



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

Estella Last

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.			
4 th 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 Bokesbourne
11 th 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 17 th May			4-6pm Messy Church at Bridge School
18 th 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
25 th 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 29 th May	Ascension Day	Daniel 7:9-14 Acts 1:1-11 Ephesians 15:1-end Luke 24:44-end	10am Communion Service at Bridge
1 st 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 Bokesbourne <i>{Or if works at St Mary's Nackington are complete:</i> 8am/9am BCP Communion at St Mary's Nackington tbc 10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bokesbourne}

	MAY 2025
Thurs 1st	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 2 nd	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church
Thurs 8 th	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 12 th	2.30pm Caring and Sharing
Weds 14 th	10-11.30am Bekesbourne Coffee Morning
Thurs 15th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 16 th	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 19 th	1pm-3pm BREW Bekesbourne Recreation Ground
Thurs 22 nd	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 23rd	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church
Mon 28 th	2.30pm Caring and Sharing
Thurs 29 th	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 stevethomas91@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 Patricxbourne 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



4-5.30pm

Saturday 17th May

Bridge and Patrixbourne School

Crafts, worship and stories for the whole family.

All welcome.

For more details email estellalast@gmail.com

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.



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- If your grandparents were married in one of our churches

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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.

NAILBOURNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Plant Propagation

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!



A talk and demonstration by

Lee Woodcock

Tuesday 6th May, 7.30 pm

Bridge Village Hall

A small entry fee to include refreshments

All 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 raising 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.



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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 19th 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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