

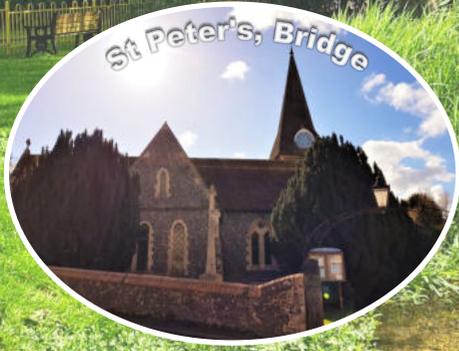


# *On the Nail*

A magazine for the  
villages along the  
Nailbourne



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St Peter's, Bridge



St Peter's, Bekesbourne

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September 2025

Dear Friends,

As is often the way with writing my letter for the Parish Magazine, I am writing this so far in advance that by the time you read it, the summer holidays will be over, and we will all be contemplating whatever normal life looks like in September – even though I haven't had my summer holiday yet!

This week, in the last of our Bible Study sessions where we had focussed on The Lord's Prayer, we strayed into the territory of whether you can be a Christian without going to church. Many would I suspect like to assert that you can, that living out Christian values, is something anyone can do and maybe that's true to a certain extent, but I think it depends on whether we see being a Christian as merely a statement that is rather than as a development of us as person. For me, the important bit of being a Christian is the 'being', it's an active thing.

What do I mean? Well can you be an athlete without ever training? Can you be a dancer without ever dancing? Whilst the 'being' of being an athlete is honed in the arena of training and the 'being' of being a dancer or a singer is honed in the arena of the rehearsal room. Where is the 'being' of being a Christian honed? How do we keep ourselves safe in our beliefs, how do we continue to grow in the face of all life throws at us, all that might or could derail our faith, if not in the company of others, if not in exploration of word and sacrament, if not in the fellowship of others who similarly wrestle with what 'being' a Christian means in a world which seems manifestly unjust and determined to derail the faith of those who have it?

And here is the wonderful flip side of all of this, you can train all the hours you can and never make it as an athlete, you can rehearse as much as you like and never make it as a dancer or a singer. Churches are not made up of perfect Christlike Christians who have all the answers, but they are made up of worthy people all seeking a better way. A way of life that puts the needs of others at least on a par with our own if not above them ('love your neighbour as yourself', right?). A way of life that says all life is precious because all are created in the very image of God. A way of life that says all people are fallible and yet all people are loved and forgiven.

Churchgoing is about being in community with other Christians, singing, worshiping, studying scripture and yes questioning. It's about gathering around a table and sharing the most basic elements of a meal, bread and wine, in recognition of our fundamental need of sustenance both physical and spiritual. And it's about prayer, finding our connection with the divine, seeking the will of God that brings Kingdom glimpses into our everyday life.

To be a Christian means to walk in the light. Walking in the light means walking with others who are striving for the same thing. When we purposely place ourselves among other Christians, there is accountability, friendship, mutual building up of one another, love for one another, instruction for one another, and ways to serve one another. This is church, this is where the 'being' of a Christian is honed.

Yours in Christ

*Estella Last*

Rev. Canon Estella Last, Vicar,  
The Parish of the Bridge Group

	<b>September 2025</b>
Thurs 4 <sup>rd</sup>	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup>	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm Caring and Sharing
Weds 10 <sup>th</sup>	10-11.30am Bekesbourne Coffee Morning
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup>	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 10am Fish Scheme Pop in at Bridge Village Hall
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	Ride and Stride
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup>	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 11am-12.30pm Lower Hardres Coffee Morning
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>	2.30pm Caring and Sharing
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup>	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup>	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church

## Service details and readings for September 2025

7 <sup>th</sup> September	12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity (Creation Season starts)	Deuteronomy 30.15-20; Philemon 1- 21; Luke 14.25-33	<b>9am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington</b>  <b>10am Songs of Praise St Pe- ter's Bekesbourne</b>
14 <sup>th</sup> September <b>Education Sunday</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Exodus 32.7- 14; 1 Timothy 1.12 -17; Luke 15.1-10	<b>10 am Communion at St Pe- ter's Bridge</b> Back to School Service with school bag blessings for chil- dren and singing from Bridge School Choir
21 <sup>st</sup> September	14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity <b>Harvest Festival</b>	Harvest readings to be confirmed	<b>10am Traditional Sung Holy Communion at St Mary's Nackington in place of St Mary's Patrixbourne</b>
28 <sup>th</sup> September	15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Amos 8.4-7; 1 Timothy 2.1- 7; Luke 16.1-13	<b>10am Communion at St Mary's Lower Hardres</b>
<a href="#">5<sup>th</sup> October</a>	16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Amos 6.1a, 4- 7; 1 Timothy 6.6- 19; Luke 16.19-31	<b>9am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington</b>  <b>10am Songs of Praise St Pe- ter's Bekesbourne</b>

