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A magazine for the villages along the Nailbourne







February 2025

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February 2025

Dear Friends

It never ceases to amaze me how every Christmas can land differently, after all it's the same story and we often follow the same traditions, sing the same carols, attend the same church services year in year out and yet every year I find something different to marvel at and I wonder if you do too? For me this year, the particular joy has been having the longer part of the school holiday break after Christmas Day itself rather than before, time to really revel in the peaceful aftermath of a busy festival season. Since then, over the last couple of weeks, I have also enjoyed engaging with the season of Epiphany and through the weekly bible readings, seeing the ways in which the accounts of Jesus' life from birth and into his early ministry continue to reveal him as our Saviour and the bridge between us and God.

And now we reach February and again we have more space this year, as Easter is much later (almost a month later than it was last year!) so we don't have to hurtle headlong into Lent and preparations for Easter as we sometimes must.

February brings heart shapes everywhere – cards, sweets, ornaments, cushions - even heart shaped crumpets! St. Valentine, has become the patron saint of love and around his festival on the 14th we are inundated with symbols of love everywhere. Of course, once the 15th arrives all those symbols will have been eaten, recycled, discarded, or perhaps put away as keepsakes – and the remainder in the shops will be sold off at a discount.

Romantic love is a wonderful thing while it lasts, and can be the foundation for lasting, mutual care and relationships, but we must guard against making it something disposable like the cards and gifts, chocolate and crumpets. Love is very important: - love of family, friends, neighbours, all humankind, as individuals, as groups, love for creation, for all life on our planet, for ourselves. Without love, which gives us a focus, a passion, a reason to act positively for others we would miss so much that is good in our lives.

The Bible has much to say about love – asking us to love one another, to love God and to love ourselves. It tells us to love because God loved us first. God's love is unconditional – that love doesn't care who we are, what we look like, what we have done, whether we are rich or poor or have a GSOH (good sense of humour) it's never-ending and we can never do anything to earn it, or anything that will stop it.

For those of us who follow a faith, we are asked to share that love, to pass it on and follow God's example, that's not easy, and we often fail as we are human, not divine. If you find it hard to love, or feel you fail at times then let me encourage you to think back to the festival that we have just enjoyed, the moment when the God who so loves the world, sent his only Son (paraphrasing John 3:16) just so that we might know how much we are truly worth – each and every one of us.

However you feel this February, may you know just how much you are loved.

Yours in Christ



Revd. Canon Estella Last, Vicar,
The Parish of the Bridge Group
.

	February 2025
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
Mon 10th	1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground 2.30pm Caring and Sharing
Weds 12th	10-11.30am Bekesbourne Coffee Morning
Thurs 13th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 14th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 10 am Fish Scheme Coffee Pop in Bridge Village Hall
Sat 15th	10.15am-11.30am Coffee, Cake and Concert at St Peter's Bridge 4-5.30pm Messy Church
Mon 17th	1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground
Thurs 20th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion- Half term break
Fri 21st	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church- Half term Break 11am-12.30pm Lower Hardres Community Coffee Morning LH Village Hall
Mon 24th	1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground 2.30pm Caring and Sharing
Thurs 27th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion

Service details and readings for February 2025

26th January	3rd Sunday after Epiphany	Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a; Luke 4.14-21	**10am Benefice Communion at St Mary's Lower Hardres**
2nd February	Presentation of Christ in the Temple / Candlemas	Malachi 3:1-5; Hebrews 2:14-end; Luke 4.21-30	**9am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington** **10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bekesbourne** **6pm Evensong for Candlemas**
9th February	4th Sunday before Lent	Isaiah 6.1-8,(9-13); 1 Corinthians 15.1-11; Luke 5.1-11	**10 am Parish Communion at St Peter's Bridge**
Saturday 15th February			**4-5.30pm Messy Church at Bridge School**
16th February	3rd Sunday before Lent	Jeremiah 17.5-10; 1 Corinthians 15.12-20; Luke 6.17-26	**9am Morning Prayer at St Mary's Nackington** **10am Traditional Sung Holy Communion at St Mary's Patrixbourne**
23rd February	2nd Sunday before Lent	Genesis 2:4b-9-end; Revelation 4; Luke 8:22-25	**10am Communion at St Mary's Lower Hardres**
2nd March	Sunday next before Lent	Exodus 34.29-35; 2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2; Luke 9.28-36, (37-43)	**9am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington** **10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bekesbourne**
Wednesday 5th March	Ash Wednesday	Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 John 8:1-11	**10am Communion with imposition of Ashes at St Peter's Bridge**

Bridge & District History Society

Thursday February 20th 2025 in Bridge Village Hall at 7.30pm.
The hazards of the Journey. Pilgrimage and Travel in the Middle Ages
Imogen Corrigan will explain why people were willing to trudge for hundreds of miles, often in appalling conditions and sometimes perishing on the way. She will also cover the shift from spiritual wanderings in the Anglo Saxon period to religious tourism in the days of Chaucer's pilgrims. From maps and motivation to souvenirs and shrines, this talk discusses travel in the round as well as for spiritual reasons.
No membership fee. £4.00 at the door to include refreshments.
More information at www.bridgehistory.org.uk

Bridge with Patrixbourne Womens Institute

'The History of the Magic Circle' was the subject of the first talk of the year, given by Mike Davis, and members were enthralled by what they heard and saw!

The following meeting on **Friday 21st February at 2pm.** in the Village Hall will be the timely subject of **Herbaceous Perennials**, in preparation for Spring, when popular speaker Kevin Tooher will be returning to talk on this subject.

Our **Annual Meeting** will take place on **Friday 21st March**, so please put this date in your diary, and come along.

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

Joan Hill

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Fish Scheme News

The February Coffee Pop-in will be on Friday 14th from 10 to 11.15 in Bridge village hall. Do come and bring a friend along.
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As a New Year begins the PCC and Finance Team have been looking at our financial situation and our budget for the year ahead. The cost of everything has gone up so all the bills we have to pay - utilities, insurance, ministry costs etc have increased.

We do appreciate that this is true for everyone but if you are able to increase your giving, make an additional one-off donation or (if you haven't done so already) are set up a regular monthly gift (of any amount!) using the Parish Giving Scheme this would make such a difference.

Every little helps as they say. Thank you for your support.

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Bekesbourne Village Hall winter Timetable 24/25

MONDAY	8.30am – 4.30pm Private Hire 7pm Bekesbourne Parish Council Meetings 11th Nov '24, 13th Jan '25, 10th Mar '25
TUESDAY	7pm – 8pm Circuits with Sarah. No Booking Required
WEDNESDAY	11.30am – 4pm Private Hire 10am to 11.30 am Every 2nd Wednesday of the month BVH Coffee Morning + The Refill Van www.refillablevan.com Pilates with Marcela, Bring your own mat. 6.15pm to 7.15pm No Booking Required £7.
THURSDAY	9.15am – 10.15am Tiny Talk – Contact Deborah at www.tinytalk.co.uk/debh for more information. Booking required. 6pm to 7pm John – Gentle Exercise Group. No booking Required
FRIDAY	9.30am to 10.30am – Jodie – The Tutor Experience – Booking Required at http://bookwhen.com/thetutorexperience
SATURDAY	enquiries4bvh@gmail.com
SUNDAY	Boxercise 9.30am to 10.15am with John no booking required. Pilates with Marcela 10.45am to 11.45am, bring your own mats. No booking required

See Bekesbourne Village Hall Facebook page for upcoming events.
To Book: enquiries4bvh@gmail.com





Little Lambs

Toddler Group

Every Thursday

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2024 Christmas prize £250 Eve Pearson



December

£50 Wendy Durell
£25 Daphne Hogben
£15 Hugh Pearson

January

£50 Charlie Chester
£25 Martin Fry
£15 Joanne Watt

If anyone would like to join the 100 Club for next year then please contact Steve Thomas. Email stevelthomas91@gmail.com.

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The 100 Club provides funds for the care and maintenance of St. Peter's Church in Bekesbourne. If you enjoy walking through the churchyard and its surroundings then please lend your support.



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Curate:	Rev. Miriam Hinksman	07423-735398 bridgecurate@gmail.com
Chaplain:	Mrs Miriam Westendarp	01227 206272
Administrator:	Mrs Megan Shirley	bridgeoffice23@gmail.com
Safeguarding Officer:	Rosemary Whatley	01227-206272

St Mary's Patrixbourne with St Peter's Bridge

Churchwardens:	Dr Andrea Nicholson	01227-830947
	Mrs Pauline Pritchard	01227-830685
	Mr Laurence Dunderdale	01227-830668
	laurence.dunderdale@gmail.com	
(Gift Aid Officer)	Mrs Evelyn Andrews	01227-830960
	evepurlins@btinternet.com	
PCC Secretary:	Mr Rory Wetherell	01227-830318
PCC Treasurer:	bridge.gp.treasurer@gmail.com	
Christian Aid/Organist	Mrs Jean Barber	01227-831956

St Peter's Bekesbourne

Churchwarden	Mrs Nicky Fry	01227-830319
	nicolafry@cscope.co.uk	
PCC Finance Team:	Mrs Zan Clifford	01227-830328
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To offer items for publication in this magazine, including event information, please contact Mrs Megan Shirley bridgegroupmagazine@gmail.com by the 15th day of the preceding month, ensuring that any emails and attachments are clearly titled to identify their content. Files should be submitted in .doc .pub or .jpg format. Posters should be A5 in size and both portrait and landscape versions provided.

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On the Nail

A magazine for the villages along the Nailbourne







DECEMBER 2025/ JANUARY 2026

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December 2025/January 2026

Dear Friends,
I have been sitting here staring at a blank page, wondering what I could write to you all for the last pastoral message of my tenure as your Parish Priest……and pondering too the forthcoming season of Advent and Christmas.

One of the most striking aspects of the Christmas story is how full it is of surprises—unexpected twists that defy human expectations and reveal deeper meaning. From the setting to the characters, nearly every detail carries an element of wonder.

The Messiah born in an ordinary home and laid in a manger in Bethlehem. Unlikely first witnesses in lowly shepherds and foreign magi. Angels proclaiming peace on earth (having first appeared in dramatic ways to both Mary and Joseph). Mary's courageous yes to the plan God had for her. God's promise fulfilled unexpectedly: reversing the expectation of a political or military saviour. Instead, the Messiah arrived as a vulnerable baby, redefining what salvation meant.

These surprises matter, each twist in the story emphasizes themes of humility, inclusivity, and divine reversal. The lowly are lifted up, outsiders are welcomed, and power is redefined. The Christmas narrative isn't just about a birth—it's about God showing up in ways no one anticipated, reshaping human history through unexpected means.

In many ways, that's why I do what I do, that's why I am what I am, called, ordained, and (please God) equipped to fulfil the role entrusted to me as I say yes to the God of surprises.

The last 8 years have been full of surprises, and it has been a privilege to live in Bridge. To grow as a person, as a minister and as a disciple of Jesus Christ. To see our family grow up here among people who have taken us into their hearts and lives. To share in ministry with all the many wonderful folk in the five villages of our Parish as we have sought together to fulfil our primary calling to make the love of God known here.

As I prepare to leave the Parish, I want to encourage you. Your willingness to embrace change, to listen to the Spirit, and to work together has been one of the great joys of my ministry here. Your care for each other and your communities (occasional Facebook grumbling aside) a real sign of the beauty of peace-making and togetherness, particularly during the Pandemic. There will be a bit of a gap now while the Parish reflects and prepares to recruit the next Vicar of the Bridge Group Parish and I pray that in the gap you discover even more of the capacity of God to bring about wonderful surprises.

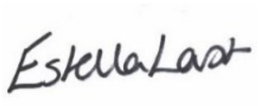
It has been a big surprise to me to have been called into the role of Archdeacon of Maidstone at this time but as I prepare to step into a new chapter of ministry, my heart is filled with gratitude for the time we have shared. I want to thank you for your love, your patience, and your partnership in the gospel. You have taught me as much as I have ever hoped to teach you, and I will carry those lessons with me always.

Though God is leading me to serve in a new role, please know that my prayers remain with you. I trust that the Lord will continue to bless this parish and community with strength, unity, and vision. (And a fabulous new Vicar at some point!)

As Paul wrote to the Philippians: *'I thank my God every time I remember you… being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.'*

For the last time in this context, but forever,

Yours in Christ



Revd. Canon Estella Last, Vicar,
The Parish of the Bridge Group

Service details and readings for December 2025 and January 2026

7th December	2nd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 11.1-10; Romans 15.4-13; Matthew 3.1-12	**10am Celebration Service at St Mary's Patrixbourne** – reopening of the building and dedication of the new extension and facilities. With the Archdeacon of Canterbury.
Friday 12th December			**6pm Community Carols at St Mary's Lower Hardres**
14th December	3rd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 35.1-10; Luke 1.46b-55 (Magnificat); James 5.7-10; Matthew 11.2-11	**10 am Parish Communion at St Peter's Bridge** **4pm Instant Nativity (Family Service)**
Friday 19th December			**7pm Carol Service St Mary's Patrixbourne**
21st December	4th Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 7.10-16; Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-25	**10am Traditional Sung Holy Communion at St Mary's Patrixbourne** **7pm Carol Service at St Peter's Bridge**
Wednesday 24th December	Christmas Eve	Isaiah 52:7-10 Hebrews 1:1-12 John 1:1-14	**3pm Christingle Service at Bridge** **5pm Christingle Service at Bridge** **10pm Christmas Eucharist Nackington**
Thursday 25th December	Christmas Day	Isaiah 9.2-7; Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-14, (15-20)	**9.30am Christmas Communion St Peter's Bridge** **11am Christmas Carol Service St Peter's Bekesbourne**
28th December	1st Sunday of Christmas	Jeremiah 31: 15-17 1 Corinthians 1: 26-29 Matthew 2: 13-18	**10am Parish Communion at St Mary's Lower Hardres**

4th January	Epiphany	Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2: 1-12	**10am Benefice Communion Service at St Peter's Bekesbourne**
11th January	Baptism of Christ / Epiphany 1	Isaiah 42:1-9 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3: 13-17	**10am Benefice Communion at St Peter's Bridge – Revd Estella's last Sunday in the Parish**
18th January	Epiphany 2	Isaiah 49.1-7; Corinthi-ans 1.1-9; John 1.29-42	**10am Benefice Communion (Sung Eucharist) at St Mary's Patrixbourne**
25th January	Epiphany 3	Isaiah 9.1-4; Corinthians 1.10-18; Matthew 4.12-23	**10am Parish Communion at St Mary's Lower Hardres**
1st February	Presenta-tion of Christ in the Tem-ple / Can-dlemas		**9am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington** **10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bekesbourne** **4pm Deanery Candlemas Evensong Service at St Mary the Virgin, Wing-ham**

	December 2025
Mon 1st	2.30-4pm Caring and Sharing
Tues 2nd	7-9.30pm Salvation Army concert at Nackington Church
Thurs 4th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion Bridge School Advent Services 7.30pm Salvation Army Concert at Bridge School
Fri 5th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church
Weds 10th	10-11.30am Bekesbourne Coffee Morning 5pm-7.30pm Nailbourne Scouts Christmas Service at Bridge Church
Thurs 11th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion 1.15-3pm Senior Citizens Tea Party at Bridge School
Fri 12th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 10am Fish Scheme Pop in at Bridge Village Hall 6pm Lower Hardres Carol Event
Sat 13th	10.15-11.30 Christmas Coffee and Cake Concert at Bridge Church
Tue 16th	3-7pm Christmas Farmers Market and Carol Singing at The Red Lion Bridge
Thurs 18th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 19th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church
Sat 20th	2-5pm Crib Festival at St Peter's Bekesbourne

	January 2026
Thurs 8th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 9th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 10am Fish Scheme Pop in at Bridge Village Hall
Weds	10-11.30am Bekesbourne Coffee Morning
Thurs 15th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 16th	11am-12.30pm Lower Hardres Coffee Morning
Sat 17th	10.15-11.30 Coffee and Cake Concert at Bridge Church 4-6pm Messy Church at Bridge School
Thurs 22nd	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Thurs 29th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion

Bridge with Patrixbourne Womens Institute

Our November talk was given by Clare Boggia. Her subject was on the life of Clarice Cliff, whose ceramics have become famous as she was so much ahead of her time, both in design and the vibrant colours she used.

On the 12th December we shall be having a Christmas Celebration Lunch at the Red Lion. Names of those wishing to attend were taken at the November meeting.

WI always welcomes new members. We are a small, friendly group who enjoy learning about all sorts of subjects from our different speakers, with social time for chat and refreshments, so do come along and find out for yourselves.

For more details, please contact the President Sheila Scrivener on 01227-831788,

Joan Hill

Nov.Dec. 2025

Fish Scheme News

The December Coffee Pop-in will be on Friday 12th in the village hall from 10 to 11.15 with carols, mince pies and a visit from the playgroup. You'll love it. Do come. The January 2026 Pop-in is on Friday 9th and the Winter Warmer lunch is on Friday 30th. So a merry Christmas and a happy new year to us all



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Crib Festival at Bekesbourne Church

Let Christmas begin in Bekesbourne church on Saturday 20th December!

We are having a festival of Christmas cribs. There will be cribs of all shapes and sizes. Some old, some new, some handmade and crafted from wood or clay or wool. If you have a crib you would like to lend us, we'd be happy to display it.

The church will be open from 2-5pm so please pop in and share the festive joy. There will be carols and Christmas music playing and mulled wine, mince pies and Christmas treats to enjoy. The children might have fun seeing how many stars they can count on all the displays and they can pin a Christmas message on our tree.

Our celebrity guest, Banks, the Christmas donkey will be there.

For more information please contact Nicky Fry 07720895593

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Saturday 20th December 2 - 5pm

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Nailbourne Scout Group news

Nailbourne are now well into the autumn term, having returned after the half-term break. As always, we've been very busy, both with our weekly fun- and adventure-packed sessions and also with several events.

In September, Nailbourne adults and young helpers served drinks and homemade cakes at the Barham Horticultural Society meeting. This was a great fundraiser for us and we have been invited back next year! Also in September, our Scout and Explorer leader Skip joined two of our Explorers for an exciting climbing trip to the Peak District, where Explorers received their climbing badge. Beavers enjoyed an informative visit to the fire station, where they had particular fun having a go at the hoses! And we were very proud to receive a Bronze certificate from the district for the growth and development of our young people.

In October, Scouts took part in the artist open house event at Walderchain Woods as part of Canterbury Arts Festival, their second year supporting along with local schools and colleges. This year they displayed bunting made from reclaimed tent fabric. As well as lots of spooky activities across the sections, Nailbourne also held a food bank collection in Barham on Halloween, alongside displaying Scout-carved pumpkins donated by Barham Allotment Association.

November has so far seen our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers parade through Bridge on Remembrance Sunday, before attending the service at the church, where they played a part with readings and the laying of wreaths.

