

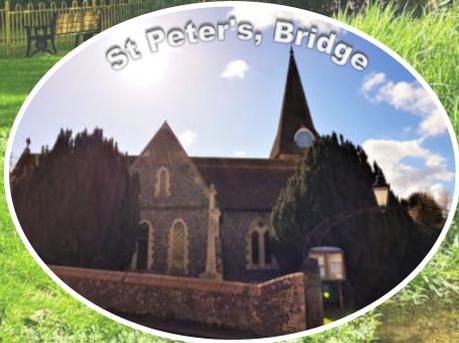


# *On the Nail*

A magazine for the  
villages along the  
Nailbourne



St Mary's, Patribourne



St Peter's, Bridge



St Peter's, Bekesbourne

**NOVEMBER  
2025**



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November 2025

Dear Friends,

Well after what seems like a long time of waiting the news we had been waiting for finally broke, a new Archbishop for the Church of England. Like me I am sure you were thrilled with the announcement on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October that our new Archbishop will be Sarah Mullalley (Bishop of London). As many of you will know I was elected earlier in the year to represent Canterbury Diocese on the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) which made this nomination. This important work took me out of the Parish for 3 weeks plus reading time, over the last 6 months. I have expressed my gratitude to all in our Parish for their understanding and patience whilst I contributed to the life of our Church in this way. It really isn't every day that one gets to be this closely involved with actual history in the making. I can't say much about the process but what I can say is that I can see through it all the moments when the work of the Holy Spirit was abundantly apparent and so I have complete confidence that God has guided us in this decision. Bishop Sarah will be confirmed as the Archbishop of Canterbury in January and installed in Canterbury Cathedral in March. In the meantime, we pray for her and the Diocese of London as they prepare for their Bishop to move on.

As it turns out this wasn't the end of news impacting on our Parish. Soon after coming out of the CNC, I went through an interview process myself and on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October it was announced in Church that I have been appointed as Archdeacon of Maidstone. I am of course thrilled to have been appointed and very much looking forward to the new challenges this will bring. As a family though, we are all very sad that this means our time in Bridge will come to an end and that I will no longer be the Vicar in these beautiful 5 villages. We have come through some tough times together, recalling of course the years of the Pandemic and the time we couldn't worship together in person, and as a church family have walked together in the path of bereavement as some of our treasured church members have gone to glory. We have also had some wonderful achievements, amalgamating our Parishes, changing the way we worship, being a training parish and sending our Curate off on her way trained and equipped to serve the church and along the way we have seen and continue to see improvements to our church buildings which will ensure they are fit to serve the people of our villages for many centuries to come. There will be a gap while the PCC goes through the process of appointing a new Vicar and this can take some months but I will do all I can to ensure that the Parish has the support it needs in place before I leave.

There is more that could be said of course but for now, we have until 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026 together so we will pray together through the upcoming season of Remembrance and then we have all the festivities of Christmas to enjoy too. You can find all the details of the upcoming services in November and December elsewhere in this magazine.

For now I am thankful for all that has been and looking forward to all that is to come. I pray for you all daily and hope you may know the peace of God with you.

Yours in Christ

*Estella Last*

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

	<b>November 2025</b>
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup>	2-3pm Caring and Sharing
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup>	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup>	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church
Weds 12 <sup>th</sup>	10-11.30am Bekesbourne Coffee Morning
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup>	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 10am Fish Scheme Pop in at Bridge Village Hall
<u>Thurs 20<sup>th</sup></u>	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 11am-12.30pm Lower Hardres Coffee Morning
Weds 26 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm A Christmas Carol in Bridge Church
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup>	9-11am Little Lambs Toddler Group, Bridge Pavilion 7.30pm A Christmas Carol in Bridge Church
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup>	8.45am Coffee, Chat and Prayer at Bridge Church 7.30pm A Christmas Carol in Bridge Church
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm A Christmas Carol in Bridge Church