# Education Sunday

14th September 10am St Peter's Bridge

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## **NAILBOURNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

After what seems like a long break since our Society's last event, we have several interesting and varied meetings scheduled for our Autumn/Winter programme. The first of these will be on **Tuesday 9th September, 7.30 pm at Bridge Village Hall**, when Chris Spree will talk about his experiences; "**17 years of Purgatory under the National Trust**".

This month's competition, (open to members only), is titled '**Your Best September Bloom**'. We hope that as many members as possible will bring a bloom to exhibit, as you never know you could win and go home with a trophy!

Please note that contrary to previous years' meetings, we shall have the social part of the evening including the judging and refreshments *before* the talk. We really look forward to seeing you and any friends and family you could ask to come along.

There will also be a bring and buy table sale of plants and garden related items and this along with competitions will feature at most future meetings.

Anyone interested in joining the Society now can do so at half the price of the annual subscription. There will be a small entry fee to include refreshments and of course everyone is most welcome!

### **An additional Event for September! - Nailbourne Horticultural Society's Information and Plant Stall**

With the aim of raising the Society's profile, to provide information and generate funds, we will be holding a stall at

**Bridge Farmer's Market on Saturday 13th September, 9 am to 12 noon.** There will be plants and garden related items for sale. We would be very happy to see you there to answer any questions about the Society and if you'd like to become a member, you can do so at half the annual membership price! Come and see us there!

## **Bridge & District History Society**

Our new season of talks begins on Thursday September 18th at 7.30 in Bridge Village Hall.

Jane Delamaine's talk is entitled "The Life and Death of Amy Johnson".

Amy was the first woman to fly solo from England to Australia and became the "influencer" of her time. Eleven years later she was dead. Jane's talk will take us through Amy's life, incredible achievements and tragic death.

Amy is commemorated with a statue in Herne Bay, where she was last seen before her plane crashed in the Thames Estuary.

No membership fee, £4.00 at the door to include refreshments. All welcome. Information about the society can be found at [www.bridgehistory.org.uk](http://www.bridgehistory.org.uk) where details of the new season's programme will be available shortly.

## **National Vegetable Society – Kent District Association**

The Society are organising two local events in September.

Firstly, on Wednesday 10 September at the usual time of 7.30 for 8.00 pm, there will be a talk by Guy Deakins, garden consultant, author and designer, entitled "It Starts with the Soil". We expect to learn about the importance of getting the very basics correct first, like creating and maintaining a suitable environment, for any type of plant we may wish to grow before we begin to try to plant anything. As ever, everyone is welcome, refreshments are available before the talk and entry is free, although it would be appreciated if you would consider buying raffle tickets to help raise funds for the Society.

Then following on immediately after that, the Society will be holding its Annual Show in Wingham Village Hall, School Lane CT3 1BD over the weekend of 13/14 September. The show, which has been expanded this year to include classes for fruit, flowers and cookery, will be open to visitors from 2 until 4 on the Saturday and 10 until 4 on the Sunday. There is no entry fee as such, but a charity donation to the British Heart Foundation is encouraged, and refreshments and a tombola will be available.

### **Bridge with Patricbourne Women's Institute**

A number of our members thoroughly enjoyed our summer outing to the National Trust Cafe at Langdon Cliffs, Dover on 5 August. Fortunately, the weather was kind to us and we were able to enjoy our lunch sitting outside, despite the rather annoying wasps! We then had a browse around the gift shop before setting off back home.

Looking ahead, our next meeting is on **Tuesday 16 September at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall** when we are going to learn "How to be a Silversmith" with Helen Sharp.

Our small friendly group is always happy to welcome visitors to our meetings and there is always time for a chat over refreshments. If you are interested in this subject or, indeed, in joining us, please come along on the 16th.