By the time you read this, we will be preparing for Christmas! Scout Post will be operating in both Bridge AND Barham this year, and for the first time you will be able to post cards for Barham in the Bridge postbox and vice versa (please not the surrounding villages though, as deliveries are done on foot!). Postboxes may already be in your local shop by the time you read this. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page or see the box itself for our delivery date. Donations for this service are gratefully received.

As always, we are still looking for volunteers to lead and help in our sessions, with Beavers and Explorers in particular need of support (both on Wednesday evenings).

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, 7.00–8.30pm, Bridge Pavillion/ Littlebourne 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

NAILBOURNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Society's last event of the year will be the Christmas Social on Tuesday, 2 December, 7.30 pm at Bridge Village Hall. Sue Thompson will demonstrate Christmas Floral Decorations, which will be raffled afterwards. The Social part of the evening will follow when we can reflect on and celebrate the Society's successes. There will be an entry fee of £10 to include festive refreshments. We hope that most members will attend and make it a successful event. All are most welcome!

Date for your Diary - AGM

The Society's AGM will be held on Tuesday, 27th January 2026, 7.30 pm at Bridge Village Hall. The challenges the Society face are ongoing and therefore we need continued support and looking to have a wider membership to be able to thrive. We are hoping that there will be one or two more members who will join the Committee as well.

The speaker we have engaged for the evening is the renowned Kevin Tooher, who will talk about 'Winter Interest in the Garden' which should appeal to all gardeners, so we look forward to seeing you at this important meeting.







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morny.starling@bridge.kent.sch.uk

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we look forward to hearing from or seeing you soon.

Kind regards Helen and Morny

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Canterbury Superdrug has removed its collecting bin and will now only accept small quantities of recycling via its pharmacy. Boots at Wincheap is also only able to take small quantities in its recycling box (situated near the pharmacy).
We know that our Bridge recycling facility has been valued by the community and are sorry for any inconvenience.
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Administrator:	Mrs Megan Shirley	bridgeoffice23@gmail.com
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St Mary's Patrixbourne with St Peter's Bridge

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	Mrs Pauline Pritchard	01227-830685
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Christian Aid/Organist	Mrs Jean Barber	01227-831956

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To offer items for publication in this magazine, including event information, please contact Mrs Megan Shirley bridgegroupmagazine@gmail.com by the 15th day of the preceding month, ensuring that any emails and attachments are clearly titled to identify their content. Files should be submitted in .doc .pub or .jpg format. Posters should be A5 in size and both portrait and landscape versions provided.

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On the Nail

A magazine for the villages along the Nailbourne







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March 2025

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March 2025

Dear Friends

As we turn the corner from Winter toSpring (she says hopefully!) we also turn to the season of Lent in the church. Lent is often seen as a solemn time, a time of giving up things we perhaps over indulge in, or a time to take up something new that we hope might be edifying in some way. As we move from February to March the hope is of course that the weather will get the memo and we will be treated to a bit of Spring warmth and sunshine.

All in all, this is a hopeful and hope filled time of year I think. A sentiment which is reflected in the study we will be doing as a church community not just here in our Benefice but across the Church of England as we engage with a Lent study course entitled 'Living Hope' based on the reflections shared in the book Wild Bright Hope (the SPCK Big Church Read Lent Book 2025).

You see whatever humans have done to it and whatever it might look like, Christianity itself is a hopeful and hope filled thing. It is a belief in an ultimate creator who in seeking relationship with the creation entered fully into the human experience to meet us face to face and show us what it looks like when humans truly live as they were created to – all humans created in the image of God. Hope, in Christian terms, is not merely wishful thinking. It is, we learn from studying the Bible, something alive – real, robust, and rooted. And we learn, time and again that often it is in the disappointment of daily setbacks and the pain of deeper hurts, that we discover that God is present with us through it all.

In Lent (whether we give something up or not) our aim each year is to journey with Jesus on the difficult and thorny road that leads all the way to the cross on Good Friday – and beyond, to the transformation of Easter Day. To hear again this story of transformation and hope. And we will do this together in our Sunday church services each week, to which everyone is of course welcome.

This month we will be closing St Mary's Patrixbourne temporarily while over the next few months some extensive work is carried out to improve the facilities the building has and we hope, make it a space which is more useable and welcoming, not just for worshippers but for the wider community and particularly for pilgrims. A long-held hope which at one stage seemed impossible but which we are now able to realise thanks to a generous benefactor.

There may perhaps be things in our world which make it hard for us to be hopeful but whatever it looks like, the hope that is woven directly into the fab

ric of creation and our very existence is all around us – calling us to remember the continuous and constant presence of our creator. Every weak ray of early sunshine, every furled bud, every short stem reaching towards the sky, every cadence of birdsong, gives voice to the hope that a new thing is coming.

And so as we enter the season of Lent may our eyes be opened to the presence of hope all around us and may we all be filled afresh with a sense of living hope.

Yours in Christ



Revd. Canon Estella Last, Vicar,
The Parish of the Bridge Group
.

Closure of Patrixbourne Church

Exciting news! Our extension work at St Mary's Patrixbourne will begin on 3rd March. This will mean that the church building will be closed to all visitors for approximately 6 months. During this time the graveyard will be open but we ask all visitors to take care as the North side of the church will be fenced off.

Watch this space for photos and updates on the work!

Service details and readings for March 2025

2nd March	Sunday next before Lent	Exodus 34.29-35; 2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2; Luke 9.28-36, (37-43)	**9am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington** **10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bekesbourne**
Wednesday 5th March	Ash Wednesday	Isaiah 58:1–12; 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	**10am Communion with imposition of Ashes at St Peter's Bridge**
9th March	1st Sunday of Lent	Deuteronomy 26.1-11; Romans 10.8-13; Luke 4.1-13	**10 am Communion at St Peter's Bridge**
Saturday 15th March			**4-6pm Messy Church at Bridge School**
16th March	2nd Sunday of Lent	Genesis 15.1-12,17-18; Philip-pians 3.17-4.1; Luke 13.31-35	**10am Traditional Sung Holy Communion at St Mary's Nackington**
23rd March	3rd Sunday of Lent	Isaiah 55.1-9; 1 Corinthians 10.1-13; Luke 13.1-9	**10am Communion at St Mary's Lower Hardres**
30th March	Mothering Sunday	Exodus 2:1–10; 2 Corinthians 1:3–7; John 19:25b–27	**10am Benefice Com-munion Service St Pe-ter's Bridge with School choir celebrating Moth-ering Sunday (5th Sun-day)**
6th April	5th Sunday of Lent	Isaiah 43.16-21; Philippians 3.4b-14; John 12.1-8	**9am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington** **10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bekesbourne**

	March 2025 Diary Dates
Mon 3rd	1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground
Weds 5th	10am Communion for Ash Wednesday, St Peter's Bridge
Thurs 6th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 7th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 7pm Bekesbourne Friends Quiz Night Bekesbourne Village Hall
Mon 10th	1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground 2.30pm Caring and Sharing
Weds 12th	10-11.30am Bekesbourne Coffee Morning
Thurs 13th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 14th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 10 am Fish Scheme Coffee Pop in Bridge Village Hall
Sat 15th	4-5.30pm Messy Church
Mon 17th	1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground
Thurs 20th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 21st	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Churc 11am-12.30pm Lower Hardres Community Coffee Morning LH Village Hall 7pm Bridge School PTFA Quiz night
Mon 24th	1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground 2.30pm Caring and Sharing
Thurs 27th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 28th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church- Half term Break
Sat 29th	10.15am-11.30am Coffee, Cake and Concert at St Peter's Bridge


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The Bridge Group Parish
*optional extras are available at cost

Bridge & District History Society

Thursday March 20th at 7.30pm in Bridge Village Hall

Jennifer Watson-Bore will tell the story of **Aphra Behn** who was born in Canterbury in 1640. A poet, novelist and playwright, Aphra Behn was the first ever professional female writer and a spy! She was a truly ground- breaking figure who broke down barriers for generations of women who came after her.

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

More information at www.bridgehistory.org.uk

Bridge Group Parish Electoral Roll 2025

The Electoral Roll is to be completely revised this year.

This Roll is a register of electors who can vote at the Annual Parochial Meeting and stand for election to the Parochial Church Council.

Every person who wishes to have his or her name entered on the new Roll, whether it is on the present Roll or not, is requested to apply for enrolment.

Forms will be available in each church* from March 2nd 2025, to be completed by March 30th.

*Bridge, Bekesbourne, Nackington, Lower Hardres.



Littlebourne and District Royal British Legion

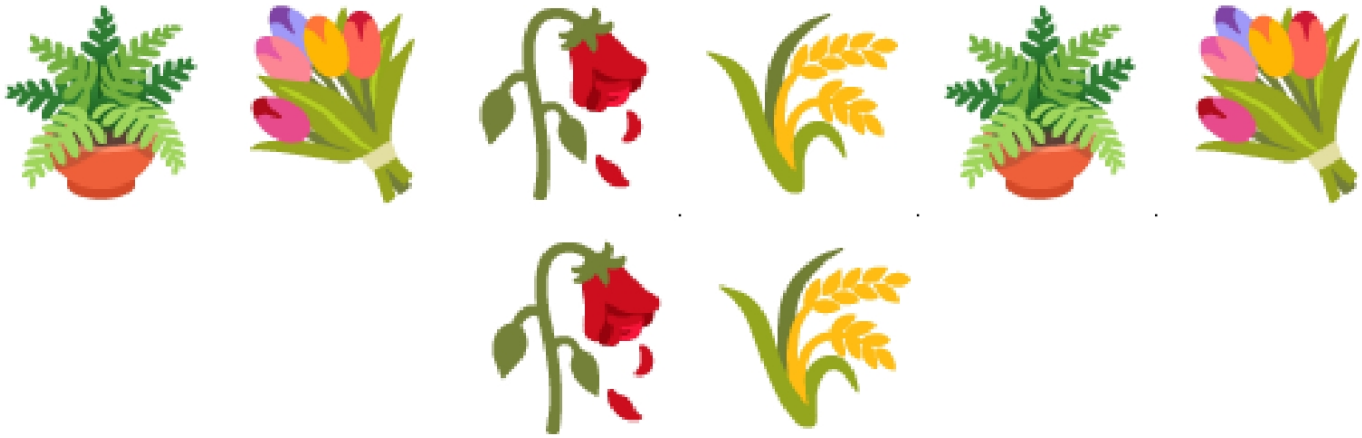
We held an enjoyable February meeting when 14 members were present.

We are planning to hold a "Meet the Legion Afternoon" in the Hay Wain, Bramling on Wednesday 5 March from 12.30pm which we hope will be informative and attract possible new members.

On 26 April we are having a Coffee Morning in the Hall Lounge in Littlebourne from 11am (see our notice in the magazine) so we are keeping busy.

We are always seeking to gain more members and anyone interested can contact the Vice Chairman on 01227 472023 or look at our Branch notice board to the left of Hall entrance.

Our next monthly meeting will be on Tuesday 11 March at 8pm in the Recreation Club, Littlebourne (to the right behind the Hall).



Bridge Open Gardens

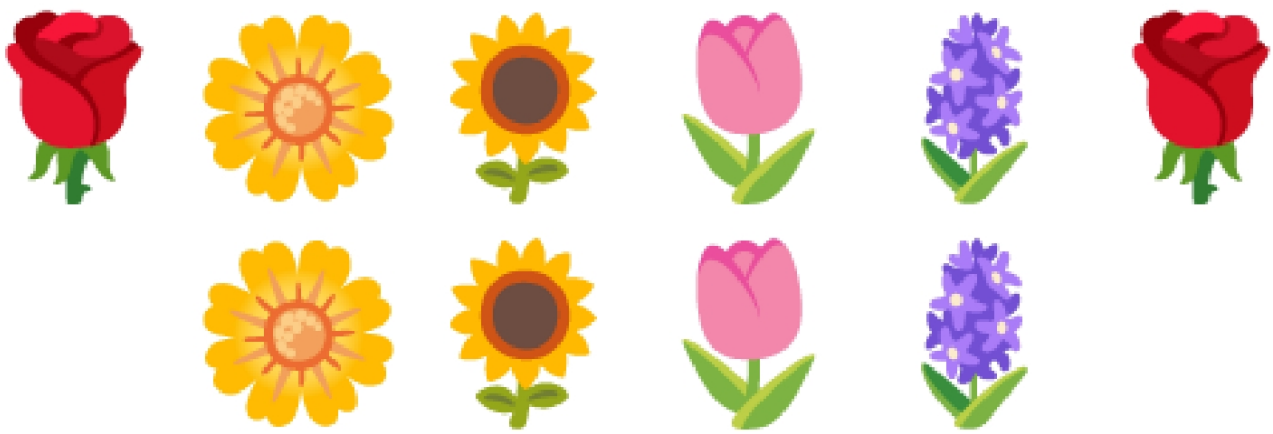
Save the Date

After last year's success Bridge Open Gardens will be held on 6 th July 2024.

We would love you to enter your garden - no garden too small.

Full details of the gardens which will be open will be available at the Church, from 10 30 am to 4 pm on the day, where refreshments will be served.

This is the second year and we hope more villagers will consider opening their gardens on this date for people to admire.





Friends of Bekesbourne Church



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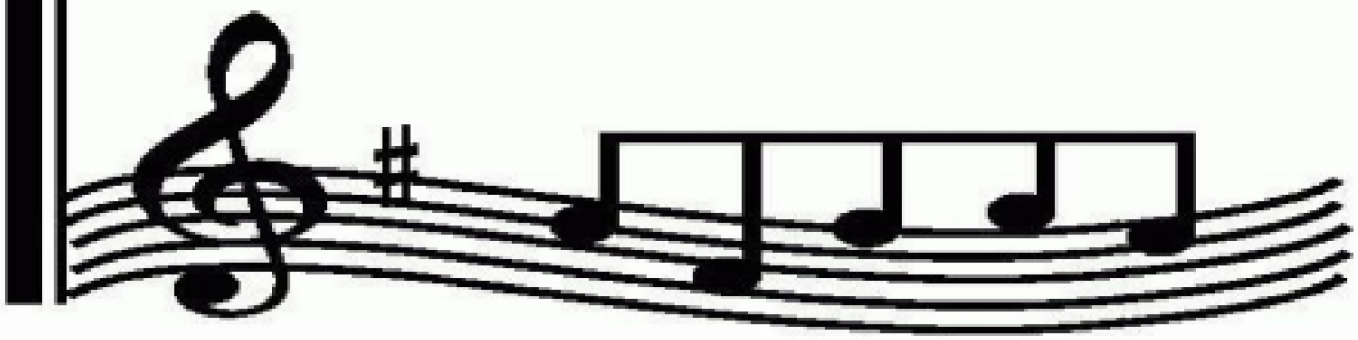
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Nailbourne Scout Group news

A belated happy New Year from all our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers! Christmas seems like a long time ago already, but our young people celebrated the event with lots of Christmas-themed activities and our yearly service at the church in Bridge. We also held a collection for Canterbury Food Bank and carried out our usual Scout Post in Bridge and also Barham – thanks as always to everyone who supported us.

Celebrations have played a part in lots of our young people's activities over recent months. St Andrew's Day and Burn's Night have seen ceilidh dancing (including the Virginia reel), Highland Games, weaving tartan and making a Highland cow! More recently, the Chinese New Year (the year of the snake) has seen young people making origami snakes, paper lanterns and paper chain dragons, having a go at using chopsticks, making blossom print paintings and writing Chinese lettering.

Other recent activities have included trying out musical instruments, making gingerbread on trangias, decorating biscuits, stargazing at Simon Langton Boys School and making films with the Young Animators Club, as well as 'traditional' Scouting activities such as woodwork, pioneering practice, stave formation, firelighting, knots and rope skills, hikes (including a night hike and sleepover with other Explorers from the district) and rifle shooting now we have our own permit.

In February, we held our AGM in Barham Village Hall, where our chair, secretary and committee members were nominated to continue in their roles. We said thank you and farewell to our treasurer, James Gore, who has also provided help with many other Scouting activities and events over the years, which has been much appreciated. We are also very grateful to Avril Leach, who has stepped into the treasurer role.

As usual, we have lots of exciting things planned over the coming months. Explorers and Scouts will be fundraising for the Kent Scout International Jamboree, a week-long camp in August, so watch this space. It also won't be long until St George's Day, where our Scout group and many others will parade through Canterbury, followed by a service at the Cathedral.

As always, we are still looking for volunteers to lead and help in our sessions, with Beavers and Explorers in particular need of support (both on Wednesday evenings).

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, 7.00–8.30pm, Bridge Pavillion

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

We started the New Year of 2025 with a fascinating talk on the History of the Magic Circle. The ensuing demonstration of magic left our members baffled and tied in knots - metaphorically of course!

Our February speaker gave us some excellent information about Herbaceous Perennials , inspiring us to make plans for our gardens to look beautiful again and bring them back to life after the miserably wet winter.

There will be no speaker at our next meeting on 21st March, when we shall be holding our AGM. However, we have prepared a varied and interesting Programme for the forthcoming year, details of which will be given at the AGM and printed on WI noticeboard outside the Village Hall.

Do come along and pay us a visit at one of our meetings. You can be assured of a warm welcome as well as a cup of tea or coffee and, should you decide to become a member, you will find us to be a warm and friendly group.

For more details, please contact me, Sheila Scrivener on 01227-831788 or our Secretary Karen Sharman at dogafee@live,co.uk
We look forward to seeing you also at one of our Open Meetings this year.

Sheila Scrivener

February 2025

Budgeting for 2025

As a New Year begins the PCC and Finance Team have been looking at our financial situation and our budget for the year ahead. The cost of everything has gone up so all the bills we have to pay - utilities, insurance, ministry costs etc have increased.

We do appreciate that this is true for everyone but if you are able to increase your giving, make an additional one-off donation or (if you haven't done so already) are set up a regular monthly gift (of any amount!) using the Parish Giving Scheme this would make such a difference.

Every little helps as they say. Thank you for your support.

