

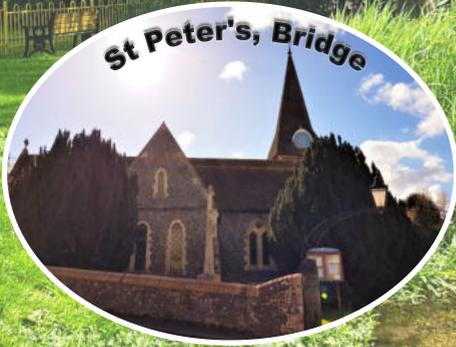


On the Nail

A magazine for the
villages along the
Nailbourne



St Mary's, Patrixbourne



St Peter's, Bridge



St Peter's, Bekesbourne

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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 Patribourne 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 Patribourne 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			
30 th 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)
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
13 th 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
17 th April	Maundy Thursday		7.30pm Tenebrae Service, St Peter's Bridge <i>Music and readings for the Last Supper</i>
18 th 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 <i>Hymns and readings for Good Friday</i>
20 th 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
27 th 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.			
4 th 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 3 rd	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 10 th	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 14 th	2.30pm Caring and Sharing
Thurs	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion- EASTER BREAK
Fri 18 th	10am-11.30am Good Friday Messy Easter at Bridge and Patrixbourne School
Thurs 24 th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 25 th	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!



Maundy Thursday and Good Friday in the Bridge Group Parish

**7.30pm Thursday 17th April Maundy Thursday
'Tenebrae' Service at St Peter's Bridge**

**2.00pm Friday 18th April Good Friday Last Hour
Service with readings and hymns at St
Mary's Nackington**



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.



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**' found 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
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Can you, or anyone that you know, turn these this into these?



Or this into this?





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 donations 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 wishing to buy a Lilly in memory of a loved one 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



Can you help your community and spare a few hours to reduce speeding vehicles in your area?

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

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- If your parents lived in our parish for six months
- If your grandparents were married in one of our churches

For more information or to book your 2025 wedding contact bridgeoffice23@gmail.com



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St Peter's Church Bekesbourne

Lychgate Appeal



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Suggested donation
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For more information call Estella on 01227 206272



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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

£3.00

Includes bottomless drinks and a slice of |
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We will also be joined by the Refill Van
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