If you would like more details about our WI please contact our President, Sheila Scrivener, on 01227 831788.

### **Valley Outings (AGTO) member**

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## **Nailbourne Scout Group news**

We hope that everyone enjoyed the summer! Nailbourne has taken a break from our weekly meetings over the summer holidays, but that doesn't mean that nothing has been happening!

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts finished the summer term with a social event at Denton Village Hall for parents to attend, along with their young people – this was a great success!

In July, at the Bridge Village Fete, Explorers helped out by directing the car parking. They also collected donations to put towards KIJ (more on that below), so many thanks to everyone who contributed.

The following week, Nailbourne was at Barham Village Hall for their open day, where we had a fundraising stall and also carried out demonstrations in the hall, including science experiments and packing a sleeping bag!

In August, some of our Scouts and Explorers spent a week camping in Detling for the Kent International Jamboree (or KIJ). The event is attended by Scout groups from across the world as well as Kent, and is a great opportunity for young people to make friends, try new things and, of course, have lots of fun. They tried all sorts of activities, including climbing, go-karts, zorbing, a mud run, abseiling, bag drops (jumping from a height onto a mat!) and a cave bus. There was also a funfair, and their last night finished with an orange-themed party, a concert from the band Scouting for Girls and finally an amazing firework display! They all had a brilliant week and would happily do it again tomorrow. Thank you to all our leaders (who would probably rather not do it again for at least another few months!) who gave up their time to make it such fun for our young people.

By the time you read this, Nailbourne will be gearing up to start the autumn term. We will also be serving cake and tea at the autumn meeting of the Horticultural Society on Saturday 13 September in Barham Village Hall. We will be raising money for our funds, so please come and support us!

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](mailto:akelanailbourne@gmail.com) or visit our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/Nailbourne-Scout-Group-public-108853207216429](https://www.facebook.com/Nailbourne-Scout-Group-public-108853207216429)). For information on Explorers, please contact Phil Last at [explorersnailbourne@gmail.com](mailto:explorersnailbourne@gmail.com)**

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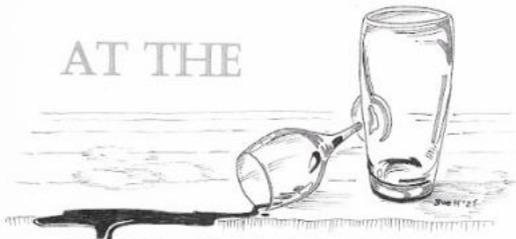
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For more information call Estella on 01227 206272



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## **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  
KCC Scam Awareness Talk**

**by**

**KCC Trading Standards & Community**

**Warden John Lithgow**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025**

**1.30pm Start**



**Refreshments available**

**No booking required**

As you are probably aware, there are many scams taking place, especially in the run up the Christmas.

To help you and your money stay safe and avoid these scams, KCC have teamed up with our Community Warden, Roger Lithgow, to talk to the public and save you from being targeted by these scammers. This talk will last around 45 mins with a Q & A session at the end.

Come along, bring a friend or two for an interesting talk.

**All welcome**



## The Thursday Village Gardeners

Autumn will be nearly upon us as you read this but I think I'm going to call it late summer (into autumn maybe) As much as I love autumn I want to hold on to summer as long as possible.....those beautiful sunny days and all the magnificent late summer flowers and grasses. Amazing.

All our village planting has continued to struggle during the many mini heatwaves that we've had this season. The thunderstorms and the accompanying rain have perked things along a little, but the long dry spells have taken their toll. In most of our spaces we have ornamental grasses which are usually showing off their amazing seedheads into late summer but as I write this in mid August even they are finding life hard. I'm optimistic that a few more showers will still make the grasses put on a late summer (into autumn) show. At the Nature Garden we have a few species of *Miscanthus* that are amazing grasses with magnificent seedheads in all hues, from white to pinks to stunning deep reds. At the long High Street border we have varieties of *Calamagrostis*, much more upright and with golden seedheads that catch the light. And at the traffic calming we have *Anementhale*, a much shorter grass that quivers with the slightest breeze. All the grasses last well in to the winter months and along with the perennials provide shelter and food for all sorts of wildlife if left. We're all being encouraged to be a little less tidy in our gardens now and leaving the seedheads of grasses and spent flowers is good for nature and leaves us with some pretty stunning plants too.

Happy late summer days everyone.



Pam Dobson

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