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Evelyn Andrews 01227 830960

Bekesbourne Village Hall Timetable 2025

MONDAY	8.30am – 4.30pm Private Hire 7pm Bekesbourne Parish Council Meetings, 10th Mar '25
TUESDAY	New Choir with Lucy Gove 10.15 am Booking required – hello@lucygove.com 7pm – 8pm Circuits with Sarah. No Booking Required
WEDNESDAY	11.30am – 4pm Private Hire 10am to 11.30 am Every 2nd Wednesday of the month BVH Coffee Morning + The Refill Van www.refillablevan.com Pilates with Marcela, Bring your own mat. 6.15pm to 7.15pm No Booking Required £7.
THURSDAY	9.15am – 10.15am Tiny Talk – Contact Deborah at www.tinytalk.co.uk/debh for more information. Booking required. 6pm to 7pm John – Gentle Exercise Group. No booking Required
FRIDAY	Available for Booking
SATURDAY	enquiries4bvh@gmail.com
SUNDAY	Boxercise 9.30am to 10.15am with John no booking required. Pilates with Marcela 10.45am to 11.45am, bring your own mats. No booking required

See Bekesbourne Village Hall Facebook page for upcoming events.
To Book: enquiries4bvh@gmail.com





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



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Nailbourne Horticultural Society

At the end of January a large number of members enjoyed a very interesting talk on Cider Making (with generous tastings) from Sam Mount of Woolton Farm which was followed by our AGM. We are pleased to report that three members volunteered to join the Committee and were voted on to replace members who had resigned. This has enabled the Society to continue with its programme of events already organised, although it was decided that, at least for the time being, we will not be holding any shows. However, with a new committee now in place, we expect to have new ideas for the Society as we go forward.

Moving on to our 2025 programme, our next event is a talk in Bridge Village Hall on **Tuesday 4 March** at 7.30 pm when **Geoff Chapman** is going to take us on a personal journey "**Celebrating Roses**". This should be of interest to all of us who grow or just love and appreciate roses. A reminder that subscriptions are now due (£10 for single membership and £18 for joint membership, payable by cash or cheque). Everyone is welcome and a small charge of £3 for members and £5 for non-members will be made to include refreshments .

Lent Groups 2025 - ‘Living Hope’

The Church of England’s theme this Lent is Living Hope. In life, God invites us to bring to him our own journey through everyday life. The hope God offers us is not wishful thinking. It is, as the Bible suggests, something alive – real, robust, rooted. In the disappointment of daily setbacks and the pain of deeper hurts, we discover that God is present with us through it all. And God promises a future where all things are healed and made new.

‘Living Hope is a booklet of Daily Reflections and we have copies of these for everyone to use at home with the opportunity to discuss with others at one of our group sessions together. (Donations to wards the cost of these booklets appreciated).

There will be 3 groups taking place each week, one in Bridge, one in Bekesbourne and one at The Old Dover Road. It would be great if you could choose a group and try to make it a regular commitment for the duration of Lent

There is also the book on which the reflections are based which is Wild Bright Hope (the SPCK Big Church Read Lent Book 2025) which is available to purchase from SPCK.

Groups will be:

Bridge – Monday afternoons 2. 30- 4pm
Old Dover Road – Tuesday mornings 10.30-12
Bekesbourne – Thursday afternoons 1.30-3pm

Contact Revd Estella (estellalast@gmail.com) for group details. If any-one would like to have the option of an evening session Revd Estella is happy to facilitate this either at The Vicarage or on Zoom for anyone unable to attend a daytime group.



Bekesbourne Village Hall Coffee Morning

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Curate:	Rev. Miriam Hinksman	07423-735398 bridgecurate@gmail.com
Chaplain:	Mrs Miriam Westendarp	01227 206272
Administrator:	Mrs Megan Shirley	bridgeoffice23@gmail.com
Safeguarding Officer:	Rosemary Whatley	01227-206272

St Mary's Patrixbourne with St Peter's Bridge

Churchwardens:	Dr Andrea Nicholson	01227-830947
	Mrs Pauline Pritchard	01227-830685
	Mr Laurence Dunderdale	01227-830668
	laurence.dunderdale@gmail.com	
(Gift Aid Officer)	Mrs Evelyn Andrews	01227-830960
	evepurlins@btinternet.com	
PCC Secretary:	Mr Rory Wetherell	01227-830318
PCC Treasurer:	bridge.gp.treasurer@gmail.com	
Christian Aid/Organist	Mrs Jean Barber	01227-831956

St Peter's Bekesbourne

Churchwarden	Mrs Nicky Fry	01227-830319
	nicolafry@cscope.co.uk	
PCC Finance Team:	Mrs Zan Clifford	01227-830328
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To offer items for publication in this magazine, including event information, please contact Mrs Megan Shirley bridgegroupmagazine@gmail.com by the 15th day of the preceding month, ensuring that any emails and attachments are clearly titled to identify their content. Files should be submitted in .doc .pub or .jpg format. Posters should be A5 in size and both portrait and landscape versions provided.

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On the Nail

A magazine for the villages along the Nailbourne







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April 2025

Dear Friends,

During Lent we have been on a journey of Living Hope, using daily reflections to help us think about our hope, what it means to live as imperfect humans in an imperfect world, trusting, noticing and having courage as we learn and grow and worship together. As April begins we are on the home stretch that will bring us the joy and wonder of Easter. I find myself reflecting on the remarkable gift of hope that this season brings. The resurrection of our Lord is the ultimate testament to God's love and God's promise that, even in the darkest of times, new life and renewal are possible. Easter reminds us that no matter how uncertain or challenging life may seem, we are always held in the loving embrace of God's grace and the promise of hope for all.

As a parish, we have seen this hope take shape in many ways over the past year. We have come together in worship, in prayer, and in service to one another, drawing strength from our shared faith and the support of our community. It is a blessing to witness the ways in which we, as a church family, have supported one another through times of joy and sorrow, growth and challenge. We are further encouraged by the fact that our plans to enhance some of our beautiful churches and improve their facilities are finally coming to fruition. Although this does mean that both St Mary's Patrixbourne and St Mary's Nackington will both be out of action temporarily so please check the service rota in case the venue has changed, and we are looking forward to work on the Lychgate at St Peter's Bekesbourne commencing soon too!

As we celebrate Easter, we are also preparing for an important event in the life of our parish: our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), which will take place on 30th April at 7pm at Bridge and Patrixbourne Primary School. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a community, to reflect on the year gone by, and to look ahead with hope to the future. During the meeting, we will present our Annual Report, which highlights the many activities, achievements, and challenges that have shaped our parish life over the past year. It's a time to celebrate the work we've done, to share stories of our successes, and to discuss our vision for the year ahead.

I encourage each of you to join us for the APCM, as your presence, your thoughts, and your prayers are vital in shaping the future of our parish. Whether you have been with us for years or are newer to our community, your voice and your involvement matter and the church in these villages depends on the people who live here.

May this Easter season be a time of renewal and reflection for all of us. Let us continue to walk in hope, knowing that the resurrection of Christ calls us to new life, and that together, we can bring that hope to our world.

With my warmest blessings,

Estella Last

Revd. Canon Estella Last, Vicar,
The Parish of the Bridge Group

.Closure of Patrixbourne Church

Exciting news! Our extension work at St Mary's Patrixbourne has begun. This will mean that the church building will be closed to all visitors for approximately 6 months. During this time the graveyard will be open but we ask all visitors to take care as the North side of the church will be fenced off.







These pictures show - the area in the back corner of the church where a couple of pews have been removed to make a space for pilgrims to sleep when they come to stay in the church, and a social space for when we serve refreshments after services and events.

The organ which has been carefully wrapped to protect it from any dust that may be made during the works.

The beginnings of the ground works for the running of water and waste pipes for our new Kitchen and washroom facility.

Family Friendly Easter Services and Events Bridge Group Parish

Good Friday 18th April 10am Messy Church Easter Celebration at Bridge and Patrixbourne School

Holy Saturday 19th April 10am Community Easter Event at St Mary's Lower Hardres—Easter Gardens, Hot Cross Buns and an Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Sunday

10am Communion at St Peter's Bridge with Easter Hunt in conjunction with Flo & Ted's

10am Easter Songs of Praise Service and Egg Hunt at St Peter's Bekesbourne.



Service details and readings for April 2025

March Building works commence at St Mary's Patrixbourne Services relocated to other churches until completion of works			
30th March	Mothering Sunday	Exodus 2:1–10; 2 Corinthians 1:3–7; John 19:25b–27	**10am Benefice Communion Service St Peter's Bridge with School choir celebrating Mothering Sunday (5th Sunday)**
6th April	5th Sunday of Lent	Isaiah 43.16-21; Philippians 3.4b-14; John 12.1-8	**9am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington** **10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bekesbourne**
13th April	Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50.4-9a; Luke 19.28-40; Luke 22.14-23.56	**9.30am Procession with Donkey from Bridge School Followed by 10am Parish Communion, St Peter's Bridge**
17th April	Maundy Thursday		**7.30pm Tenebrae Service, St Peter's Bridge** *Music and readings for the Last Supper*
18th April	Good Friday		**10.00-11.30 Messy Church Easter at Bridge School** **2-3pm Last hour at the Cross at St Mary's Nackington** *Hymns and readings for Good Friday*
20th April	Easter Sunday	Acts 10.34-43; 1 Corinthians 15.19-26; John 20.1-18;	**8am BCP Communion at St Mary's Nackington** **10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bekesbourne** **10am Parish Communion location St Peter's Bridge**
27th April	Easter 2	Acts 5.27-32; Revelation 1.4-8; John 20.19-31	**10am Parish Communion St Mary's Lower Hardres**
Works to commence at St Mary's Nackington lasting approx. 6-8 weeks.			
4th May	Easter 3	Acts 9.1-6,(7-20); Revelation 5.11-14; John 21.1-19	**9.15am Said Communion St Peter's Bekesbourne followed by 10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bekesbourne**

	April 2025
Thurs 3rd	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 4th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church
Weds	10-11.30am Bekesbourne Coffee Morning
Thurs 10th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion- EASTER BREAK
Fri 11th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church- EASTER BREAK 10 am Fish Scheme Coffee Pop in Bridge Village Hall
Mon 14th	2.30pm Caring and Sharing
Thurs	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion- EASTER BREAK
Fri 18th	10am-11.30am Good Friday Messy Easter at Bridge and Patrixbourne School
Thurs 24th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 25th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church
Mon	2.30pm Caring and Sharing
Weds	7pm APCM in Bridge and Patrixbourne School Hall

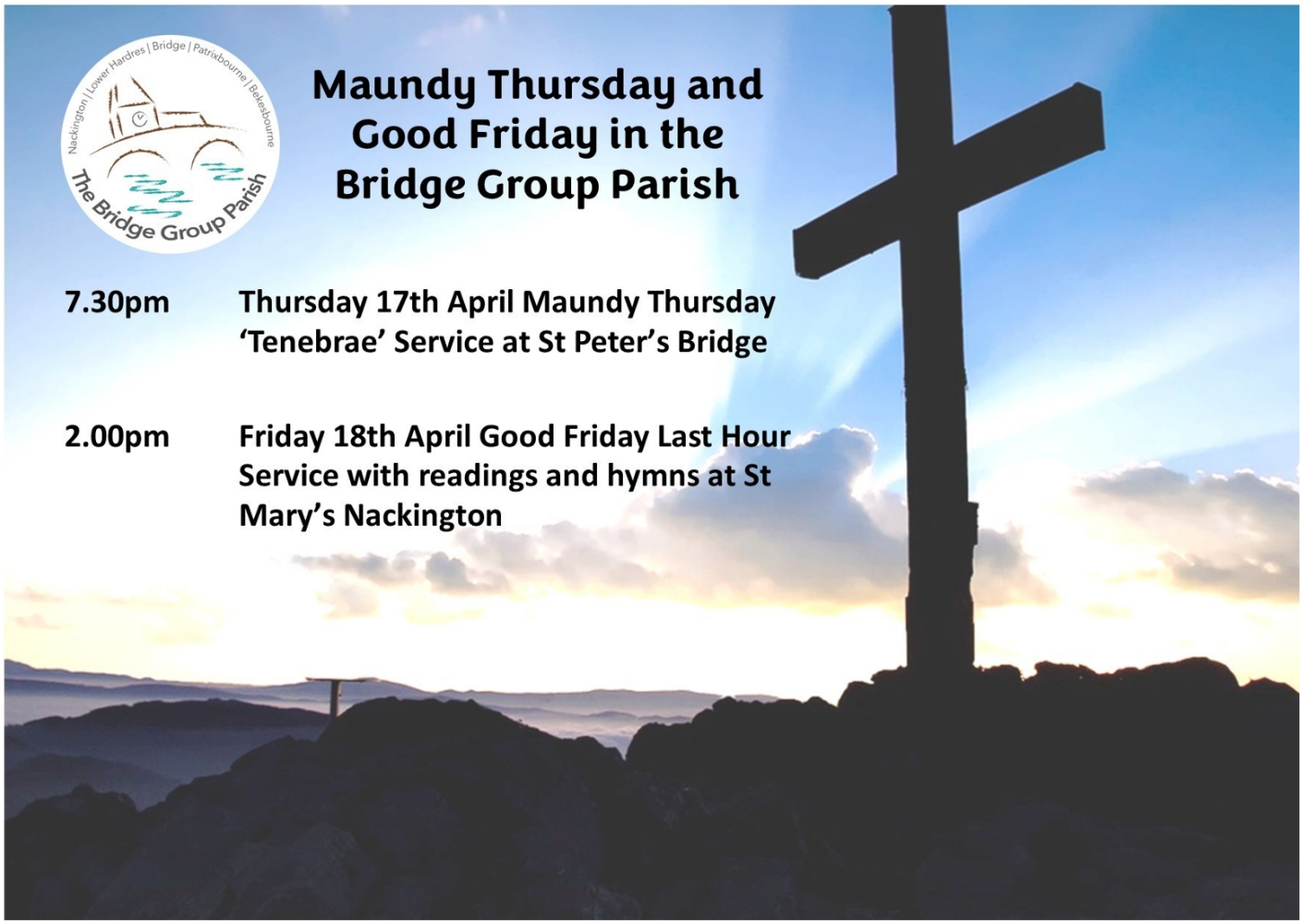
SPECIAL NOTICE – The Coffee & Cake Concert by Heledd Francis -Wright (Flute) planned for 19th April has had to be postponed due to family illness.

Palm Sunday in the Bridge Group Parish Sunday 13th April 2025



9.30am Meet at Bridge School to process to Bridge Church
(led by Banks the donkey!)
10am Palm Sunday Service with
Communion at Bridge Church.
All Welcome

Come to Bridge school at 9.30am 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!



Lent Groups 2025 - ‘Living Hope’

The Church of England’s theme this Lent is Living Hope. In life, God invites us to bring to him our own journey through everyday life. The hope God offers us is not wishful thinking. It is, as the Bible suggests, something alive – real, robust, rooted. In the disappointment of daily setbacks and the pain of deeper hurts, we discover that God is present with us through it all. And God promises a future where all things are healed and made new.

‘Living Hope is a booklet of Daily Reflections and we have copies of these for everyone to use at home with the opportunity to discuss with others at one of our group sessions together. (Donations to wards the cost of these booklets appreciated).

There will be 3 groups taking place each week, one in Bridge, one in Bekesbourne and one at The Old Dover Road. It would be great if you could choose a group and try to make it a regular commitment for the duration of Lent

There is also the book on which the reflections are based which is Wild Bright Hope (the SPCK Big Church Read Lent Book 2025) which is available to purchase from SPCK.

Groups will be:

Bridge – Monday afternoons 2. 30- 4pm
Old Dover Road – Tuesday mornings 10.30-12
Bekesbourne – Thursday afternoons 1.30-3pm

Contact Revd Estella (estellalast@gmail.com) for group details. If any-one would like to have the option of an evening session Revd Estella is happy to facilitate this either at The Vicarage or on Zoom for anyone unable to attend a daytime group.



Bridge Open Gardens

Save the Date

After last year's success Bridge Open Gardens will be held on 6 th July 2024.

We would love you to enter your garden - no garden too small.

Full details of the gardens which will be open will be available at the Church, from 10 30 am to 4 pm on the day, where refreshments will be served.

This is the second year and we hope more villagers will consider opening their gardens on this date for people to admire.

Bridge Allotment Association

PLANT AND SEED SWAP

Saturday 17th May
10am - 12 noon
Bridge Village Hall

A community event that brings together villagers to exchange plants, seeds, cuttings, gardening books and equipment.

The event is free of charge but if you would like to make a donation all profits will be donated to Canterbury Foodbank. Refreshments and children's activities will be available - offering a great opportunity to catch up with friends or make new connections.

www.bridge-allotments.co.uk



News From Bridge and Patrixbourne School
OPAL- Improving Playtimes

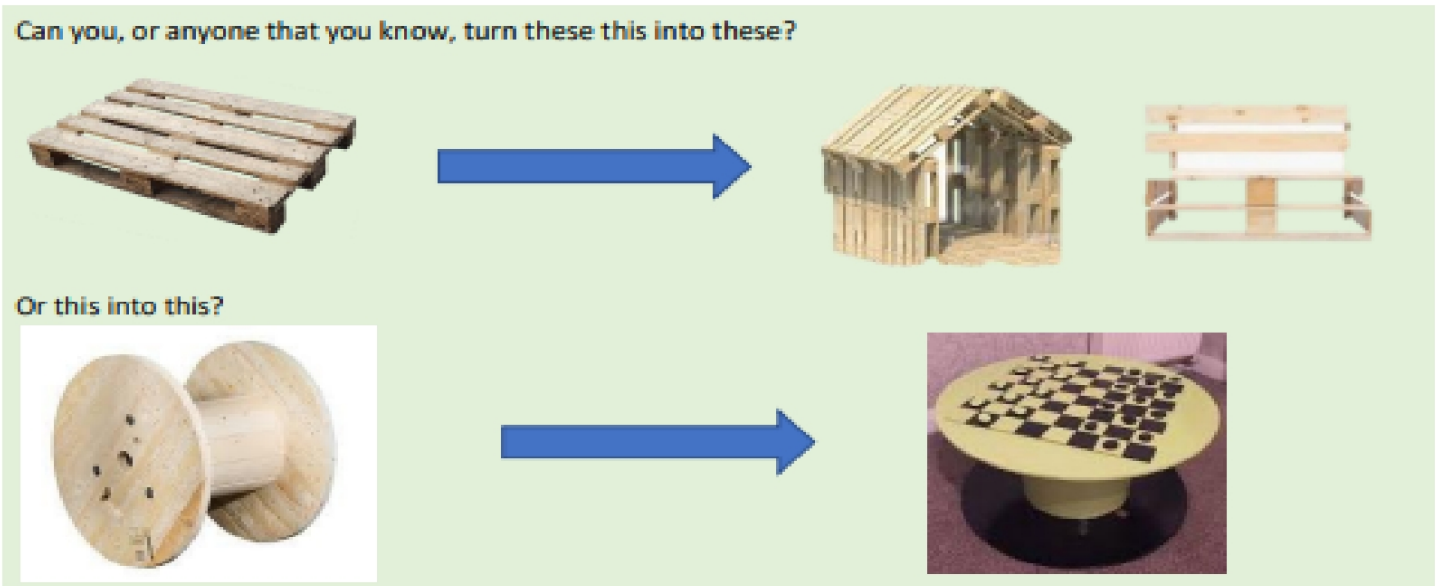
We know that the children have an amazing experience at Bridge School but we're also aware that where there are issues, they tend to come from the more unstructured times of the day, specifically break and lunchtime. These times can be challenging for a variety of reasons and since September, we have been looking into ways of making playtimes better for our children.

