

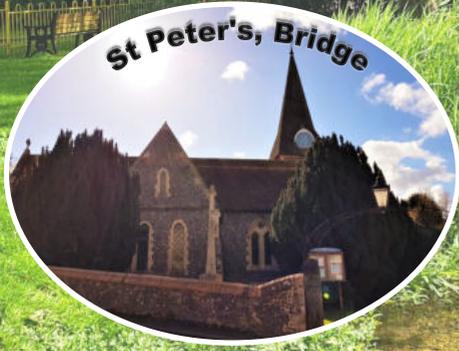


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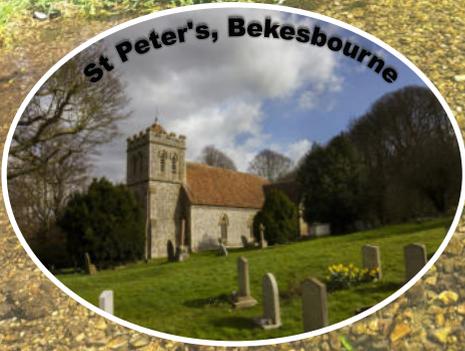
A magazine for the
villages along the
Nailbourne



St Mary's, Patricbourne



St Peter's, Bridge



St Peter's, Bekesbourne

March 2025

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March 2025

Dear Friends

As we turn the corner from Winter to Spring (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

2 nd 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 5 th 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
9 th March	1 st Sunday of Lent	Deuteronomy 26.1-11; Romans 10.8-13; Luke 4.1-13	10 am Communion at St Peter's Bridge
Saturday 15 th March			4-6pm Messy Church at Bridge School
16 th March	2 nd 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
23 rd March	3 rd Sunday of Lent	Isaiah 55.1-9; 1 Corinthians 10.1-13; Luke 13.1-9	10am Communion at St Mary's Lower Hardres
30 th March	Mothering Sunday	Exodus 2:1–10; 2 Corinthians 1:3–7; John 19:25b–27	10am Benefice Com-munion Service St Peter's Bridge with School choir celebrating Mothering Sunday (5th Sunday)
6 th April	5 th 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 Bokesbourne 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 Bokesbourne Friends Quiz Night Bokesbourne Village Hall
Mon 10th	1pm-3pm BREW Bokesbourne Recreation Ground 2.30pm Caring and Sharing
Weds 12th	10-11.30am Bokesbourne Coffee Morning
Thurs 13 th	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 17 th	1pm-3pm BREW Bokesbourne Recreation Ground
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 Community Coffee Morning LH Village Hall 7pm Bridge School PTFA Quiz night
Mon 24 th	1pm-3pm BREW Bokesbourne Recreation Ground 2.30pm Caring and Sharing
Thurs 27th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 28 th	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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- If you were baptised or confirmed at one of our churches
- If your parents lived in our parish for six months
- If your grandparents were married in one of our churches

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wedding contact **bridgeoffice23@gmail.com**



*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

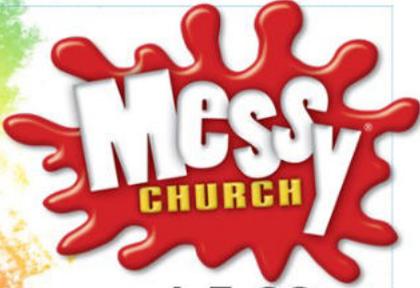
The Electoral Roll is to be completely revised this year.

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.



Messy
CHURCH

4-5.30pm

Saturday 15th March

Bridge and Patixbourne School

Crafts, worship and stories for the whole family.

All welcome.

For more details email estellalast@gmail.com

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).



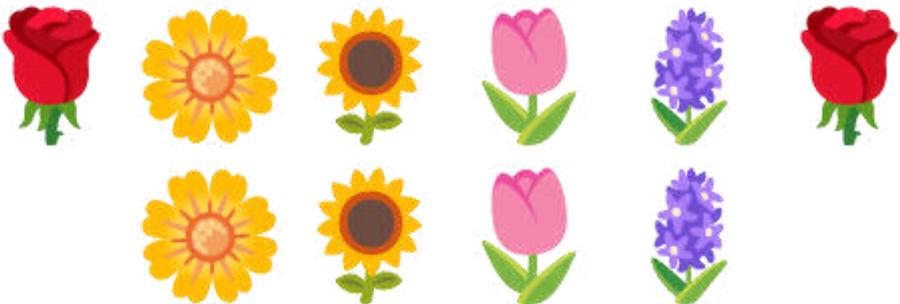
Bridge Open Gardens
Save the Date

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.





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Church



QUIZ
NIGHT

Friday 7th March 2025

BEKESBOURNE Village Hall

7pm for 7.30pm Prompt Start

Bring your own drinks and 'nibbles'

Tables 6 to 8 **MUST** be booked in advance contact

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Friends of St Peter's Church, Bridge

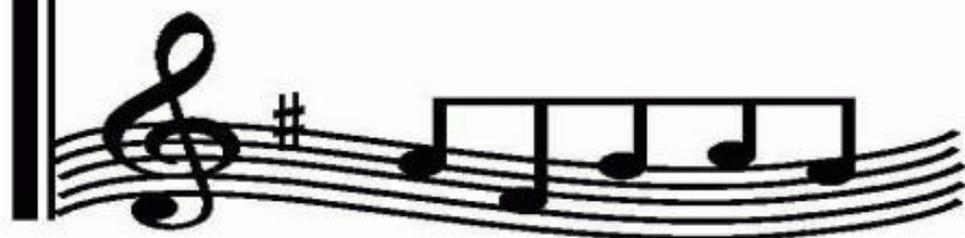
COFFEE & CAKE & CONCERT

Saturday 29th March 10:15 to 11:30am

Jean Collingsworth presents



ACCIDENTAL SOPRANO



Jean will explain the curious title for her show. She has a lovely voice and we can expect an enjoyable concert.

Suggested donation £5, children free
Proceeds to Pilgrim's Hospice & Church Funds

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 ceillidh 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 Patricxbourne 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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Bekesbourne Village Hall Timetable 2025

MONDAY	<p>8.30am – 4.30pm Private Hire</p> <p>7pm Bekesbourne Parish Council Meetings, 10th Mar '25</p>
TUESDAY	<p>New Choir with Lucy Gove 10.15 am Booking required – hello@lucygove.com</p> <p>7pm – 8pm Circuits with Sarah. No Booking Required</p>
WEDNESDAY	<p>11.30am – 4pm Private Hire</p> <p>10am to 11.30 am Every 2nd Wednesday of the month BVH Coffee Morning + The Refill Van www.refillablevan.com</p> <p>Pilates with Marcela, Bring your own mat. 6.15pm to 7.15pm No Booking Required £7.</p>
THURSDAY	<p>9.15am – 10.15am Tiny Talk – Contact Deborah at www.tinytalk.co.uk/debh for more information. Booking required.</p> <p>6pm to 7pm John – Gentle Exercise Group. No booking Required</p>
FRIDAY	Available for Booking
SATURDAY	enquiries4buh@gmail.com
SUNDAY	<p>Boxercise 9.30am to 10.15am with John no booking required.</p> <p>Pilates with Marcela 10.45am to 11.45am, bring your own mats. No booking required</p>

See Bekesbourne Village Hall Facebook page for upcoming events.
To Book: enquiries4buh@gmail.com



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Toddler Group
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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 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 anyone 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

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month

10am to 11.30am

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All Welcome



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