

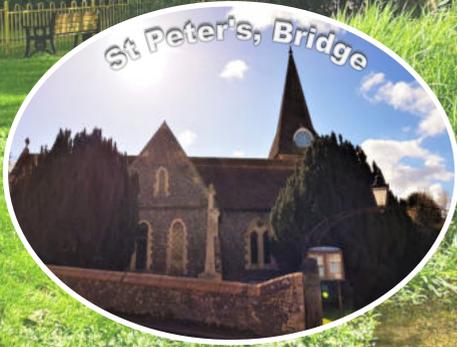


On the Nail

A magazine for the
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St Peter's, Bridge



St Peter's, Bekesbourne

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October 2025

Dear Friends,

October already and we enter the season that truly heralds Autumn. In the past few weeks we have been holding Harvest Festival Services in our Churches, and our thoughts and prayers have been turned toward the farmers and those who labour tirelessly to bring the bounty of the earth to our tables. This year's harvest, like all others, carries with it a sense of gratitude for the abundance we've received, but it also serves as a poignant reminder of the challenges facing our world, particularly the growing impact of climate change on agriculture.

Farmers are the backbone of our rural communities, and this year, many have faced unpredictable weather patterns, shifting growing seasons, and the increasing threat of extreme weather events. From droughts and floods to unseasonable temperatures, the effects of climate change have made the work of planting and harvesting more unpredictable and demanding.

As we give thanks for the harvest, we should also recognise the hard work, sacrifices, and resilience of our local farmers. Their labour is often hidden from view, but their impact is felt every day when we sit down to a meal. Whether it's the fruits of the harvest or the grains that sustain us through the winter, their work nourishes both body and spirit.

Our faith calls us to be good stewards of the earth, to protect and care for the land that sustains us. As Pope Francis wrote in *Laudato Si'*, "The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth." The beauty of God's creation is being threatened by climate change, and it is our duty to care for the earth in the same way that farmers care for their crops.

There is so much we can do to contribute to the well-being of the planet. From reducing waste and conserving water to supporting sustainable farming practices, each small action makes a difference. As a parish community, we can also raise our voices in support of policies that address climate change, ensuring that future generations will inherit a world capable of sustaining life. We would love for some more people to join our Eco Church Team if this is something that interests you.

In the midst of these challenges, we also find cause for gratitude. Despite the unpredictable weather, there is still much to celebrate in this year's harvest. Whether it's the abundance of local produce (remember the Cherries!) or the generous offerings from our parishioners, we are reminded that God provides for us, even in difficult times. As a sign of our appreciation, we have been collecting non-perishable food items to donate to the local food bank. If you are able, please consider contributing to this effort – there is a yellow bin in the foyer of Bridge Church for this purpose

.May this harvest season be one of reflection, renewal, and gratitude. Let us continue to support one another, care for our earth, and trust in God's providence.

Yours in Christ

Estella Last

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

Service details and readings for October 2025

5 th <u>October</u>	16 th Sunday after Trinity	Habakkuk 1.1-4; 2.1-4; 2 Timothy 1.1-14; Luke 17.5- 10	9am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington 10am Songs of Praise St Pe- ter's Bekesbourne
Saturday 11 th <u>October</u>			4-6pm Messy Church at Bridge and & Patrixbourne School
12 th October	17 th Sunday after Trinity	2 Kings 5.1- 3,7-15c; 2 Timothy 2.8-15; Luke 17.11 19	10 am Communion at St Pe- ter's Bridge
19 th October	18 th Sunday after Trinity	Genesis 32.22-31; 2 Timothy 3.14-4.5; Luke 18.1-8	10am Traditional Sung Holy Communion at St Peter's Bekesbourne in place of St Mary's Patrixbourne
26 th October	Last Sunday after Trinity (Bible Sun- day)	Jeremiah 14.7-10,19- 22; Timothy 4.6 -8,16-18; Luke 18.9- 14	10am Communion at St Mary's Lower Hardres

	October 2025
Thurs 2nd	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 3rd	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church
Mon 6 th	2-3pm Caring and Sharing
Weds 8th	10-11.30am Bekesbourne Coffee Morning
Thurs 9 th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 10 th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 10am Fish Scheme Pop in at Bridge Village Hall
Sat 11 th	4-6pm Messy Church at Bridge School
<u>Thurs 16th</u>	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 17th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 11am-12.30pm Lower Hardres Coffee Morning
Sat 18th	10.15-11.30am Coffee Cake and Concert at Bridge Church
Thurs 23rd	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion-HALF TERM BREAK
Fri 24th	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church- HALF TERM BREAK
Thurs 30th	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 31st	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 5-7pm Halloween Hot chocolates at Bridge Church

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Barry Whiting

The Whiting family are sad to announce that Barry died on 8 September. His memorial service will be held at St Peter's Church, Bridge, on Thursday, 2 October at 11.00. All are welcome to attend and to join the family afterwards for coffee and light refreshments at the Red Lion, Bridge.



Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute

Because of the general interest in the topics being covered at the October meeting of the WI, this meeting will be **OPEN TO ALL**, members and non-members alike.

Esme Clarke of local Solicitors, Furley Page, will be including the important subjects of **Powers of Attorney** and **Inheritance Planning**, matters which concern us all, in a presentation entitled "**Protecting Your Estate**". We are pleased that we have been able to re-schedule this meeting from last year and it will now be held on **Friday 17 October** at **2.00 pm** in **Bridge Village Hall**. There will be a small charge of £5 for non-members, to include refreshments.

Please do join us on the 17th and get expert advice on these difficult but important subjects.

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

Halloween Hot Chocolates

A warm welcome for anyone out and about on 31st October between 5-7pm, pop in for a pit stop, light in the darkness. All welcome, hot chocolate available. If anyone would like to contribute smiley or love themed pumpkin lantern, to light the church path, these can be dropped off at the church from 4pm

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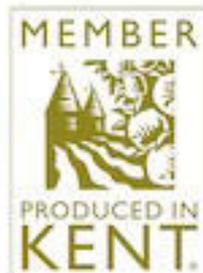


NAILBOURNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

At the Society's meeting on **Tuesday 14th October, 7.30 pm at Bridge village Hall**, we will be welcoming the popular and renowned local environmentalist, Martin Newcombe. His talk is entitled '**Bats in the Belfry**' and we can be sure to look forward to a both interesting and entertaining evening.

We shall, (as it is now the form), be having a bring and buy plant stall as well as our monthly competition for October, (open to members only), which is, a '**Halloween Vegetable**'. The winner will be awarded a cup so we hope you will rise to the challenge and bring along an entry that fits the bill!

The judging of the competition will take place before the talk. There will be the usual small entry fee to include refreshments. We very much look forward to seeing you then.



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Exhibits to the Hall 4.30 – 6.00 pm Friday 3rd October

***For further information please go to our web site
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Save the date!



Saturday 8th November 2025

Littlebourne & District Royal British Legion

We held a lively meeting this month with 12 members present. We have some good ideas for fundraising in the new year, including a possible Meet the Legion afternoon at the Hay Wain.

At our October we take nominations for Branch Officers ready for our AGM in November.

Our Remembrance Sunday Service this year will be on 9 November at St John's Church, Ickham.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 14 October in Littlebourne Recreation Club (to the right past the main Hall door). Contact details are in our notice board on the wall of the Hall

Bridge & District History Society

Our next meeting is on **Thursday October 16th at 7.30pm in Bridge Village Hall.**

Peter Berg's talk is entitled "St Dunstan's, a Village Outside the City Walls"

Peter will take us on a virtual walk through a village outside the city, following the footsteps of kings, queens, prelates, pilgrims and ordinary folk as they made their way from St Dunstan's Church to the Westgate Towers and the centre of one of the country's most significant cities through the ages.

No membership fee £4.00 at the door to include refreshments.

Details of all talks for our new season are now at www.bridgehistory.org

National Vegetable Society – Kent District Association

The Society's last meeting on the calendar this year to be held in **Bridge Village Hall** is on **Wednesday 8 October**, 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm. Botanist **Sue Buckingham** is the guest speaker and she will be giving a talk entitled **Wild Flowers of Kent**. Kent is home to a great variety of different habitats and Sue will be describing them and the wild flowers which grow in them.

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Wednesday 29th October

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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 2nd October 2025

1.30pm Start



Refreshments available

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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

It's a rainy and rather windy September evening as I write this but I'm still hoping for some of those mellow autumnal days. I'm sure they are coming.....

We need some dry days as September and October are the perfect time to collect seeds. It's not something that we, as a group, have routinely done but we aim to start this year as it's an amazing, and cheap, way to increase your plant stock.

At the Nature Garden we leave all the seed heads to overwinter and self seed where they are most happy. But if you are collecting seed from your own garden, or from one of our village spaces, now is the perfect time. Why not have a go, if you've not already tried it.

The best seed will always be that which is ripe. If you can hear the seed rattling in the pod, or when the seed pods go crack, they're ready.

Choose a dry, sunny day to harvest so that the seed is as dry as it can be. Tip the seed heads into a paper bag or envelope as you collect, one species per bag or envelope and label straight away with the date, species and location. Once collected keep the seed in a dry place until you're ready to sow them.

Easy seeds to collect are *Eryngium*, *Papaver*, *Kniphofia*, *Sanguisorba* and *Lunaria*.

Happy seed collecting.

Pam Dobson

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Ps. We are now meeting on the first Tuesday and the third Thursday of the month. If you fancy joining us on one of those mornings we'd love to see you. So we are now the 'Village Gardeners'

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