To help us, we have brought in the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) Primary Programme to assist in improve opportunities for play, make sure our outdoor environment provides the best range of experiences for the children and help our staff feel even more confident in helping all children have a great playtime every day. This means that soon our playtimes will be getting even more fun and we hope every child will love them.

We are really excited about this project and hope that the local community will support us in our efforts to improve playtime for all children. We are currently in the early stages of gathering resources to help facilitate the children's play and are looking for donation towards it.

We would very much appreciate any donation of items from the list below which can then be put on our **'OPAL Donations Table' f**ound in the main office or help with building the resources pictured. **Please note we cannot accept any sharp or glass items.**

Funnels Tubing Guttering Jugs/containers Bottle Saucepans Plastic Cups Gravel/Bark chippings/	Pots and Pans Utensils (no sharp items) Trays Cupcake/Cake tins Mixing Bowls Watering Cans Colander	Buckets Washing up bowls Hose Pipes Plastic bowls/plates Kettles Sieve Animals	Cars/Trains/other vehicles Trucks (small and large) Wooden Blocks/shapes Small wooden 'landscape' items (trees, houses, bushes etc.) Lego Shells/Pebbles/Rocks/Tree stumps









A few larger scale items that we are in need of!

You can find out more about Outdoor People, the non-profit that runs the OPAL programme across East London and East Kent, from their website: https://outdoorpeople.org.uk/. If you would like to contact the opal team to offer help or dontations please email the school office at office@bridge.kent.sch.uk

Many thanks for your support

The OPAL Team

National Vegetable Society – Kent District Association

Following its AGM in March, the National Vegetable Society returns to Bridge Village Hall on Wednesday 9 April for its 2025 season of talks when Steve Edney, who studied horticulture at Hadlow College and whose career in gardening has spanned some 30 years, will be giving an illustrated talk on "The Kitchen Garden". Steve was for some time head gardener at the well known Salutation Garden in Sandwich and has now created, with his partner Louise Dowle, the No Name Nursery near Sandwich out of a desire to share great garden plants with fellow garden lovers. Steve is a most entertaining and interesting speaker with a wealth of gardening knowledge. The starting time is 7.30 for 8.00 pm and everyone is welcome, entry is free and refreshments are available as well as a raffle and sales table.

Easter Lillies

Preparations are under way to decorate St.Peters church Bridge, for Easter. Anyone wishin g to buy a Lilly in memory of a loved the cost this year will be £4 each. Please contact Viv Brasier or a churchwarden. We will be arranging flowers from 10am on April 19th. Do come and join us, to see what we do with a possibility to join our team of arrangers. Sadly several of our team are not with us anymore and we desperately need new members. Thank you. Viv

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 11– 17 MAY 2025



Meet Aurelia from Guatemala

Guatemala is one of the 10 countries in the world rated most vulnerable to climate emergencies. Livelihoods, traditions and communities' very survival are threatened by deadly droughts, savage storms and industrial plantations that monopolise the water supply and deforest the land. Extreme weather is destroying Aurelia' farm.

More than half the population of Guatemala work in agriculture, yet it is a hunger hotspot. It has one of the highest rates globally of stunted development in children.

This year we mark the 80th anniversary of the end of World War 2 - but we also celebrate another 80th anniversary. For 80 years Christian Aid has been fighting poverty and injustice. It helps people in places of greatest need to overcome these challenges, with the generous support of individuals, churches and communities across the UK and Ireland.

Throughout the month of May this Parish will be raising money in several different ways to help Christian Aid continue this essential work.

Full details and more about Aurelia in next month's On the Nail.

Fish Scheme News

Do come to the Fish Coffee Pop-in at Bridge village hall on Friday April 11th from 10 to 11.15. Remember everyone from the surrounding villages is very welcome.
If you are finding the walk is getting a bit much just ring the Fish number 07935 966 080 and we will see what we can do.

Volunteers wanted



Bridge Speedwatch Scheme are looking for volunteers to support them in reducing speed and improving the safety on their roads with the support of the police.

Speedwatch is a community-based scheme where volunteers record speed of passing vehicles in the area where they live. Around **94%** of vehicles observed once by Speedwatch volunteers are not seen speeding again in the next 12 months within Kent.

CONTACT US

If you would like to join a group and help, please go to **www.communityspeedwatch.org** to register.

For more information, visit the Kent Police website **www.kent.police.uk/speedwatch**

Call **01622 653781**
or email Speedwatch@kent.police.uk

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Kent Police


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If your grandparents were married in one of our churches
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*optional extras are available at cost

St Peter's Church Bekesbourne

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For more information contact Nicky Fry

nicolafry@cscope.co.uk

Thank you.





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

Nailbourne Horticultural Society

At the beginning of March, the Society launched the first of its programme of events for 2025 with an illustrated talk, 'Celebration of Roses' by Geoff Chapman. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 6th May, 7.30 pm at Bridge Village Hall.** Lee Woodcock has been engaged to give a talk and a demonstration on **'Plant Propagation'**.

There will be a small entry fee to include refreshments.

Since we will not be having any Shows this year, we are asking members to bring along their pots of Chairman's Challenge Narcissus to the meeting in May. However, if you think your plant will be past its best by then, please bring a photograph of it instead.

Subscriptions

A gentle reminder that membership subscriptions are now due, i.e. £10 for single and £18 for joint membership. If you have not done so, there will be an opportunity to join at the next meeting.

We look forward to seeing you. Everyone is welcome!

Nailbourne Scout Group

If you have a child aged between six and eighteen who'd like to learn some new skills, make new friends and have lots of fun while doing it, have you considered the Scouting movement? We have groups from Beavers right through to Explorers and meet weekly in Bridge, Barham and the surrounding area. Activities range from craft and science experiments to rifle-shooting, archery and fire-lighting – not to mention camps and activity days!

If you'd like to help our young children to thrive and have a couple of hours a week spare, have you considered volunteering with the Scouting movement? We run entirely on volunteers, from leaders and helpers at sessions to fundraising to our executive committee, and we would really like some more help to enable us to continue to provide the opportunities that we do. If you might be able to help in any capacity, please let us know!

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, 7.00–8.30pm, Bridge Pavilion

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

Bridge & District History Society

Thursday April 17th at 7.30pm in Bridge Village Hall

Richborough

Paul Pattison is Senior Properties Historian at English Heritage. He will talk about the recent project at Richborough which includes an excavation of the amphitheatre site, a new museum and the simulation of a gateway to the Claudian fortification. Richborough is one of the most significant places of Roman Britain.

Please note the **Spring Social evening at the Red Lion** will be on Thursday May 1st. If you are interested in attending, you need to be a subscriber to the Society in order to receive an invitation.

Further details of all planned talks and an extensive archive of the history of Bridge can be found at www.bridgehistory.org.uk
All welcome. There is no membership fee. £4 at the door to include refreshments.



Bekesbourne Village Hall Coffee Morning

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month

10am to 11.30am

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(Gift Aid Officer)	Mrs Evelyn Andrews	01227-830960
	evepurlins@btinternet.com	
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PCC Treasurer:	bridge.gp.treasurer@gmail.com	
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To offer items for publication in this magazine, including event information, please contact Mrs Megan Shirley bridgegroupmagazine@gmail.com by the 15th day of the preceding month, ensuring that any emails and attachments are clearly titled to identify their content. Files should be submitted in .doc .pub or .jpg format. Posters should be A5 in size and both portrait and landscape versions provided.

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On the Nail

A magazine for the villages along the Nailbourne







MAY 2025

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May 2025

Dear Friends,

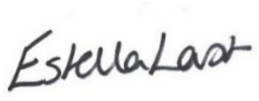
As I write we are in the middle of Holy Week contemplating the events of the last week of Jesus life as we journey with him to the Cross and ultimately to the joy of Easter. By the time you read this in early May though Easter will have been and gone and mostly the world will have moved on. In Church we will continue to be in 'Easter' mode for the duration of May with a liberal sprinkling of Alleluias! throughout our worship in the coming weeks as we celebrate the joy of the resurrection.

Similarly by the time you read this, our Annual Parochial Church meeting will have taken place. We will have reviewed and reflected on the year that was 2024, we will have assessed our financial situation and we will be looking ahead at what is to come in 2025. The other thing that we do at the APCM is thank all the volunteers who keep our churches going in all five of our villages, and welcome those newly appointed or elected to voluntary roles to help our churches. Without the love, care, time and energy of these people, you would not have access to beautiful church buildings in your villages as you do now. This work that has evolved over the decades and now involves not only opening and closing, dealing with repairs and maintenance, stewarding services and events, but also managing finances, preparing risk assessments, and undertaking safeguarding training in order to comply with all modern standards of public life and fulfil our calling to be a safe, welcoming space for all people.

And I do mean for all people. The Church of England seeks to exist as a church in every community and when I was licensed here in 2018 I was given by the Bishop the charge of the 'cure of souls' for every resident of the area that comprises our Benefice. The term cure means more than care (although all cure of souls is built on love). At its centre is the ministry of reconciliation between individuals and God and between people and communities through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Put in more simple terms, it simply means that my role is to pray for you all, to encourage you in your faith or in coming to faith and to be there for you in times when you are in need of spiritual guidance. It is though a shared ministry, and one which, especially in the context of serving five Villages, I cannot do alone. Having a part time curate over the past few years has been great but the contribution made by those who volunteer in each of our villages to support this work is vital now and will continue to be vital in the future.

This is not just about keeping the church going, it's about bringing a little bit of heaven to earth and answering our own prayers when we pray. 'Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven.' Our mission is to make the world a more joyful and care filled place which is what God wants. So, I invite you to prayerfully consider how God might be calling you to serve. Your time, talents, and willingness to help can make a lasting impact in our church family and beyond.

.Yours in Christ



Revd. Canon Estella Last, Vicar,
The Parish of the Bridge Group

P.S. Christian Aid week falls this month – details elsewhere in the magazine. This is just one of many ways we seek to share love and care more widely, please do give if you are able to!

Closure of Patrixbourne Church

Exciting news! Our extension work at St Mary's Patrixbourne has begun. This will mean that the church building will be closed to all visitors for approximately 6 months. During this time the graveyard will be open but we ask all visitors to take care as the North side of the church will be fenced off.

The foundation for the new extension is in!





Service details and readings for May 2025

Works to commence at St Mary's Nackington lasting approx. 5-6 weeks.			
4th May	Easter 3	Acts 9.1-6,(7-20); Revelation 5.11-14; John 21.1-19	**9.15am Said Eucharist followed by** **10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bekesbourne**
11th May	Easter 4 **Christian Aid Week starts**	Acts 9.36-43; Revelation 7.9-17; John 10.22-30	**10 am Parish Communion at St Peter's Bridge**
Saturday 17th May			**4-6pm Messy Church at Bridge School**
18th May	Easter 5	Acts 11.1-18; Revelation 21.1-6; John 13.31-35	**10am Traditional Sung Holy Communion at** **St Peter's Bridge**
25th May	Easter 6	Acts 16.9-15; Revelation 21.10,21.22-22.5; John 5.1-9	**10am Communion at St Mary's Lower Hardres**
Thursday 29th May	Ascension Day	Daniel 7:9-14 Acts 1:1-11 Ephesians 15:1-end Luke 24:44-end	**10am Communion Service at Bridge**
1st June	Sunday after Ascension (Easter 7) Environment Sunday	Acts 16.16-34; Revelation 22.12-14,16-17,20-21; John 17.20-26	**9.15am Said Eucharist followed by** **10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bekesbourne** ***{**Or if works at St Mary's Nackington are complete:*** ***8am/9am BCP Communion at St Mary's Nackington tbc*** ***10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bekesbourne}***

	MAY 2025
Thurs 1st	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 2nd	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church
Thurs 8th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 9th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 10 am Fish Scheme Coffee Pop in Bridge Village Hall
Mon 12th	2.30pm Caring and Sharing
Weds 14th	10-11.30am Bekesbourne Coffee Morning
Thurs 15th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 16th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 11am-12.30pm Lower Hardres Coffee Morning
Sat 17th	10.15am-11.30 Coffee, Cake and Concert at St Peter's Bridge. 4-5.30pm Messy Church at Bridge School
Mon 19th	1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground
Thurs 22nd	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 23rd	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church
Mon 28th	2.30pm Caring and Sharing
Thurs 29th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion- HALF TERM BREAK
Fri 30th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church- HALF TERM BREAK

Bekesbourne 100 Club



February

£50 Lesley Turner
£25 James Thompson
£15 Jenny Thompson

March

£50 David Durell
£25 Jane Mason
£15 James Thompson

April

£50 Barry Sharp
£25 Sue Gallagher
£15 Mike Fagg

If anyone would like to join the 100 Club then please contact Steve Thomas. Email stevelthomas91@gmail.com.

Membership is just £24 a year.

The 100 Club provides funds for the care and maintenance of St. Peter's Church in Bekesbourne. If you enjoy walking through the churchyard and its surroundings then please lend your support.

Fish News

The May Coffee Pop-in will be on Friday 9th in Bridge village hall from 10 to 11.15. All ages are welcome and bring a friend. Coffee or tea and a biscuit for 50p. Unbeatable.

The summer outing on Tuesday June 24th will be to Dobbies at Ashford. Owing to the generosity of matron Cornelia Slavin at K&C hospital who, years ago, left a generous legacy to the Fish Scheme, the lunch will be heavily subsidised. Forms will be at the May Pop-in and if you can't be there just ring 07935 966 080 and we will book you in.

Bridge & District History Society

Thursday May 15th Bridge Village Hall at 7.30pm

Gardening at Canterbury Cathedral

Thomas Goodall is the Head Gardener at Canterbury Cathedral. He will talk about the history of some of the Cathedral gardens, how these spaces are influencing the current gardens, their work around biodiversity and what it's like to oversee the gardens of this historic site.

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

More information at www.bridgehistory.org.uk

Bridge with Patrixbourne Womens Institute

At our AGM in March, the future of the WI Branch was discussed and unless we get some more members, our WI will be suspended at the end of the year. This will be very sad, as we have just celebrated our 105th year, but we cannot operate without a full working committee.

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday, 22nd April at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall. We have now commenced our summer schedule, when meetings will be held in the evenings. The talk is 'Sustainable Wardrobe', given by Helen Howard , which should give us some interesting ideas.

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

Joan Hill

April 2025



Bridge Open Gardens

Save the Date

After last year's success Bridge Open Gardens will be held on 6th July 2025.

We would love you to enter your garden - no garden too small.

Full details of the gardens which will be open will be available at the Church, from 10 30 am to 4 pm on the day, where refreshments will be served.

This is the second year and we hope more villagers will consider opening their gardens on this date for people to admire.

To enter your garden contact Rosy Atkinson
rosy.atkinson@btinternet.com

Bridge Allotment Association

PLANT AND SEED SWAP

Saturday 17th May
10am - 12 noon
Bridge Village Hall

A community event that brings together villagers to exchange plants, seeds, cuttings, gardening books and equipment.

The event is free of charge but if you would like to make a donation all profits will be donated to Canterbury Foodbank. Refreshments and children's activities will be available - offering a great opportunity to catch up with friends or make new connections.

www.bridge-allotments.co.uk



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 11-17 May 2025



In Guatemala Aurelia is fighting back against the disastrous effects of climate change with the help of Christian Aid's partner organisation Congcoop, by learning to grow resilient crops, make fertiliser and conserve water. She's sharing this knowledge with others, helping her whole community build a sustainable future.

Throughout the month of May our villages will be raising money in several different ways to support Christian Aid in this essential work:

An online e-envelope for individual donations, open until the end of May. Click on Bridge Group Parish - Christian Aid Fundraise

Donation envelopes in all churches (except Patrixbourne) during May.

Envelopes delivered in some roads for return to a central point.

A Coffee and Cake Concert on Saturday 17th May at 10am for 10.30am. in Bridge Church, featuring the Charlton Larks directed by Emily Renshaw-Kidd (see separate poster).

Please give generously if you can.

Friends of St Peter's Church, Bridge

COFFEE & CAKE & CONCERT

Saturday 17th May 10:15 to 11:30am



The Charlton Larks directed by Emily Renshaw-Kidd

This singing group presents an eclectic mix of songs, including some well-known favourites. Be prepared for some audience participation and a few laughs along the way. The harp will not be appearing!

Suggested donation £5, children free

Proceeds to Christian Aid

The Thursday Village Gardeners

Hello! And welcome to what we hope will be the first of many mini reports about the work of the Thursday Village gardening group.

Who are the Thursday Gardeners? Good question. We are a group of like-minded villagers who meet twice a month to try to improve some of the green spaces in the village. We follow in the footsteps of Barbara Beinder, and then Sue Hodges, who started creating some new green areas and bringing together people to care for them. A small friendly band of about 10 have been meeting over a number of years now but we're aware that some villagers are not aware of us.... hence this report!

So, what do we do? We plant up and maintain a number of green spaces around the village including the planters on the High Street, the borders around the pavilion on the recreation ground, the traffic calming islands, the border on the corner of the High Street and Conyngham Lane and the newly named Bridge Nature Garden at Green Court, our biggest project. Look out for *Fritillaria meleagris* in the nature garden and the native tulip, *Tulipa sylvestris*, followed by *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*, the native daffodil, and the native bluebell, *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*.... all planted in the part of the garden which we garden with a lighter touch.

In the autumn we planted hundreds of bulbs at all our sites so look out for those this spring.

We've been spreading wood chip as a mulch at the nature garden this spring to help with weed suppression and to retain moisture in the summer. Many, many thanks to Mike from Citadel Ground Services for donating the majority of the woodchip.

We are always looking for new volunteers to help us. If you think you might be interested, contact us for a chat. You can drop in and out as suits you, no compulsion to come every time. You will be very welcome, and also to come along for excellent coffee at Flo and Ted's after.

Contact Pam on WhatsApp 07561 560871


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If your parents lived in our parish for six months
If your grandparents were married in one of our churches
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Nackington | Lower Hardres | Bridge | Patrixbourne | Bekesbourne
The Bridge Group Parish
*optional extras are available at cost

NAILBOURNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 6th May, 7.30 pm at Bridge Village Hall**, when Lee Woodcock will give a talk and a demonstration on **'Plant Propagation'**. There will be a small entry fee to include refreshments.

As we will not be having any Shows this year, we are asking members to bring along their pots of Chairman's Challenge Narcissus to this meeting. However, if your plant has passed its 'sell by date' by then, please bring a photograph of it instead.

Subscriptions

A gentle reminder that if you have not already paid membership subscriptions, (£10 for single and £18 for joint membership), there will be an opportunity to do so at the meeting. We look forward to seeing you. Everyone is welcome!



David Spencer 22.05.1945-03.03.2025.



I would like to say a big thank to everyone who sent cards, and tributes to me in memory of David.

