

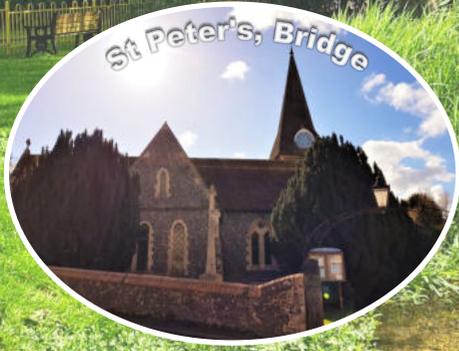


# *On the Nail*

A magazine for the  
villages along the  
Nailbourne



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St Peter's, Bekesbourne

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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

*Estella Last*

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

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

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

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### Fish Scheme

The Fish scheme Coffee Pop-ins will be on Friday July 11th 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

# *Pet Service*

**Sunday 6th July**

**10am St Peter's Bekesbourne**



**Celebrate our pets with a singing and a visit from Banks the Donkey  
Bring along your pets for a blessing from Rev Estella.**

## **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, 15<sup>th</sup> 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, 19<sup>th</sup> 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 [stevethomas91@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## **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](mailto: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 Churchwardens. 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.

You are invited to.....

## Summer Buffet Lunch Party

in the gardens of The Old Palace on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July 12.30 – 3.00pm

Tickets to include lunch and drinks.

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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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> July ; and a talk about the **Romney-Hythe Railway** by Alan Walton on 29<sup>th</sup> 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 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.



## National Vegetable Society – Kent District Association

Well known and respected Kent speaker, ecologist and expert on everything wild-life, 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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