## Service details and readings for November – December 2025

<p>2<sup>nd</sup> November</p>	<p>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Ad- vent</p> <p>All Saints (1<sup>st</sup> Nov)</p> <p>All Souls (2<sup>nd</sup> Nov)</p>	<p>Isaiah 1.10-18; 2 Thessalonians 1 Luke 19.1-10</p> <p>Daniel 7:1-3,15-18 Ephesians 1:11-23 Luke 6: 20-31</p> <p>Wisdom 3: 1-9 Psalm 130 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 John 5: 24-27</p>	<p><b>9am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington</b></p> <p><b>10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bekesbourne</b></p> <p><b>6pm Choral Evensong for All Souls at St Peter's Bridge</b></p>
<p>9<sup>th</sup> November</p>	<p>Remem- brance Sunday</p>	<p>Job 19.23-27a; 2 Thessalonians 2.1- 5,13-17; Luke 20.27-38</p>	<p><b>10 am Communion at St Peter's Bridge (Parade Service with Act of Re- membrance at 10.50)</b></p> <p><b>10am Remembrance Ser- vice at St Mary's Nacking- ton followed by Wreath laying at the War Memori- al</b></p> <p><b>10.45 Wreath Laying at the War Memorial in Lower Hardres</b></p>
<p>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November</p>			<p><b>11am Remembrance Ser- vice with Year 6 from Bridge School at St Mary's Patixbourne</b></p> <p><b>10.50 for 11am Act of Re- membrance at the War Memorial at St Peter's Bekesbourne</b></p>
<p>16<sup>th</sup> November</p>	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Ad- vent (Safeguardi ng Sunday)</p>	<p>Malachi 4.1-2a; 2 Thessalonians 3.6-13; Luke 21.5-19</p>	<p><b>10am Traditional Sung Holy Communion at St Mary's Nackington</b></p>
<p>23<sup>th</sup> November</p>	<p>Christ the King / Sun- day next before Ad- vent</p>	<p>Jeremiah 23.1-6; Colossians 1.11- 20; Luke 23.33-43</p>	<p><b>10am Parish Communion at St Mary's Lower Hardres</b></p>

30 <sup>th</sup> November	Advent Sunday	Isaiah 2.1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13.11-14; Matthew 24.36-44	<b>9am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington</b>  <b>10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bekesbourne</b>  <b>4pm Advent Family Service – getting ready for Christmas</b>
7 <sup>th</sup> December	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun- day of Ad- vent	Isaiah 11.1-10; Ro- mans 15.4-13; Mat- thew 3.1-12	<b>10am Celebration Service at St Mary's Patrixbourne –</b> reopening of the building and dedication of the new extension and facilities. With the Archdeacon of Canterbury.
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December			<b>6pm Community Carols at St Mary's Lower Hardres</b>
14 <sup>th</sup> December	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 35.1-10; Luke 1.46b-55 (Magnificat); James 5.7-10; Matthew 11.2-11	<b>10 am Parish Communion at St Peter's Bridge</b>  <b>4pm Instant Nativity (Family Service)</b>
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December			<b>7pm Carol Service St Mary's Patrixbourne</b>
21 <sup>st</sup> December	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 7.10-16; Ro- mans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-25	<b>10am Traditional Sung Holy Communion at St Mary's Patrixbourne</b>  <b>7pm Carol Service at St Peter's Bridge</b>
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Eve	Isaiah 52:7-10 Hebrews 1:1-12 John 1:1-14	<b>3pm Christingle Service at Bridge</b> <b>5pm Christingle Service at Bridge</b>  <b>10pm Christmas Eucharist Nackington</b>
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> Decem- ber	Christmas Day	Isaiah 9.2-7; Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-14,(15-20)	<b>9.30am Christmas Com- munion St Peter's Bridge</b>  <b>11am Christmas Carol Ser- vice St Peter's Bekesbourne</b>
			11

28 <sup>th</sup> December	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas	Jeremiah 31: 15-17 1 Corinthians 1: 26-29 Matthew 2: 13-18	<b>10am Parish Communion at St Mary's Lower Hardres</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> January	Epiphany	Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2: 1-12	<b>10am Benefice Communion Service at St Peter's Bekesbourne</b>
11 <sup>th</sup> January	Baptism of Christ / Epiphany 1	Isaiah 42:1-9 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3: 13-17	<b>10am Benefice Communion at St Peter's Bridge – Revd Estella's last Sunday in the Parish</b>

## **Bridge & District History Society**

The Society is proud to announce the forthcoming publication

### **“Bridge: Past and Present”**

The book will contain historical views of the parishes of Bridge, Patrixbourne and Bekesbourne alongside their modern equivalents, taken where possible on the same spot, and with historical commentary highlighting both the change and the continuity in each view. It also includes newly-merged images of activities from the past set in their modern surroundings and fascinating insights into the heritage of familiar scenes and buildings.