I would also like to say thank you for the meals that were made for me whilst David was unwell and in hospital and for the many flowers I have received.

David had been a resident of Bridge for 55 years and loved living in the village.
Penny Spencer.

Thank you

I would like to thank all the many friends who so kindly sent cards and letters of condolence on the death of my husband John Hill. Your words of comfort and support have greatly helped me get through a difficult time. I am unable to reply to all those who kindly wrote, but be assured they have been a great comfort to myself and my family.

Joan Hill

Ride and Stride

After another successful year rasing over £150,000 the Team at Ride and Stride are looking for two new volunteers to join their committee. They are in need of a new secretary and a new treasurer. If you are interested in finding out more about the roles please email the church office at bridgeoffice23@gmail.com for a full job description.





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

If you missed the Nailbourne Horticultural Society talk on Tuesday 6th May, then you have the chance to hear the same talk on "Plant Propagation, including Fruit" the following week at the Vegetable Society's meeting on Wednesday 14 May when Lee Woodcock, the Propagation and Potting Manager for Palmstead Nurseries at Wye will again be giving practical advice on the subject. The start time is 7.30 for 8.00 pm in Bridge Village Hall and, as always, everyone is welcome, entry is free and refreshments are available as well as a raffle to raise funds

DO YOU ENJOY SINGING?



There has been a choir at St Peter's, Bridge, since the 19 th 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 are particularly in need of someone to sing bass, either as a regular or to stand in when one of our two basses is not available.

The choir sings at two 10am Sunday services each month, one at Bridge and one at Lower Hardres, plus occasional evening services, weddings and funerals. Rehearsals are at Bridge Church on Fridays from 5pm to 6pm. but this could be flexible.

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.



Bekesbourne Village Hall Coffee Morning

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Chaplain:	Mrs Miriam Westendarp	01227 206272
Administrator:	Mrs Megan Shirley	bridgeoffice23@gmail.com
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St Mary's Patrixbourne with St Peter's Bridge

Churchwardens:	Dr Andrea Nicholson	01227-830947
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(Gift Aid Officer)	Mrs Evelyn Andrews	01227-830960
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To offer items for publication in this magazine, including event information, please contact Mrs Megan Shirley bridgegroupmagazine@gmail.com by the 15th day of the preceding month, ensuring that any emails and attachments are clearly titled to identify their content. Files should be submitted in .doc .pub or .jpg format. Posters should be A5 in size and both portrait and landscape versions provided.

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On the Nail

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The Bridge Group Parish

A magazine for the villages along the Nailbourne







JUNE 2025

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June 2025

Dear Friends,

I wonder whether you, like millions around the world, spent several days last week glued to a live- stream of Italian seagulls sitting on and around a chimney. I mean, when you put it like that it doesn't sound too exciting, but the chimney in question was above the Sistine Chapel where the Papal Conclave were gathered to elect a new Pope – a context which imbued the chimney with a little more gravitas than most!

I was inspired to finally watch the film 'Conclave' (having read the book many years ago – read it if you haven't it's much better than the film!) and,, it was tempting to imagine that those fictional dramas were playing out in real life. Thankfully it didn't take very long for the white smoke to emerge – it was a teenager in our house who called down from upstairs 'White smoke!!' and then just an hour or so later the first appearance of Pope Leo XIV to the great rejoicing of the people gathered outside St Peter's Basilica and around the world.

Somewhat under the radar, while the 133 cardinals were sequestered away in the Vatican, the Church of England released its own press release with an update on the process of appointing a new Archbishop of Canterbury. In it they noted that more than 11,000 people, including over a thousand children from Church schools, have participated in consultations which will inform the work of the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) as they look to make that appointment.

I wonder if you were one of those 11,000 people? And if you were I wonder what suggestions you made or on reflection what sort of person you think we might need to steer the church of England for the next perhaps 10 years of so? The Anglican church has a complex consultative process for nominating a new Archbishop. Lots of meetings take place before anything is decided, but once they have decided on a 'person specification' and 'role profile', longlisted, shortlisted, interviewed, and appointed someone, then we will finally have a new Archbishop of Canterbury – likely towards the end of this year, around a year after Justin Welby's resignation.

The differences between the two processes are stark: The Catholic Church took just 17 days to appoint a new leader whereas the Church of England will have taken over a year. Just 133 men (and presumably the Holy Spirit!) had a say in the appointment of the Pope whereas thousands of people of all ages and genders have had a say in the appointment of the Archbishop. The Papal Conclave had seagulls, Canterbury… well we have those too, but they won't get their 15 minutes of fame.

Whatever we think of these two approaches, I certainly don't envy anyone who is in consideration for either role. Ultimately Pope Leo and whoever is eventually appointed as the next Archbishop of Canterbury need our prayers – it's a tough vocation to follow but someone has to do it.

My prayer is that they may be peace-makers, bridge-builders, power-challengers, and truth-speakers who can use their voices to speak on behalf of the poor and marginalised, and offer hope to a broken world, just as Jesus did. That's not a bad prayer to pray for ourselves as well.

.

Yours in Christ



Revd. Canon Estella Last, Vicar,
The Parish of the Bridge Group

Closure of Patrixbourne Church

Here are the latest photos of the extension at St Mary's Patrixbourne







Service details and readings for June 2025

1st June	Sunday after Ascension (Easter 7) Environment Sunday	Acts 16.16-34; Revelation 22.12-14,16-17,20-21; John 17.20-26	**9am Said Eucharist followed by 10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bekesbourne**
8th June	Pentecost	Acts 2.1-21; Genesis 11.1-9; John 14.8-17,(25-27)	**10 am Parish Communion at St Peter's Bridge**
15th June	Trinity Sunday / Father's Day	Proverbs 8.1-4,22-31; Romans 5.1-5; John 16.12-15	**10am Traditional Sung Holy Communion at St Mary's Nackington**
Saturday 21st June			**4-6pm Messy Church at Bridge School**
22nd June	1st Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 65.1-9; Galatians 3.23-29; Luke 8.26-39	**10am Communion at St Mary's Lower Hardres**
29th June	2nd Sunday after Trinity / St Peter (Patronal)	Ezekiel 3:22-end; Acts 12:1-11; 1 Peter 2:19-end; Matthew 16: 13-19	**10am Benefice Service at St Peter's Bridge**
6th July	3rd Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 66.10-14; Galatians 6.(1-6),7-16; Luke 10.1-11, 16-20	**9am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington** **10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bekesbourne**

	June 2025
Thurs 5th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 6th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church
Mon 9th	2.30pm Caring and Sharing
Weds 11th	10-11.30am Bekesbourne Coffee Morning
Thurs 12th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 13th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 10am Fish Scheme Pop in at Bridge Village Hall
Thurs 19th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 20th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 11am-12.30pm Lower Hardres Coffee Morning
Sat 21st	10.15am-11.30 Coffee, Cake and Concert at St Peter's Bridge. 4-5.30pm Messy Church at Bridge School
Mon 23rd	2.30pm Caring and Sharing
Thurs 26th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 27th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church

Advance dates for July

6th July– Bridge Open Gardens

12th July– Bridge Village Fete.

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National Vegetable Society – Kent District Association

The subject of the talk at the next meeting of the Society on Wednesday 11th June is likely to appeal to a number of you. Stephen Harmer, a well-respected garden historian, author and experienced lecturer, will be giving a talk on the History of Sissinghurst Castle and Grounds. The start time is 7.30 for 8.00 pm in Bridge Village Hall and, as always, everyone is welcome, entry is free and refreshments are available as well as a raffle to raise funds.


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Bridge Open Gardens

Save the Date

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We would love you to enter your garden - no garden too small.

Full details of the gardens which will be open will be available at the Church, from 10 30 am to 4 pm on the day, where refreshments will be served.

This is the second year and we hope more villagers will consider opening their gardens on this date for people to admire.

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A variety of seasonal readings and songs including some with audience

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Proceeds to the Bridge Village Playgroup

The Thursday Village Gardeners

This month we celebrate the longest day on the 21st when there are maximum daylight hours for our beautiful plants to absorb.

We're always looking to plant drought tolerant plants at all our sites as we prepare for increasingly hot and dry summers. As gardeners at home this might mean stepping up our watering slightly but for the Thursday Gardeners we are often far from a water source so need to plant with this in mind. The one exception to this is the planters on the High Street (opposite The Bridge Arms) which in the past have been filled with wonderful summer bedding plants . These unfortunately require daily watering which we struggle to manage. If you live near the planters and would like to be part of a watering rota, or indeed would like to plant or maintain these, we would love to hear from you.

This month look out for *Leucanthemum vulgare* (Ox eye daisies) at the Bridge Nature Garden and by the allotment site. Also in the Nature Garden and around Western Avenue/ Green Court are the beautiful *Geranium pyreniacum* (Hedgerow Cranesbill) with gorgeous delicate purple flowers plus the amazing *Tragopogon* or Salsify with stunning flowers.

At the Conyngham Lane/ High Street border the orange *Geums* should still be making a show alongside the cultivated cow parsley, *Anthriscus sylvestris* with gorgeous purple stems. *Nepeta and Lavandula* and the woody *Salvias* should also be strutting their stuff soon.

Enjoy the blooms.... planted by us.... for everyone to enjoy.

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Bridge Village Summer Fete

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Nailbourne Scout Group news

As we move well and truly into spring and towards summer, Nailbourne Scout Group have been making the most of the weather and starting to incorporate more outdoor activities into sessions.

Beavers have been scavenging to find sticks to make a fire, before cooking (and eating!) marshmallows. They have used newly learned knot skills to create a mini sculpture trail. They have also been learning pottery skills, making decorative tiles and coiled pots, and done some drama based around the story of St George.

Cubs have made s'mores on a campfire, gone on a late spring walk and launched rockets propelled by the air pressure generated by Cubs and a bike pump! They have also been working on their DIY badge and had the opportunity to drill, saw and paint to make personalised coat hooks.

Scouts have been working on their fire-lighting skills with a bonfire, plus some outdoor games. They have also been working on their photography badge, starting with support from the Fifth Trust to make cyanotypes, and have been outside taking nature-inspired photographs.

Many of our Explorers have had to take a break, due to GCSE exams, so the group has taken the opportunity to pair up with Littlebourne Explorers for a range of activities, including pioneering, cooking on trangias, and navigating and tracking in teams, as well as board games.

Recent group events include the St George's Day parade through Canterbury, followed by a service in the cathedral. Nailbourne Group was represented by young people from all four sections. Twenty of our Beavers and Cubs also took part in an adventure day at Lower Grange Farm in Maidstone, where they had fun zorbing, climbing, axe throwing, crawling around a cave bus, doing archery, remote-controlling power boats and doing an assault course. It will be Scouts and Explorers' turn in August, when they spend a week camping at the Kent International Jamboree at Detling and taking part in all sorts of exciting events! They are currently busy thinking of ways to raise funds for this.

As always, we are still looking for volunteers to lead and help in our sessions, with Beavers and Explorers in particular need of support (both on Wednesday evenings).

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, 7.00–8.30pm, Bridge Pavillion

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

'How artists and garden designers lead us up the garden path' was an intriguing title for our talk in May, which many members were looking forward to, and were not disappointed.

On Tuesday, 17th June at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Judi Knight will be talking on **'Fashion and Ration'.**

WI always welcomes new members. We are a small, friendly group who enjoy learning about all sorts of subjects from our different speakers, with social time for chat and refreshments, so do come along and find out for yourselves.

For more details, please contact the President Sheila Scrivener on 01227-831788,

Joan Hill

May 2025





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We are particularly in need of someone to sing bass, either as a regular or to stand in when one of our two basses is not available.

The choir sings at two 10am Sunday services each month, one at Bridge and one at Lower Hardres, plus occasional evening services, weddings and funerals. Rehearsals are at Bridge Church on Fridays from 5pm to 6pm. but this could be flexible.

You don't need to be an expert, just able to keep in time and sing in tune!

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Curate:	Rev. Miriam Hinksman	07423-735398 bridgecurate@gmail.com
Chaplain:	Mrs Miriam Westendarp	01227 206272
Administrator:	Mrs Megan Shirley	bridgeoffice23@gmail.com
Safeguarding Officer:	Rosemary Whatley	01227-206272

St Mary's Patrixbourne with St Peter's Bridge

Churchwardens:	Dr Andrea Nicholson	01227-830947
	Mrs Pauline Pritchard	01227-830685
	Mr Laurence Dunderdale	01227-830668
	laurence.dunderdale@gmail.com	
(Gift Aid Officer)	Mrs Evelyn Andrews	01227-830960
	evepurlins@btinternet.com	
PCC Secretary:	Mr Rory Wetherell	01227-830318
PCC Treasurer:	bridge.gp.treasurer@gmail.com	
Christian Aid/Organist	Mrs Jean Barber	01227-831956

St Peter's Bekesbourne

Churchwarden	Mrs Nicky Fry	01227-830319
	nicolafry@cscope.co.uk	
PCC Finance Team:	Mrs Zan Clifford	01227-830328
Tower Captain:	Mrs Gill Moon	01227-832134

To advertise in this magazine, please contact stevelthomas91@gmail.com 01227-832573

To offer items for publication in this magazine, including event information, please contact Mrs Megan Shirley bridgegroupmagazine@gmail.com by the 15th day of the preceding month, ensuring that any emails and attachments are clearly titled to identify their content. Files should be submitted in .doc .pub or .jpg format. Posters should be A5 in size and both portrait and landscape versions provided.

Benefice Website: www.bridgechurchgroup.co.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/bridgecanterbury
Youtube: www.youtube.com/channel/UCkTHbcWKzsIHJAuYcuMoOdQ
Cover photos: Mrs Megan Shirley and Dr Daniel Edward Young

On the Nail

A magazine for the villages along the Nailbourne







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The Bridge Group Parish

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July/August 2025

Dear Friends,

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest" – Matthew 11:28

As we step fully into the warmth and light of July, there is a shift in the rhythm of our days. Schools begin their summer holidays, diaries slow down, and many of us look forward to a change of pace. This seasonal pause is more than just a break from routine—it's an invitation to rest, reflect, and reconnect. In Scripture, God offers us the gift of *Sabbath*—not simply as a day, but as a way of being, a rhythm of grace. Summer, in many ways, invites us to enter into a kind of sabbath season.

This is a time to set aside busyness, to resist the culture of constant productivity, and to embrace rest—not as idleness, but as a sacred posture. Whether we find that rest in the quiet of our gardens, in walks along the countryside, or simply in lingering over a cup of tea, may we let the slower pace restore our souls and draw us closer to God. Let this be a time where we allow ourselves to simply *be*—to enjoy God's creation, to be thankful, and to listen for His still, small voice.

Yet even as many take holidays and travel, the Church remains. What a gift it is to live where every village has a church building at its heart! These sacred spaces, with their ancient stones, quietly proclaim God's presence in every community. Maintained by generations of villagers, they stand as reminders that God is near, that prayer is ongoing, and that worship continues—week by week, season by season.

These church buildings are more than landmarks; they are homes for worshipping communities. Within them, the faithful gather to sing, pray, break bread, and support one another. Even in quieter summer months, the gathered Body of Christ is alive. Every Sunday at 10am we worship together in one of our beautiful churches (To find out when and where – see the Service Grid elsewhere in the magazine). When you join us for worship, you are part of something deeply rooted and wide-reaching. You join voices that have echoed in these walls for centuries, and you add your presence to a living tradition of faith.

So this Summer, whether you are travelling or staying close to home, make time to step into your local church. Even if just for a few moments of prayer or a quiet sit in the stillness, let these buildings serve their purpose: to be a place of encounter with the Holy. And when Sunday comes, come as you

May this summer bring you sabbath rest, a renewed spirit, and the joy of belonging to a community that worships together, week by week, under the gaze of our loving God.

Yours in Christ



.

Revd. Canon Estella Last, Vicar,
The Parish of the Bridge Group

Flower Volunteers

I have been happily organising the St. Peters church Bridge flowers for over 35years but now the present format is not sustainable.
Many arrangers are now no longer available for different reasons and very few new arrangers are joining us. If the numbers do not increase fresh flowers in the church will be for special occasions only. This seems such a pity in a village this size when all that is asked is be responsible for one vase for 2 weeks per year! I am very happy to help any new comers, so please, if you appreciate the flowers in your church, that miraculously appear every week, leave you name and contact details with Estella or a churchwarden. In a few weeks, artificial flowers will be the answer.

Viv





Service details and readings for July - August 2025

6th July	3rd Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 66.10-14; Galatians 6.(1-6),7-16; Luke 10.1-11,16-20	**9am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington** **10am Songs of Praise Pet Service St Peter's Bekesbourne**
13th July	4th Sunday after Trinity	Deuteronomy 30.9-14; Colossians 1.1-14; Luke 10.25-37	**10 am Parish Communion at St Peter's Bridge**
20th July	5th Sunday after Trinity	Genesis 18.1-10a; Colossians 1.15-28; Luke 10.38-42	**10am Traditional Sung Holy Communion at St Peter's Bekesbourne** **6pm Hymns and Pimms at St Peter's Bridge**
27th July	6th Sunday after Trinity	Genesis 18.20-32; Colossians 2.6-15,(16-19); Luke 11.1-13	**10am Benefice Communion St Mary's Lower Hardres**
3rd August	7th Sunday after Trinity	Ecclesiastes 1.2,12-14; 2.18-23; Colossians 3.1-11; Luke 12.13-21	**10am Benefice Communion St Peter's Bekesbourne**
10th August	8th Sunday after Trinity	Genesis 15.1-6; Hebrews 11.1-3,8-16; Luke 12.32-40	**10am Benefice Communion St Peter's Bridge**
17th August	9th Sunday after Trinity	Jeremiah 23.23-29; Hebrews 11.29 – 12.2; Luke 12.32-40	**10am Benefice Communion St Mary's Nackington**
24th August	10th Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 58.9b-14; Hebrews 12.18-29; Luke 13.10-17	**10am Benefice Communion St Mary's Lower Hardres**
31st August	11th Sunday after Trinity	Proverbs 25.6-7; Hebrews 13.1-8,15-16; Luke 14.1,7-14	**10am Benefice Service at St Peter's Bridge**

	July 2025
Thurs 3rd	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 4th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church
Sat 5th	12.30-3.30pm Summer Lunch Party at Old Palace
Sun 6th	9am-5pm Open Gardens in Bridge 6-9pm Hymns and Pimms Parish Social
Weds 9th	10-11.30am Bekesbourne Coffee Morning
Thurs 10th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 11th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 10am Fish Scheme Pop in at Bridge Village Hall
Sat 12th	12-4pm Bridge Village Fete
Mon 14th	2.30pm Caring and Sharing
Thurs 17th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion- Last one before Summer break
Fri 18th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church- Last one before Summer break 11am-12.30pm Lower Hardres Coffee Morning
Mon 28th	2.30pm Caring and Sharing

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Fish Scheme

The Fish scheme Coffee Pop-ins will be on Friday July11th and Friday August 8th from 10 to 11.15 in Bridge village hall. Do come and meet others from our villages. The number for lifts is 07935 966 080



Bridge with Patrixbourne Womens Institute

Our June talk was a return visit from Judi Knight, who gave a fascinating talk on 'Fashion and Ration'.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 15th July, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, when members are asked to bring along a special piece of jewellery, or something which they treasure, and to talk briefly about it.

