme News

The October Coffee Pop-in will be on Friday 11th from 10 to 11.15. Everybody is very welcome. The Fish phone for lifts is 07935 966 080

## Bridge with Patricbourne Women's Institute

Our Summer Outing to Pashley Manor and then Great Dixter was a great success. – the beautiful, but very different gardens looked even better in glorious sunshine, and a lovely day was enjoyed by all.

The first of our autumn meetings in September was a social evening, and members enjoyed getting together after the summer break, enjoying friendship and exchanging news.

On **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October at the new time of 2pm**, we are holding an **Open Meeting** in the Village Hall, 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.

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

Joan Hill

Sept. 2024

## **Bekesbourne 100 Club**

Special Summer Prize of £100 - Toby Pollard

September Winners;  
£50 - Eve Pearson  
£25 - Niamh Watts  
£15 - Nicky Fry



## **Bridge & District History Society**

After our last successful season, we are looking forward to our new series of talks. All meetings are held in Bridge Village Hall at 7.30pm.

### **Thursday September 19th**

A short AGM will be followed by-

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During 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. Jim Gascoyne discovered that his parents were volunteers and has researched this little-known aspect of the war.

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

All welcome. Further details of our new season's programme at [www.bridgehistory.org.uk](http://www.bridgehistory.org.uk)



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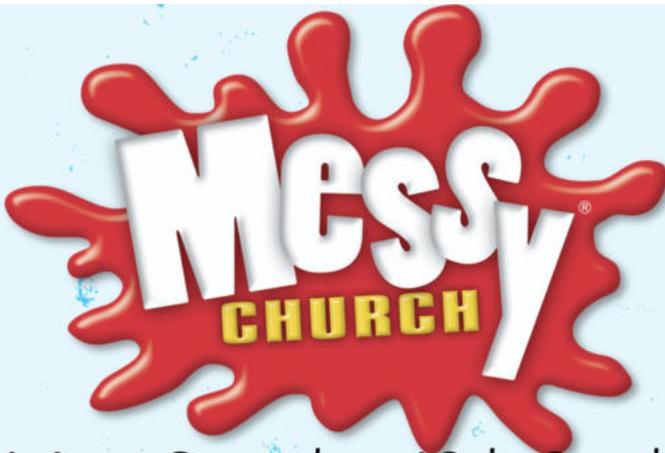
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## Littlebourne and District Royal British Legion

We had an enjoyable meeting in September with 10 members present. Our recent stall at Ickham Fair and our Elvis in the garden afternoon raised over £500 in aid of the Poppy Appeal. Thanks to those who helped and of course to Elvis and his backing group!

We are getting ready for this year's Poppy Appeal in November and will be seeking volunteers to man our stall outside the 4 villages shop. You do not have to be a branch member and anyone interested can ring on our Poppy Organiser Steve Rees 01227 720328 or Vice Chairman Barbara Hunt 01227 472023 or any of the other numbers in the branch notice board outside the hall.

As always, we are looking for new members to join the branch. Please contact any of the committee numbers. .

## NAILBOURNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Society's next meeting will be on **Tuesday 8th October**, 7.30 pm at Bridge Village Hall. Our speaker will be

**Caroline Halfpenny** who will give an illustrated talk on '**Plants for Health and Wellbeing**', a fascinating subject that should be of interest to many of us who would like to know more about the beneficial properties of plants. We look forward to seeing you. There will be a small entry fee to include light refreshments. Everyone is most welcome!



## INNER WHEEL CLUB OF CANTERBURY

The Inner Wheel Club of Canterbury held their first meeting of their Centenary year with a fascinating and entertaining talk by

Ian Osterloh on Canterbury's most controversial Politician and Mayor of Canterbury. Three new members were inducted into the club and presented with badges and a red rose of friendship. We have a fantastic programme of speakers and fundraising for Headway, (supporting people and families who have suffered a brain injury), and our International charity, Better Lives Foundation as well as other local charities.

Interested in finding out more? Then email [innerwheelclubofcanterbury@gmail.com](mailto:innerwheelclubofcanterbury@gmail.com)

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