**“Bridge: Past and Present”** will be launched at a special evening event in Bridge Village Hall on

### **Thursday November 20<sup>th</sup> from 7.30pm**

The 80-page, full-colour book is priced at £9.99 and is a perfect Christmas gift for anyone with a connection to Bridge, Patrixbourne or Bekesbourne.

If you are unable to attend the launch the book is available to order from [www.canterley.co.uk](http://www.canterley.co.uk) using the checkout code BRIDGEPP before November 20<sup>th</sup> to receive free UK delivery.

**All are welcome to attend. There is no entry fee. Light refreshments will be available.**

## A message from Hilary Whiting

On behalf of Amanda and Julian I am writing to thank so many people for their kind support, lovely cards expressing such heart-warming thoughts, the flowers and tributes from so many people in our village and friends at Herne Bay Red Cross Centre. Barry would have been amazed at the response, as indeed we have been!

Barry and I were both students at Bognor Regis Training College in 1956 and met on the first evening of my course with our second-year students. He and I were the only ones to opt for tea- we still remain in touch with many from our course of study- fortunate for the time before the expansion of its status as the University of Sussex.

We were married in Hexham Abbey in 1960 and have recently had a card signed by King Charles and Queen Camilla congratulating us on our 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

As Deputy Head of Allenith Secondary School, Barry has been involved in the Nuffield Science Project for changes in the teaching of Science. He was seconded to a year's Advanced Diploma at the Froebel Institute, London, when he moved into Primary Education in 1970, before moving to a Kent Headship in 1974, and was involved in Teacher Training with several Colleges.

The political situation involving the 1984 miner's strikes had a major effect on the Kent coal field communities and the cost to Barry's health meant he was offered early retirement in 1987. He worked as a lecturer in First Aid at Work and enjoyed a complete change of direction, working with a range of organisations. He also regularly drove Bill Rose to the National War Museum in Southwark, where London School-children could hear the history of Japanese War Prisoners as part of the curriculum in London O-level History Syllabus.

As the Poppy Appeal Organiser for Bridge, he is best remembered by 30 volunteers who had boxes of Poppies to cover the annual street collection. With his willing helpers, over the years they raised thousands of pounds for the Charity.



## A Christmas Carol

Proving that churches can be wonderful assets for the local community, the Church Players present 'A Christmas Carol' which will take place at St Peter's Church in Bridge on the evenings of 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> November, with a matinee performance on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 2.30pm. A homegrown adaptation of the classic Dickens novella about the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge, who through a series of Ghostly encounters is encouraged to reflect on his selfish life. All the parts will be played by local people including the Vicar of Bridge, Revd Estella Last.

Commenting on the event Revd Estella said "The arts and religion have always walked hand and hand and so it is a great joy to be able to offer our church as a venue for local theatre. We really hope that people will enjoy coming to see this classic tale performed by people they know in our beautiful Church in the heart of Bridge village."

The performance is the second time in recent years that the church in Bridge has become a theatre. In 2023 a similar group performed Murder in the Cathedral, T.S. Eliot's depiction of the martyrdom of Archbishop Thomas Becket in 1170 Canterbury Cathedral to great acclaim.

Revd Estella continues, "Of course once December arrives we will have all our usual Christmas Services, and carol singing events which are widely publicised in the villages but we hope people will enjoy a little theatre outing close to home in the meantime".

A Christmas Carol, St Peter's Bridge 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2025 Tickets £10 each will be available from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-bridge-group-of-churches](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-bridge-group-of-churches) or Tel: 03336663366 quoting The Bridge Group of Churches

The Church Players Present

# A CHRISTMAS CAROL



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# Instant Nativity Performance

Sunday 14th December

4pm St Peter's Bridge

The Nativity with a twist....

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Bridge  
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& Bonfire

Saturday 8th November 2025



## The Village Gardeners

Mulch, marvellous mulch.

Maybe not the most glamorous way to start the November article but I'm going to see if I can make it more appealing!

What is mulch, and why do we use it in gardening? Mulch can be any biodegradable material such as garden compost, wood chippings, bark, leaf mould etc. or non biodegradable material such as slate, shingle, pebbles or gravel.