Details of our Summer Outing planned for **Tuesday, 19th August,** will be announced soon.

WI always welcomes new members. We are a small, friendly group who enjoy learning about all sorts of subjects from our different speakers, with social time for chat and refreshments, so do come along and find out for yourselves.

For more details, please contact the President Sheila Scrivener on 01227-831788,

Joan Hill

June 2025

Bekesbourne 100 Club



May
£50 Sarah Wetherell
£25 Jane Millyard
£15 Mary Evans

June
£50 Nicky Fry
£25 Phil Denne
£15 Charlie Chester

If anyone would like to join the 100 Club then please contact Steve Thomas. Email stevelthomas91@gmail.com.
Membership is just £24 a year.

The 100 Club provides funds for the care and maintenance of St. Peter's Church in Bekesbourne. If you enjoy walking through the churchyard and its surroundings then please lend your support.

Bridge Open Gardens

Save the Date

After last year's success Bridge Open Gardens will be held on 6th July 2025.

We would love you to enter your garden - no garden too small.

Full details of the gardens which will be open will be available at the Church, from 10 30 am to 4 pm on the day, where refreshments will be served.

This is the second year and we hope more villagers will consider opening their gardens on this date for people to admire.

To enter your garden contact Rosy Atkinson
rosy.atkinson@btinternet.com

BRIDGE CHURCH RECYCLING STATION



Our medication blister pack recycling facility in Bridge Church entrance is proving extremely popular with people in the village and it is often overflowing.

At present four volunteers take the blister packs weekly for recycling at Superdrug in Canterbury, but after Revd Miriam finishes her curacy in August we will be down to three. We could really do with two or more other people to join the rota so that we three don't have to take them into town quite so often.

If you can help please speak to Jean Barber or one of the Church-wardens. Many thanks.

Bridge Group Parish Eco Church Team

Bridge Village Open Gardens
with small art exhibition in the church

July 6th 10.30am - 4pm

Open Gardens from 10.30am
maps and refreshments
available from church

Donations to Christian Aid Welcome.

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CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2025



THANK YOU

Many thanks to all the volunteers and donors who raised money for our Bridge Parish Christian Aid Week Appeal this year.

The final total collected amounted to **£1,501** which with Gift Aid added will bring the total to over £2,000.

This will help inspirational farmer and community leader Aurelia and others like her to fight back against the gruelling heatwaves, savage storms and unpredictable seasons that are ravaging farms in the Indigenous Q'eqchi' communities of Guatemala.

Christian Aid's work continues across the world, from war-torn Gaza to ongoing sustainable development projects in Africa and Asia. With the cut in our government's overseas aid budget Christian Aid and many other international development charities are having to work harder to fill the gap and meet the needs of the world's poorest people.

If you would like to give further support, members of the Canterbury Christian Aid Group are walking the St Augustine Way from Ramsgate to Canterbury on the 16th July to raise funds. To sponsor them please go to their Just Giving page John Ward is fundraising for Christian Aid



The Thursday Village Gardeners

We planted up the High Street planters in the middle of June, and hopefully by the time you read this, the plants will be established and flourishing. If they are it will be largely due to the villagers who responded to our request for help with watering there. We now have a small group who are going to water as part of a rota. We are so grateful.

This year we have planted up using the 'Thrillers, Fillers and Spillers' planting concept. Our 'Thriller' is the rather glorious *Ensete*, a member of the banana family with glorious foliage. *Begonias, Geraniums* and *Dahlias* form the 'Fillers' and *Ipomeas* are the 'Spillers'. Our colour scheme is hot oranges and reds with an exotic feel to the foliage. We have added Ollas to these planters this season to aid watering. An Olla, pronounced Oya in Spanish, is basically an unglazed clay pot beneath the soil with a small amount above the ground and filled with water. The water then leeches out of the tiny holes or pores in the clay and is pulled through the soil to the roots of the plants. The system is very old and has been used by many cultures over thousands of years. We are hoping it will work for us and reduce watering by as much as 70%. Fingers crossed.

Bridge Nature Garden continues to struggle with the lack of water but after an evening storm a few days before I wrote this even the wilting *Pilosella* aurantica, or Orange Hawkweed, seems to have pulled through. Nature providing for us.

The long High Street border is managing well in the dry conditions and drought tolerant plants like *Nepeta*, *Phlomis*, *Salvia* and *Foeniculum* are coping well. Look out for the *Gaura* this month as it blooms and the tall grass *Calamagrostis* sways with it gently in the breeze.



Enjoy the plants.... planted by us... for us all to take joy in.

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Bridge Village Summer Fete

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Bridge Village Hall Management Committee

In late May the BVHMC held their AGM. At this meeting the current Chair, Jenny Vye and Secretary, Mark Esdale stood down. Both have served on the committee for many years and have dedicated many many hours to ensure the smooth running of a well used community asset. Please join us in sending our thanks to them both for their service to our village.

The new committee are

Alan Atkinson Chair

Jennifer Heap Treasurer

Scott Shirley Secretary

Megan Shirley Booking Secretary

Please bear with us while we learn the ropes from Mark!

Many thanks

Bridge Village Hall Management Committee

The League of Friends of the Kent and Canterbury Hospital

Our AGM was held on Wednesday 14th May 2025 at 62 High Street, Bridge. Thanks to our Nailbourne Friends and those who have given donations or supported our group in other ways. Our income in the year ended 31 December 2024 was £11,108 – partly thanks to a generous donation from a local resident. This enabled us to purchase equipment for the hospital totalling £13008.

We welcome donations of used stamps and coins - over £180 was raised last year. These may be left in the collection box in the Church foyer.

Future fund raising events include the **Annual Summer Fair** at the Hospital on Saturday 19th July ; and a talk about the **Romney-Hythe Railway** by Alan Walton on 29th October.

We would welcome anyone interested in joining the group - please contact Maggie Fairweather on 01227 830320.


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Littlebourne & District Royal British Legion

We held a small but enjoyable meeting this month due to holiday absences and are having a quiet time at present. We will not be having a meeting in July but will be back to normal after that with some social activities planned for the autumn.

Anyone that needs to contact us can find the Committee telephone numbers in our notice board on the left of the main Littlebourne Hall door. Our next monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, 12 August at 8pm in the Recreation Club - to the right behind the Hall.

DO YOU ENJOY SINGING?



There has been a choir at St Peter's, Bridge, since the 19 th 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 are particularly in need of someone to sing bass, either as a regular or to stand in when one of our two basses is not available.

The choir sings at two 10am Sunday services each month, one at Bridge and one at Lower Hardres, plus occasional evening services, weddings and funerals. Rehearsals are at Bridge Church on Fridays from 5pm to 6pm. but this could be flexible.

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.

National Vegetable Society – Kent District Association

Well known and respected Kent speaker, ecologist and expert on everything wildlife, Martin Newcombe, is returning to Bridge Village Hall to give a talk entitled "Fungi to be With" on Wednesday 13 August. The start time is 7.30 for 8.00 pm, everyone is welcome, refreshments are available, and entry is free, although it would be much appreciated if you would buy raffle tickets to help raise funds for the Society..

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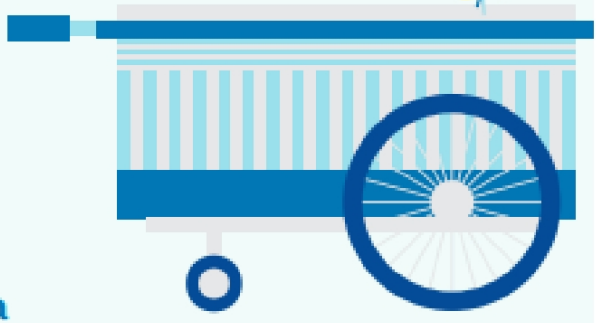
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To offer items for publication in this magazine, including event information, please contact Mrs Megan Shirley bridgegroupmagazine@gmail.com by the 15th day of the preceding month, ensuring that any emails and attachments are clearly titled to identify their content. Files should be submitted in .doc .pub or .jpg format. Posters should be A5 in size and both portrait and landscape versions provided.

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On the Nail

A magazine for the villages along the Nailbourne







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The Bridge Group Parish

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September 2025

Dear Friends,

As is often the way with writing my letter for the Parish Magazine, I am writing this so far in advance that by the time you read it, the summer holidays will be over, and we will all be contemplating whatever normal life looks like in September – even though I haven't had my summer holiday yet!

This week, in the last of our Bible Study sessions where we had focussed on The Lord's Prayer, we strayed into the territory of whether you can be a Christian without going to church. Many would I suspect like to assert that you can, that living out Christian values, is something anyone can do and maybe that's true to a certain extent, but I think it depends on whether we see being a Christian as merely a statement that is rather than as a development of us as person. For me, the important bit of being a Christian is the 'being', it's an active thing.

What do I mean? Well can you be an athlete without ever training? Can you be a dancer without ever dancing? Whilst the 'being' of being an athlete is honed in the arena of training and the 'being' of being a dancer or a singer is honed in the arena of the rehearsal room. Where is the 'being' of being a Christian honed? How do we keep ourselves safe in our beliefs, how do we continue to grow in the face of all life throws at us, all that might or could derail our faith, if not in the company of others, if not in exploration of word and sacrament, if not in the fellowship of others who similarly wrestle with what 'being' a Christian means in a world which seems manifestly unjust and determined to derail the faith of those who have it?

And here is the wonderful flip side of all of this, you can train all the hours you can and never make it as an athlete, you can rehearse as much as you like and never make it as a dancer or a singer. Churches are not made up of perfect Christlike Christians who have all the answers, but they are made up of worthy people all seeking a better way. A way of life that puts the needs of others at least on a par with our own if not above them ('love your neighbour as yourself', right?). A way of life that says all life is precious because all are created in the very image of God. A way of life that says all people are fallible and yet all people are loved and forgiven.

Churchgoing is about being in community with other Christians, singing, worshiping, studying scripture and yes questioning. It's about gathering around a table and sharing the most basic elements of a meal, bread and wine, in recognition of our fundamental need of sustenance both physical and spiritual. And it's about prayer, finding our connection with the divine, seeking the will of God that brings Kingdom glimpses into our everyday life.

.

To be a Christian means to walk in the light. Walking in the light means walking with others who are striving for the same thing. When we purposely place ourselves among other Christians, there is accountability, friendship, mutual building up of one another, love for one another, instruction for one another, and ways to serve one another. This is church, this is where the 'being' of a Christian is honed.

Yours in Christ



Revd. Canon Estella Last, Vicar,
The Parish of the Bridge Group

	September 2025
Thurs 4rd	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 5th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church
Mon 8th	2.30pm Caring and Sharing
Weds 10th	10-11.30am Bekesbourne Coffee Morning
Thurs 11th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 12th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 10am Fish Scheme Pop in at Bridge Village Hall
Sat 13th	Ride and Stride
Thurs 18th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 19th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 11am-12.30pm Lower Hardres Coffee Morning
Mon 22nd	2.30pm Caring and Sharing
Thurs 25th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 26th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church

Service details and readings for September 2025

7th September	12th Sunday after Trinity (Creation Season starts)	Deuteronomy 30.15-20; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14.25-33	**9am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington** **10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bekesbourne**
14th September **Education Sunday**	13th Sunday after Trinity	Exodus 32.7-14; 1 Timothy 1.12-17; Luke 15.1-10	**10 am Communion at St Peter's Bridge** Back to School Service with school bag blessings for children and singing from Bridge School Choir
21st September	14th Sunday after Trinity **Harvest Festival**	Harvest readings to be confirmed	**10am Traditional Sung Holy Communion at St Mary's Nackington in place of St Mary's Patrixbourne**
28th September	15th Sunday after Trinity	Amos 8.4-7; 1 Timothy 2.1-7; Luke 16.1-13	**10am Communion at St Mary's Lower Hardres**
5th October	16th Sunday after Trinity	Amos 6.1a, 4-7; 1 Timothy 6.6-19; Luke 16.19-31	**9am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington** **10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bekesbourne**

Education Sunday

14th September 10am St Peter's Bridge

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NAILBOURNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

After what seems like a long break since our Society's last event, we have several interesting and varied meetings scheduled for our Autumn/Winter programme. The first of these will be on **Tuesday 9th September, 7.30 pm at Bridge Village Hall,** when Chris Spree will talk about his experiences; **"17 years of Purgatory under the National Trust"**.

This month's competition, (open to members only), is titled '**Your Best September Bloom**'. We hope that as many members as possible will bring a bloom to exhibit, as you never know you could win and go home with a trophy!

Please note that contrary to previous years' meetings, we shall have the social part of the evening including the judging and refreshments *before* the talk. We really look forward to seeing you and any friends and family you could ask to come along.

There will also be a bring and buy table sale of plants and garden related items and this along with competitions will feature at most future meetings.

Anyone interested in joining the Society now can do so at half the price of the annual subscription. There will be a small entry fee to include refreshments and of course everyone is most welcome!

An additional Event for September! - Nailbourne Horticultural Society's Information and Plant Stall

With the aim of raising the Society's profile, to provide information and generate funds, we will be holding a stall at

Bridge Farmer's **Market on Saturday 13th September, 9 am to 12 noon.** There will be plants and garden related items for sale. We would be very happy to see you there to answer any questions about the Society and if you'd like to become a member, you can do so at half the annual membership price! Come and see us there!

Bridge & District History Society

Our new season of talks begins on Thursday September 18th at 7.30 in Bridge Village Hall.

Jane Delamaine's talk is entitled "The Life and Death of Amy Johnson".

Amy was the first woman to fly solo from England to Australia and became the "influencer" of her time. Eleven years later she was dead. Jane's talk will take us through Amy's life, incredible achievements and tragic death.

Amy is commemorated with a statue in Herne Bay, where she was last seen before her plane crashed in the Thames Estuary.

No membership fee, £4.00 at the door to include refreshments. All welcome. Information about the society can be found at www.bridgehistory.org.uk where details of the new season's programme will be available shortly.

National Vegetable Society – Kent District Association

The Society are organising two local events in September.

Firstly, on Wednesday 10 September at the usual time of 7.30 for 8.00 pm, there will be a talk by Guy Deakins, garden consultant, author and designer, entitled "It Starts with the Soil". We expect to learn about the importance of getting the very basics correct first, like creating and maintaining a suitable environment, for any type of plant we may wish to grow before we begin to try to plant anything. As ever, everyone is welcome, refreshments are available before the talk and entry is free, although it would be appreciated if you would consider buying raffle tickets to help raise funds for the Society.

Then following on immediately after that, the Society will be holding its Annual Show in Wingham Village Hall, School Lane CT3 1BD over the weekend of 13/14 September. The show, which has been expanded this year to include classes for fruit, flowers and cookery, will be open to visitors from 2 until 4 on the Saturday and 10 until 4 on the Sunday. There is no entry fee as such, but a charity donation to the British Heart Foundation is encouraged, and refreshments and a tombola will be available.

Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute

A number of our members thoroughly enjoyed our summer outing to the National Trust Cafe at Langdon Cliffs, Dover on 5 August. Fortunately, the weather was kind to us and we were able to enjoy our lunch sitting outside, despite the rather annoying wasps! We then had a browse around the gift shop before setting off back home.

Looking ahead, our next meeting is on **Tuesday 16 September at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall** when we are going to learn "**How to be a Silversmith**" with Helen Sharp.

Our small friendly group is always happy to welcome visitors to our meetings and there is always time for a chat over refreshments. If you are interested in this subject or, indeed, in joining us, please come along on the 16th.

If you would like more details about our WI please contact our President, Sheila Scrivener, on 01227 831788.

Valley Outings (AGTO) member

Enhancing life in the community

Would you like to hear about day trips and holidays with local pickups. Get out and about, make new friends and enjoy visiting places of interest such as gardens, theatre shows, hotels with lunch and entertainment etc.
To find out how to sign up and go on the mailing list to hear about outings please contact: Linda Soulsby Tel: 07546668884 Email: lindaisoulsby@gmail.com

Nailbourne Scout Group news

We hope that everyone enjoyed the summer! Nailbourne has taken a break from our weekly meetings over the summer holidays, but that doesn't mean that nothing has been happening!

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts finished the summer term with a social event at Denton Village Hall for parents to attend, along with their young people – this was a great success!

In July, at the Bridge Village Fete, Explorers helped out by directing the car parking. They also collected donations to put towards KIJ (more on that below), so many thanks to everyone who contributed.

The following week, Nailbourne was at Barham Village Hall for their open day, where we had a fundraising stall and also carried out demonstrations in the hall, including science experiments and packing a sleeping bag!

In August, some of our Scouts and Explorers spent a week camping in Detling for the Kent International Jamboree (or KIJ). The event is attended by Scout groups from across the world as well as Kent, and is a great opportunity for young people to make friends, try new things and, of course, have lots of fun. They tried all sorts of activities, including climbing, go-karts, zorbing, a mud run, abseiling, bag drops (jumping from a height onto a mat!) and a cave bus. There was also a funfair, and their last night finished with an orange-themed party, a concert from the band Scouting for Girls and finally an amazing firework display! They all had a brilliant week and would happily do it again tomorrow. Thank you to all our leaders (who would probably rather not do it again for at least another few months!) who gave up their time to make it such fun for our young people.

By the time you read this, Nailbourne will be gearing up to start the autumn term. We will also be serving cake and tea at the autumn meeting of the Horticultural Society on Saturday 13 September in Barham Village Hall. We will be raising money for our funds, so please come and support us!

As always, we are still looking for volunteers to lead and help in our sessions, with Beavers and Explorers in particular need of support (both on Wednesday evenings).

