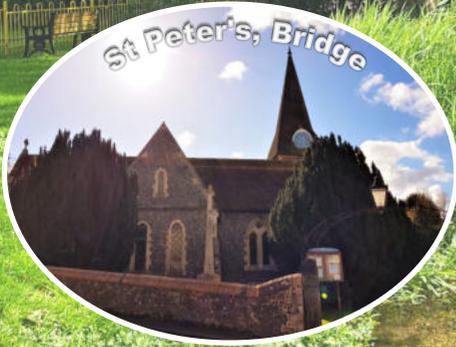


On the Nail

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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 or 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

Estella Last

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

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	9am Said Eucharist followed by 10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bekesbourne
8 th 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
15 th June	Trinity Sun- day / Father's Day	Proverbs 8.1- 4,22-31; Romans 5.1-5; John 16.12-15	10am Traditional Sung Holy Com- munion at St Mary's Nackington
Satur- day 21 st June			4-6pm Messy Church at Bridge School
22 nd June	1 st Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 65.1-9; Galatians 3.23- 29; Luke 8.26-39	10am Communion at St Mary's Lower Hardres
29 th June	2 nd 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 Pe- ter's Bridge
6 th July	3 rd 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 5 th	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 11 th	10-11.30am Bekesbourne Coffee Morning
Thurs 12th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 13 th	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 21 st	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

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.

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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.



Contact Pam on WhatsApp 07561 560871

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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!

If you – or someone you know – are interested and would like to come to a 'taster' rehearsal please contact Jean on 01227 831956.





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