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

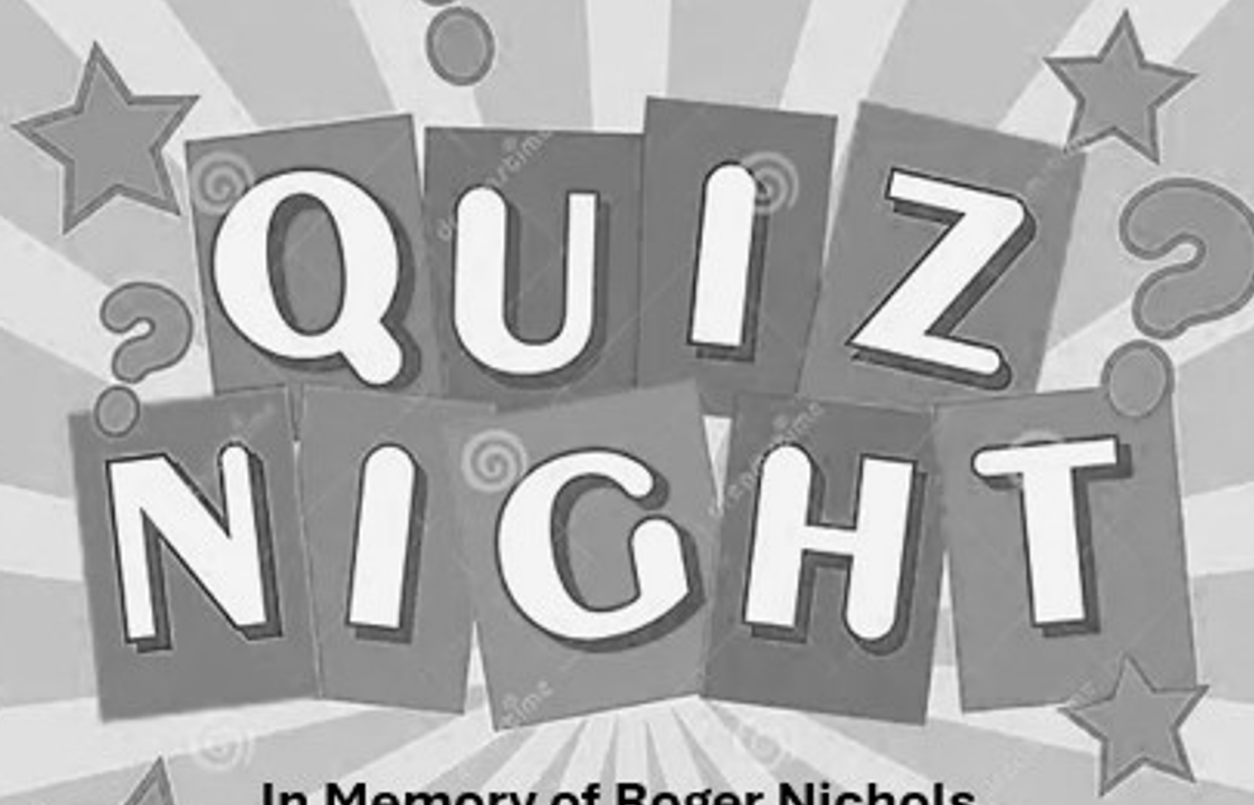
Scouts (10–14 years) – Fridays, 6.30–8.00pm, Barham Village Hall

Explorers (14–18 years) – Wednesdays, 7.00–8.30pm, Bridge Pavillion

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

Bekesbourne Village Hall



In Memory of Roger Nichols

Saturday 27th September 2025

7pm for 7.30pm Prompt Start

Tables of 6 or 8 available

Raffle proceeds to go to

The Royal British Legion

Bring your own food and drinks

£5 per person

Booking in advance required

Contact Tara 07871422072

enquiries4bvh@gmail.com

Art in Bridge

Exhibition

"Inspiring Creativity"

Bridge Village Hall

High Street, Bridge. CT4 5JZ

Saturday 4th October

11am – 7pm

Soiree 5 to 7 pm - complimentary refreshments

Sunday 5th October

11am – 4pm

Entrance FREE - Refreshments available

Donations welcomed

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www.artinbridge.org.uk, Natasha Pearl Gallery and The Red Lion Inn

Exhibits to the Hall 4.30 – 6.00 pm Friday 3rd October

For further information please go to our web site or John Corfield on tel: 07986 066504

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The Bridge Group Parish

Canterbury Christian Aid Group



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Join our guided walk on Sunday 14th September
Meet at RSPB Blean Woods Car Park CT2 9DD at 2 pm

5 mile walk ***short cuts available***

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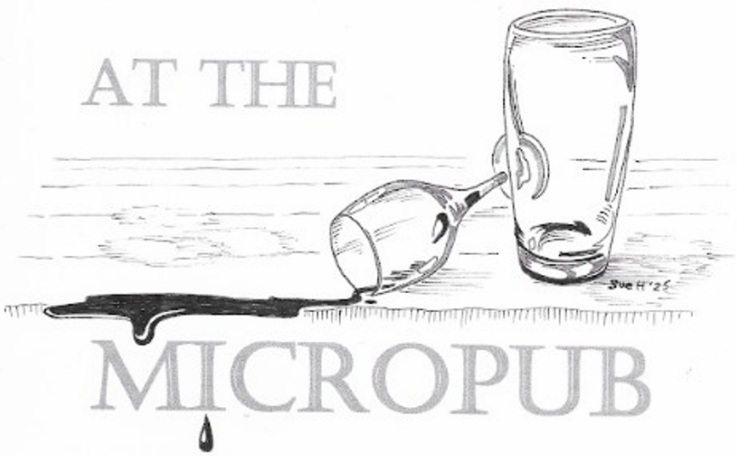
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Saturday 8th November 2025

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Date:	Friday 26th September
Time:	10am-12 noon
Contact:	Tara Piddock



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DO YOU ENJOY SINGING?

There has been a choir at St Peter's, Bridge, since the 19 th 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 are particularly in need of someone to sing bass, either as a regular or to stand in when one of our two basses is not available.

The choir sings at two 10am Sunday services each month, one at Bridge and one at Lower Hardres, plus occasional evening services,

weddings and funerals. Rehearsals are at Bridge Church on Fridays

from 5pm to 6pm. but this could be flexible.

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.



Bekesbourne Village Hall

KCC Scam Awareness Talk

by

KCC Trading Standards & Community Warden John Lithgow

Thursday 2nd October 2025

1.30pm Start



Refreshments available

No booking required

As you are probably aware, there are many scams taking place, especially in the run up the Christmas.

To help you and your money stay safe and avoid these scams, KCC have teamed up with our Community Warden, Roger Lithgow, to talk to the public and save you from being targeted by these scammers. This talk will last around 45 mins with a Q & A session at the end.

Come along, bring a friend or two for an interesting talk.

All welcome

The Thursday Village Gardeners

Autumn will be nearly upon us as you read this but I think I'm going to call it late summer (into autumn maybe) As much as I love autumn I want to hold on to summer as long as possible.....those beautiful sunny days and all the magnificent late summer flowers and grasses. Amazing.

All our village planting has continued to struggle during the many mini heatwaves that we've had this season. The thunderstorms and the accompanying rain have perked things along a little, but the long dry spells have taken their toll. In most of our spaces we have ornamental grasses which are usually showing off their amazing seedheads into late summer but as I write this in mid August even they are finding life hard. I'm optimistic that a few more showers will still make the grasses put on a late summer (into autumn) show. At the Nature Garden we have a few species of *Miscanthus* that are amazing grasses with magnificent seedheads in all hues, from white to pinks to stunning deep reds. At the long High Street border we have vareties of *Calamagrostis*, much more upright and with golden seedheads that catch the light. And at the traffic calming we have *Anementhale*, a much shorter grass that quivers with the slightest breeze. All the grasses last well in to the winter months and along with the perennials provide shelter and food for all sorts of wildlife if left. We're all being encouraged to be a little less tidy in our gardens now and leaving the seedheads of grasses and spent flowers is good for nature and leaves us with some pretty stunning plants too.

Happy late summer days everyone.

Pam Dobson

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To offer items for publication in this magazine, including event information, please contact Mrs Megan Shirley bridgegroupmagazine@gmail.com by the 15th day of the preceding month, ensuring that any emails and attachments are clearly titled to identify their content. Files should be submitted in .doc .pub or .jpg format. Posters should be A5 in size and both portrait and landscape versions provided.

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The Bridge Group Parish

A magazine for the villages along the Nailbourne







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October 2025

Dear Friends,

October already and we enter the season that truly heralds Autumn. In the past few weeks we have been holding Harvest Festival Services in our Churches, and our thoughts and prayers have been turned toward the farmers and those who labour tirelessly to bring the bounty of the earth to our tables. This year's harvest, like all others, carries with it a sense of gratitude for the abundance we've received, but it also serves as a poignant reminder of the challenges facing our world, particularly the growing impact of climate change on agriculture.

Farmers are the backbone of our rural communities, and this year, many have faced unpredictable weather patterns, shifting growing seasons, and the increasing threat of extreme weather events. From droughts and floods to unseasonable temperatures, the effects of climate change have made the work of planting and harvesting more unpredictable and demanding.

As we give thanks for the harvest, we should also recognise the hard work, sacrifices, and resilience of our local farmers. Their labour is often hidden from view, but their impact is felt every day when we sit down to a meal. Whether it's the fruits of the harvest or the grains that sustain us through the winter, their work nourishes both body and spirit.

Our faith calls us to be good stewards of the earth, to protect and care for the land that sustains us. As Pope Francis wrote in *Laudato Si'*, "The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth." The beauty of God's creation is being threatened by climate change, and it is our duty to care for the earth in the same way that farmers care for their crops.

There is so much we can do to contribute to the well-being of the planet. From reducing waste and conserving water to supporting sustainable farming practices, each small action makes a difference. As a parish community, we can also raise our voices in support of policies that address climate change, ensuring that future generations will inherit a world capable of sustaining life. We would love for some more people to join our Eco Church Team if this is something that interests you.

In the midst of these challenges, we also find cause for gratitude. Despite the unpredictable weather, there is still much to celebrate in this year's harvest. Whether it's the abundance of local produce (remember the Cherries!) or the generous offerings from our parishioners, we are reminded that God provides for us, even in difficult times. As a sign of our appreciation, we have been collecting non-perishable food items to donate to the local food bank. If you are able, please consider contributing to this effort – there is a yellow bin in the foyer of Bridge Church for this purpose

.May this harvest season be one of reflection, renewal, and gratitude. Let us continue to support one another, care for our earth, and trust in God's providence.

Yours in Christ



Revd. Canon Estella Last, Vicar,
The Parish of the Bridge Group

Service details and readings for October 2025

5th October	16th Sunday after Trinity	Habakkuk 1.1-4; 2.1-4; 2 Timothy 1.1-14; Luke 17.5-10	**9am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington** **10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bekesbourne**
Saturday 11th October			**4-6pm Messy Church at Bridge and & Patrixbourne School**
12th October	17th Sunday after Trinity	2 Kings 5.1-3,7-15c; 2 Timothy 2.8-15; Luke 17.11 19	**10 am Communion at St Peter's Bridge**
19th October	18th Sunday after Trinity	Genesis 32.22-31; 2 Timothy 3.14–4.5; Luke 18.1-8	**10am Traditional Sung Holy Communion at St Peter's Bekesbourne in place of St Mary's Patrixbourne**
26th October	Last Sunday after Trinity (Bible Sunday)	Jeremiah 14.7-10,19-22; Timothy 4.6-8,16-18; Luke 18.9-14	**10am Communion at St Mary's Lower Hardres**

	October 2025
Thurs 2nd	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 3rd	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church
Mon 6th	2-3pm Caring and Sharing
Weds 8th	10-11.30am Bekesbourne Coffee Morning
Thurs 9th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 10th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 10am Fish Scheme Pop in at Bridge Village Hall
Sat 11th	4-6pm Messy Church at Bridge School
Thurs 16th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 17th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 11am-12.30pm Lower Hardres Coffee Morning
Sat 18th	10.15-11.30am Coffee Cake and Concert at Bridge Church
Thurs 23rd	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion-HALF TERM BREAK
Fri 24th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church- HALF TERM BREAK
Thurs 30th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 31st	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 5-7pm Halloween Hot chocolates at Bridge Church

Includes a hot meal!

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4-6pm Saturday 11th October

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Barry Whiting



The Whiting family are sad to announce that Barry died on 8 September. His memorial service will be held at St Peter's Church, Bridge, on Thursday, 2 October at 11.00. All are welcome to attend and to join the family afterwards for coffee and light refreshments at the Red Lion, Bridge.

Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute

Because of the general interest in the topics being covered at the October meeting of the WI, this meeting will be **OPEN TO ALL**, members and non-members alike.

Esme Clarke of local Solicitors, Furley Page, will be including the important subjects of **Powers of Attorney** and **Inheritance Planning**, matters which concern us all, in a presentation entitled "**Protecting Your Estate**". We are pleased that we have been able to re-schedule this meeting from last year and it will now be held on **Friday 17 October** at **2.00 pm** in **Bridge Village Hall**. There will be a small charge of £5 for non-members, to include refreshments.

Please do join us on the 17th and get expert advice on these difficult but important subjects.

If you would like more details about our WI please contact our President, Sheila Scrivener, on 01227 831788.

Halloween Hot Chocolates

A warm welcome for anyone out and about on 31st October between 5-7pm, pop in for a pit stop, light in the darkness. All welcome, hot chocolate available. If anyone would like to contribute smiley or love themed pumpkin lantern, to light the chruch path, these can be dropped off at the church from 4pm





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Sunday 26 October 2025

5:30pm at Canterbury Cathedral

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NAILBOURNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

At the Society's meeting on **Tuesday 14th October, 7.30 pm at Bridge village Hall**, we will be welcoming the popular and renowned local environmentalist, Martin Newcombe. His talk is entitled **'Bats in the Belfry'** and we can be sure to look forward to a both interesting and entertaining evening.

We shall, (as it is now the form), be having a bring and buy plant stall as well as our monthly competition for October, (open to members only), which is, a **'Halloween Vegetable'.** The winner will be awarded a cup so we hope you will rise to the challenge and bring along an entry that fits the bill!

The judging of the competition will take place before the talk. There will be the usual small entry fee to include refreshments. We very much look forward to seeing you then.

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Exhibits to the Hall 4.30 – 6.00 pm Friday 3rd October

For further information please go to our web site or John Corfield on tel: 07986 066504



Littlebourne & District Royal British Legion

We held a lively meeting this month with 12 members present. We have some good ideas for fundraising in the new year, including a possible Meet the Legion afternoon at the Hay Wain.

At our October we take nominations for Branch Officers ready for our AGM in November.

Our Remembrance Sunday Service this year will be on 9 November at St John's Church, Ickham.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 14 October in Littlebourne Recreation Club (to the right past the main Hall door). Contact details are in our notice board on the wall of the Hall

Bridge & District History Society

Our next meeting is on **Thursday October 16th at 7.30pm in Bridge Village Hall.**

Peter Berg's talk is entitled "St Dunstan's, a Village Outside the City Walls"

Peter will take us on a virtual walk through a village outside the city, following the footsteps of kings, queens, prelates, pilgrims and ordinary folk as they mad their way from St Dunstan's Church to the Westgate Towers and the centre of one of the country's most significant cities through the ages.

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

Details of all talks for our new season are now at www.bridgehistory.org

National Vegetable Society – Kent District Association

The Society's last meeting on the calendar this year to be held in **Bridge Village Hall** is on **Wednesday 8 October**, 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm. Botanist **Sue Buckingham** is the guest speaker and she will be giving a talk entitled **Wild Flowers of Kent**. Kent is home to a great variety of different habitats and Sue will be describing them and the wild flowers which grow in them.

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By

Alan Walton

Bridge Village Hall

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Wednesday 29th October

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Little Lambs

Toddler Group

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For more information call Estella on 01227 206272



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DO YOU ENJOY SINGING?

There has been a choir at St Peter's, Bridge, since the 19 th 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 are particularly in need of someone to sing bass, either as a regular or to stand in when one of our two basses is not available.

The choir sings at two 10am Sunday services each month, one at Bridge and one at Lower Hardres, plus occasional evening services,

weddings and funerals. Rehearsals are at Bridge Church on Fridays

from 5pm to 6pm. but this could be flexible.

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.



Bekesbourne Village Hall

KCC Scam Awareness Talk

by

KCC Trading Standards & Community Warden John Lithgow

Thursday 2nd October 2025

1.30pm Start



Refreshments available

No booking required

As you are probably aware, there are many scams taking place, especially in the run up the Christmas.

To help you and your money stay safe and avoid these scams, KCC have teamed up with our Community Warden, Roger Lithgow, to talk to the public and save you from being targeted by these scammers. This talk will last around 45 mins with a Q & A session at the end.

Come along, bring a friend or two for an interesting talk.

All welcome



The Thursday Village Gardeners

It's a rainy and rather windy September evening as I write this but I'm still hoping for some of those mellow autumnal days. I'm sure they are coming.....

We need some dry days as September and October are the perfect time to collect seeds. It's not something that we, as a group, have routinely done but we aim to start this year as it's an amazing, and cheap, way to increase your plant stock.

At the Nature Garden we leave all the seed heads to overwinter and self seed where they are most happy. But if you are collecting seed from your own garden, or from one of our village spaces, now is the perfect time. Why not have a go, if you've not already tried it.

The best seed will always be that which is ripe. If you can hear the seed rattling in the pod, or when the seed pods go crack, they're ready.

Choose a dry, sunny day to harvest so that the seed is as dry as it can be. Tip the seed heads into a paper bag or envelope as you collect, one species per bag or envelope and label straight away with the date, species and location. Once collected keep the seed in a dry place until you're ready to sow them.

Easy seeds to collect are *Eryngium, Papaver, Kniphofia, Sanguisorba* and *Lunaria*.

Happy seed collecting.



Pam Dobson

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Ps. We are now meeting on the first Tuesday and the third Thursday of the month. If you fancy joining us on one of those mornings we'd love to see you. So we are now the 'Village Gardeners '

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Safeguarding Officer:	Rosemary Whatley	01227-206272

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	Mrs Pauline Pritchard	01227-830685
	Mr Laurence Dunderdale	01227-830668
	laurence.dunderdale@gmail.com	
(Gift Aid Officer)	Mrs Evelyn Andrews	01227-830960
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PCC Secretary:	Mr Rory Wetherell	01227-830318
PCC Treasurer:	bridge.gp.treasurer@gmail.com	
Christian Aid/Organist	Mrs Jean Barber	01227-831956

St Peter's Bekesbourne

Churchwarden	Mrs Nicky Fry	01227-830319
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PCC Finance Team:	Mrs Zan Clifford	01227-830328
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To offer items for publication in this magazine, including event information, please contact Mrs Megan Shirley bridgegroupmagazine@gmail.com by the 15th day of the preceding month, ensuring that any emails and attachments are clearly titled to identify their content. Files should be submitted in .doc .pub or .jpg format. Posters should be A5 in size and both portrait and landscape versions provided.

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On the Nail

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The Bridge Group Parish

A magazine for the villages along the Nailbourne







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November 2025

Dear Friends,

Well after what seems like a long time of waiting the news we had been waiting for finally broke, a new Archbishop for the Church of England. Like me I am sure you were thrilled with the announcement on Friday 3rd October that our new Archbishop will be Sarah Mullalley (Bishop of London). As many of you will know I was elected earlier in the year to represent Canterbury Diocese on the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) which made this nomination. This important work took me out of the Parish for 3 weeks plus reading time, over the last 6 months. I have expressed my gratitude to all in our Parish for their understanding and patience whilst I contributed to the life of our Church in this way. It really isn't every day that one gets to be this closely involved with actual history in the making. I can't say much about the process but what I can say is that I can see through it all the moments when the work of the Holy Spirit was abundantly apparent and so I have complete confidence that God has guided us in this decision. Bishop Sarah will be confirmed as the Archbishop of Canterbury in January and installed in Canterbury Cathedral in March. In the meantime, we pray for her and the Diocese of London as they prepare for their Bishop to move on.

As it turns out this wasn't the end of news impacting on our Parish. Soon after coming out of the CNC, I went through an interview process myself and on Sunday 12th October it was announced in Church that I have been appointed as Archdeacon of Maidstone. I am of course thrilled to have been appointed and very much looking forward to the new challenges this will bring. As a family though, we are all very sad that this means our time in Bridge will come to an end and that I will no longer be the Vicar in these beautiful 5 villages. We have come through some tough times together, recalling of course the years of the Pandemic and the time we couldn't worship together in person, and as a church family have walked together in the path of bereavement as some of our treasured church members have gone to glory. We have also had some wonderful achievements, amalgamating our Parishes, changing the way we worship, being a training parish and sending our Curate off on her way trained and equipped to serve the church and along the way we have seen and continue to see improvements to our church buildings which will ensure they are fit to serve the people of our villages for many centuries to come. There will be a gap while the PCC goes through the process of appointing a new Vicar and this can take some months but I will do all I can to ensure that the Parish has the support it needs in place before I leave.

There is more that could be said of course but for now, we have until 11th January 2026 together so we will pray together through the upcoming season of Remembrance and then we have all the festivities of Christmas to enjoy too. You can find all the details of the upcoming services in November and December elsewhere in this magazine.

For now I am thankful for all that has been and looking forward to all that is to come. I pray for you all daily and hope you may know the peace of God with you.

.

Yours in Christ



Revd. Canon Estella Last, Vicar,
The Parish of the Bridge Group

	November 2025
Mon 3rd	2-3pm Caring and Sharing
Thurs 6th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 7th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church
Weds 12th	10-11.30am Bekesbourne Coffee Morning
Thurs 13th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 14th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 10am Fish Scheme Pop in at Bridge Village Hall
Thurs 20th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 21st	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 11am-12.30pm Lower Hardres Coffee Morning
Weds 26th	7.30pm A Christmas Carol in Bridge Church
Thurs 27th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion 7.30pm A Christmas Carol in Bridge Church
Fri 28th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 7.30pm A Christmas Carol in Bridge Church
Sat 29th	2.30pm A Christmas Carol in Bridge Church

Service details and readings for November – December 2025

2nd November	4th Sunday before Advent All Saints (1st Nov) All Souls (2nd Nov)	Isaiah 1.10-18; 2 Thessalonians 1 Luke 19.1-10 Daniel 7:1-3,15-18 Ephesians 1:11-23 Luke 6: 20-31 Wisdom 3: 1-9 Psalm 130 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 John 5: 24-27	**9am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington** **10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bekesbourne** **6pm Choral Evensong for All Souls at St Peter's Bridge**	
9th November	Remembrance Sunday	Job 19.23-27a; 2 Thessalonians 2.1-5,13-17; Luke 20.27-38	**10 am Communion at St Peter's Bridge (Parade Service with Act of Remembrance at 10.50)** **10am Remembrance Service at St Mary's Nackington followed by Wreath laying at the War Memorial** **10.45 Wreath Laying at the War Memorial in Lower Hardres**	
Tuesday 11th November			**11am Remembrance Service with Year 6 from Bridge School at St Mary's Patrixbourne** **10.50 for 11am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial at St Peter's Bekesbourne**	
16th November	2nd Sunday before Advent (Safeguarding Sunday)	Malachi 4.1-2a; 2 Thessalonians 3.6-13; Luke 21.5-19	**10am Traditional Sung Holy Communion at St Mary's Nackington**	
23th November	Christ the King / Sunday next before Advent	Jeremiah 23.1-6; Colossians 1.11-20; Luke 23.33-43	**10am Parish Communion at St Mary's Lower Hardres**	

30th November	Advent Sunday	Isaiah 2.1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13.11 -14; Matthew 24.36 -44	**9am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington** **10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bekesbourne** **4pm Advent Family Service – getting ready for Christmas**	
7th December	2nd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 11.1-10; Romans 15.4-13; Matthew 3.1-12	**10am Celebration Service at St Mary's Patrixbourne** – reopening of the building and dedication of the new extension and facilities. With the Archdeacon of Canterbury.	
Friday 12th December			**6pm Community Carols at St Mary's Lower Hardres**	
14th December	3rd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 35.1-10; Luke 1.46b-55 (Magnificat); James 5.7-10; Matthew 11.2-11	**10 am Parish Communion at St Peter's Bridge** **4pm Instant Nativity (Family Service)**	
Friday 19th December			**7pm Carol Service St Mary's Patrixbourne**	
21st December	4th Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 7.10-16; Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-25	**10am Traditional Sung Holy Communion at St Mary's Patrixbourne** **7pm Carol Service at St Peter's Bridge**	
Wednesday 24th December	Christmas Eve	Isaiah 52:7-10 Hebrews 1:1-12 John 1:1-14	**3pm Christingle Service at Bridge** **5pm Christingle Service at Bridge** **10pm Christmas Eucharist Nackington**	
Thursday 25th December	Christmas Day	Isaiah 9.2-7; Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-14,(15-20)	**9.30am Christmas Communion St Peter's Bridge** **11am Christmas Carol Service St Peter's Bekesbourne**	

28th Decem-ber	1st Sunday of Christ-mas	Jeremiah 31: 15-17 1 Corinthians 1: 26-29 Matthew 2: 13-18	**10am Parish Communion at St Mary's Lower Hardres**
4th January	Epiphany	Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2: 1-12	**10am Benefice Commun-ion Service at St Peter's Bekesbourne**
11th January	Baptism of Christ / Epiphany 1	Isaiah 42:1-9 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3: 13-17	**10am Benefice Communion at St Peter's Bridge – Revd Estella's last Sunday in the Parish**

Bridge & District History Society

The Society is proud to announce the forthcoming publication

"Bridge: Past and Present"

The book will contain historical views of the parishes of Bridge, Patrixbourne and Bekesbourne alongside their modern equivalents, taken where possible on the same spot, and with historical commentary highlighting both the change and the continuity in each view. It also includes newly-merged images of activities from the past set in their modern surroundings and fascinating insights into the heritage of familiar scenes and buildings.

"Bridge: Past and Present" will be launched at a special evening event in Bridge Village Hall on

Thursday November 20th from 7.30pm

The 80-page, full-colour book is priced at £9.99 and is a perfect Christmas gift for anyone with a connection to Bridge, Patrixbourne or Bekesbourne.

If you are unable to attend the launch the book is available to order from www.canterley.co.uk using the checkout code BRIDGEPP before November 20th to receive free UK delivery.
All are welcome to attend. There is no entry fee. Light refreshments will be available.

A message from Hilary Whiting

On behalf of Amanda and Julian I am writing to thank so many people for their kind support, lovely cards expressing such heart-warming thoughts, the flowers and tributes from so many people in our village and friends at Herne Bay Red Cross Centre. Barry would have been amazed at the response, as indeed we have been!

Barry and I were both students at Bognor Regis Training College in 1956 and met on the first evening of my course with our second-year students. He and I were the only ones to opt for tea- we still remain in touch with many from our course of study- fortunate for the time before the expansion of its status as the University of Sussex.

We were married in Hexham Abbey in 1960 and have recently had a card signed by King Charles and Queen Camilla congratulating us on or 65th Anniversary.

As Deputy Head of Allenith Secondary School, Barry has involved in the Nuffield Science Project for changes in the teaching of Science. He was seconded to a year's Advanced Diploma at the Froebel Institute, London, when he moved into Primary Education in 1970, before moving to a Kent Headship in 1974, and was involved in Teacher Training with several Colleges.

The political situation involving the 1984 miner's strikes had a major effect on the Kent coal field communities and the cost to Barry's health meant he was offered early retirement in 1987. He worked as a lecturer in First Aid at Work and enjoyed a complete change of direction, working with a range of organisations. He also regularly drove Bill Rose to the National War Museum in Southwark, where London Schoolchildren could hear the history of Japanese War Prisoners as part of the curriculum in London O-level History Syllabus.

As the Poppy Appeal Organiser for Bridge, he is best remembered by 30 volunteers who had boxes of Poppies to cover the annual street collection. With his willing helpers, over the years they raised thousands of pounds for the Charity.



A Christmas Carol

Proving that churches can be wonderful assets for the local community, the Church Players present 'A Christmas Carol' which will take place at St Peter's Church in Bridge on the evenings of 26th – 28th November, with a matinee performance on Saturday 29th November at 2.30pm. A homegrown adaptation of the classic Dickens novella about the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge, who through a series of Ghostly encounters is encouraged to reflect on his selfish life. All the parts will be played by local people including the Vicar of Bridge, Revd Estella Last.

Commenting on the event Revd Estella said "The arts and religion have always walked hand and hand and so it is a great joy to be able to offer our church as a venue for local theatre. We really hope that people will enjoy coming to see this classic tale performed by people they know in our beautiful Church in the heart of Bridge village."

The performance is the second time in recent years that the church in Bridge has become a theatre. In 2023 a similar group performed Murder in the Cathedral, T.S. Eliot's depiction of the martyrdom of Archbishop Thomas Becket in 1170 Canterbury Cathedral to great acclaim.

Revd Estella continues, "Of course once December arrives we will have all our usual Christmas Services, and carol singing events which are widely publicised in the villages but we hope people will enjoy a little theatre outing close to home in the meantime".

A Christmas Carol, St Peter's Bridge 26th – 29th November 2025 Tickets £10 each will be available from **www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-bridge-group-of-churches** or Tel: 03336663366 quoting The Bridge Group of Churches

The Church Players Present

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Saturday 8th November 2025

The Village Gardeners

Mulch, marvellous mulch.

Maybe not the most glamorous way to start the November article but I'm going to see if I can make it more appealing!

What is mulch, and why do we use it in gardening ? Mulch can be any biodegradable material such as garden compost, wood chippings, bark, leaf mould etc. or non biodegradable material such as slate, shingle, pebbles or gravel.

Why do we mulch? There are a myriad of reasons for mulching, including helping the soil to retain moisture, reducing watering, suppressing weeds, protecting plant roots from severe hot and cold temperatures and improving the organic matter in the soil..... plus of course it can look so pleasing. We mulch most of the village areas that we look after from the Bridge Nature Garden to the long High Street border to the planters on the High Street. We are lucky enough to have been given some organic material from two local tree surgeons and we have spread, and will be spreading this, over the coming months. Ideally any mulch needs to be between 5 and 7.5cm deep and our mulch is a combination of wood chippings and shredded leaves that will biodegrade over time. Many thanks to Citadel Grounds Maintenance in Dover and Gristwood & Toms, working on behalf of Kent County Council, for supplying this year's mulch.

Autumn is a ideal time to mulch when your herbaceous plants are dying back, or if you miss the opportunity to do so, and it gets too cold, you can apply it in mid to late spring before the annual weeds germinate.

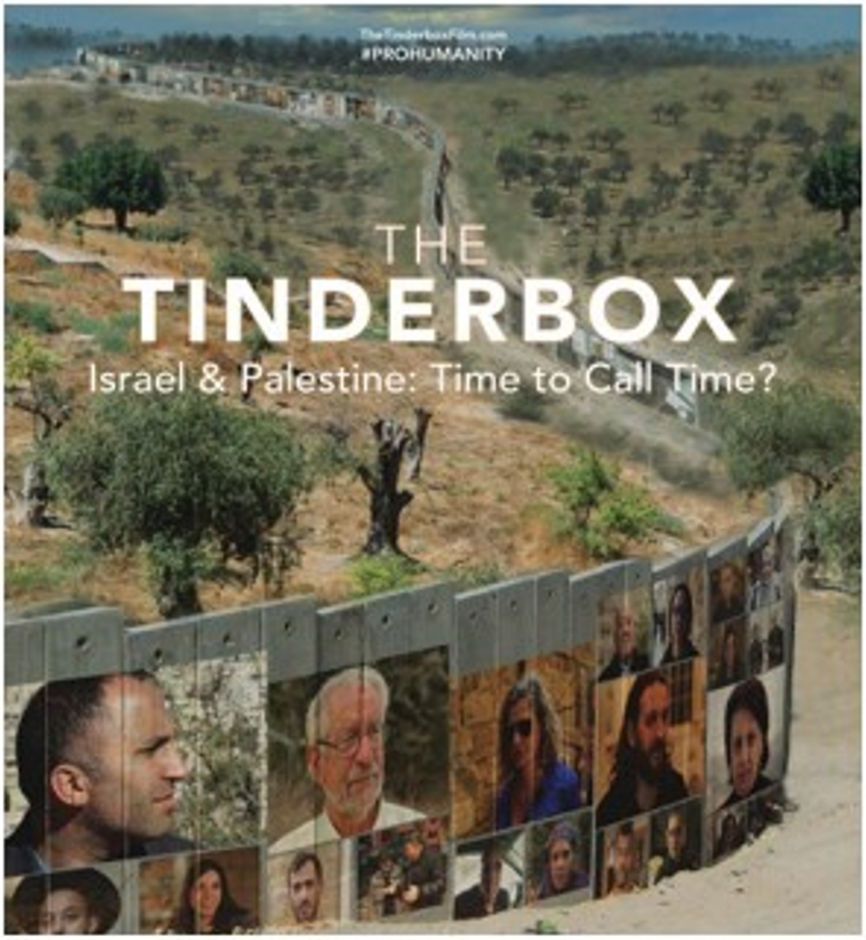
There are very few drawbacks to mulching but if you have specimen shrubs or trees then avoid direct contact with the stems, and if you have freshly chipped material it is advisable to store it for a few weeks before using as they may deplete the soil of nitrogen.

If you haven't mulched before then maybe give it a go. In our rapidly changing climate it will help to look after the plants and importantly the soil. Soil is the heart and soul of our planet and we all need to look after it.

Happy mulching. Maybe not glamorous but pretty positive all round.

Pam

The Village Gardeners 07561 560871



ISRAEL & PALESTINE: THE UNTOLD STORY

A screening of this highly-acclaimed film followed by a panel discussion and Q&A, with the film's director, **Gillian Mosely**

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Wednesday 19th November, 2 - 5pm

Panel: **William Bell**, Head of Middle East Policy and Advocacy, Christian Aid
Shahd Hammouri, Lecturer in International Law, University of Kent Law School
Rabbi Dan Cohn-Sherbok, Professor Emeritus of Judaism, University of Wales
Chair: **Jonathan Arnold**, Professor of Faith, Culture and Arts, University of Kent

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Admission free. Donations to Christian Aid's Middle East Humanitarian Appeal welcomed on the door

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The Tinderbox

The war in Gaza may have come to an end but it is only the beginning of the journey towards peace, justice and reconciliation in the area. The film 'The Tinderbox' (see separate poster) explores what led up to the war and helps us to understand the ongoing hostility between Israeli and Palestinian. If you are interested to learn more about the situation and want hear the views of the panel about what lies ahead, do go along. Admission is free but donations to Christian Aid's Middle East Humanitarian Appeal are welcome. The event is sponsored by Canterbury Christian Aid Group.

NAILBOURNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

We are excited to announce that our next meeting on **Tuesday, 11th November, 7.30 at Bridge Village Hall**, is one that we were able to add as an extra event to the Society's schedule. **'Butterfly Conservation, Bridge and the Curious Tale of the White-Letter Hairstreak'**, is the intriguing title of the talk, which we can look forward to from Roland Brown, Chair of the Kent Branch Committee of Butterfly Conservation.

We shall be having our usual bring and buy plant stall and November's competition, '**Your Best Pot Plant**', which is open to members only. The winner will be awarded a cup so please bring along a pot plant which you feel is worthy of entering. Hopefully there will be many entries this month to make it hard for the judge to pick out a winner!

There will be the usual small entry fee to include refreshments. We very much look forward to seeing you then. Thank you for your continued support.

Kath Diss

Many residents will remember Kath Diss, who for many years lived in Bridge, latterly at 1 Ford Close and moved five years ago to Marlborough to be closer to her son Colin and his family.
Kath enjoyed good health until recently and her health declined rapidly over the past weeks and she died at 99 years and 9 months mid October and I absolutely know she was doing her best to make a century!

Jane Ludlow

Fish Scheme

The monthly Pop-in Will be on Friday 14th, the second Friday of the month. Everybody is very welcome and , as is the tradition for this month, the coffee and biscuits are free.

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DO YOU ENJOY SINGING?

There has been a choir at St Peter's, Bridge, since the 19 th 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 are particularly in need of someone to sing bass, either as a regular or to stand in when one of our two basses is not available.

The choir sings at two 10am Sunday services each month, one at Bridge and one at Lower Hardres, plus occasional evening services,

weddings and funerals. Rehearsals are at Bridge Church on Fridays

from 5pm to 6pm. but this could be flexible.

You don't need to be an expert, just able to keep in time and sing in tune!

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The Kingsbourne Players

Don't forget to book your places for **'The Knife Before Christmas'**, a Murder Mystery in Kingston Barn, for one night only on Saturday 29th November. In aid of The Barn, the ticket price is £15 each, and includes a 'Ploughman's Platter' and nibbles. There will be a bar. There are only 64 spaces in total – don't miss out on this seasonal sleuthery! Book tickets for this event via email: helensole@btinternet.com

Panto time is getting closer. The Kingsbourne Players have chosen **'Snow White'** as their next pantomime, with Sara Strain reprising her role as Director, to take place as usual in the last weekend of January, in Barham Village Hall.

Shows will be on the Friday and Saturday evenings, plus a Saturday matinee; and – in an exciting new development – another on the Sunday.

There will be some familiar faces in the cast, and some new ones too. Tickets will be on sale from 1st December, and details will follow; but pencil the dates in: 30th January to 1st February. Watch this space, see local advertising and check us out on social media. We'd love to see you there - Oh Yes We Would!

Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute

Please note that the programme for the rest of the 2025/2026 season has had to be re-arranged. In place of "New Age Kurling" which will now take place at our January meeting, on **Friday 21 November at 2.00 pm in Bridge Village Hall**, Clare Boggia has agreed to come to tell us about **"The Life and Designs of Clarice Cliff"**. If you watch any of the antiques programmes on television, you will certainly know the name of Clarice Cliff and be familiar with her work.

Our small friendly group is always happy to welcome visitors to our meetings and there is always time for a chat over refreshments. If you are interested in this subject or, indeed, in joining us, please come along on the 21st November.

If you would like more details about our WI please contact our President, Sheila Scrivener, on 01227 831788.

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