Why do we mulch? There are a myriad of reasons for mulching, including helping the soil to retain moisture, reducing watering, suppressing weeds, protecting plant roots from severe hot and cold temperatures and improving the organic matter in the soil..... plus of course it can look so pleasing. We mulch most of the village areas that we look after from the Bridge Nature Garden to the long High Street border to the planters on the High Street. We are lucky enough to have been given some organic material from two local tree surgeons and we have spread, and will be spreading this, over the coming months. Ideally any mulch needs to be between 5 and 7.5cm deep and our mulch is a combination of wood chippings and shredded leaves that will biodegrade over time. Many thanks to Citadel Grounds Maintenance in Dover and Gristwood & Toms, working on behalf of Kent County Council, for supplying this year's mulch.

Autumn is a ideal time to mulch when your herbaceous plants are dying back, or if you miss the opportunity to do so, and it gets too cold, you can apply it in mid to late spring before the annual weeds germinate.

There are very few drawbacks to mulching but if you have specimen shrubs or trees then avoid direct contact with the stems, and if you have freshly chipped material it is advisable to store it for a few weeks before using as they may deplete the soil of nitrogen.

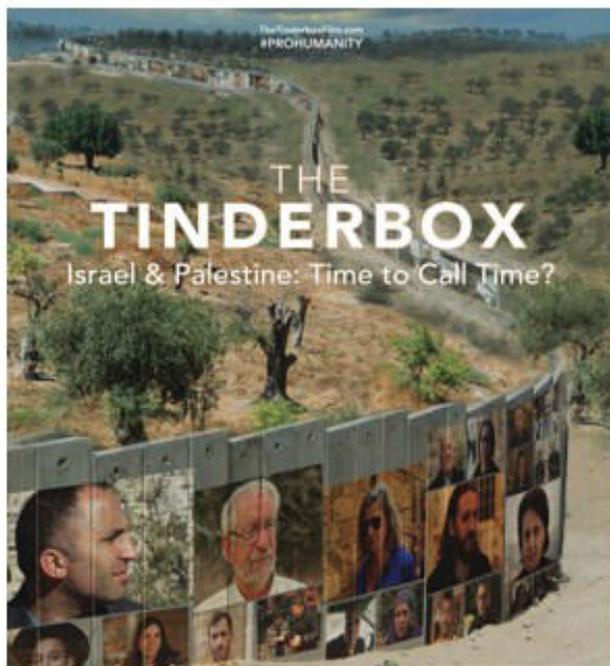
If you haven't mulched before then maybe give it a go. In our rapidly changing climate it will help to look after the plants and importantly the soil. Soil is the heart and soul of our planet and we all need to look after it.

Happy mulching. Maybe not glamorous but pretty positive all round.

Pam

The Village Gardeners 07561 560871





## ISRAEL & PALESTINE: THE UNTOLD STORY

A screening of this highly-acclaimed film followed by a panel discussion and Q&A, with the film's director, **Gillian Mosely**  
**Gulbenkian Arts Centre, Canterbury CT2 7NB**

**Wednesday 19th November, 2 - 5pm**

Panel: **William Bell**, Head of Middle East Policy and Advocacy, Christian Aid  
**Shahd Hammouri**, Lecturer in International Law, University of Kent Law School  
**Rabbi Dan Cohn-Sherbok**, Professor Emeritus of Judaism, University of Wales  
Chair: **Jonathan Arnold**, Professor of Faith, Culture and Arts, University of Kent



*Admission free. Donations to Christian Aid's Middle East Humanitarian Appeal welcomed on the door*



## The Tinderbox

The war in Gaza may have come to an end but it is only the beginning of the journey towards peace, justice and reconciliation in the area. The film 'The Tinderbox' (see separate poster) explores what led up to the war and helps us to understand the ongoing hostility between Israeli and Palestinian. If you are interested to learn more about the situation and want hear the views of the panel about what lies ahead, do go along. Admission is free but donations to Christian Aid's Middle East Humanitarian Appeal are welcome. The event is sponsored by Canterbury Christian Aid Group.

## NAILBOURNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

We are excited to announce that our next meeting on **Tuesday, 11th November, 7.30 at Bridge Village Hall**, is one that we were able to add as an extra event to the Society's schedule. **'Butterfly Conservation, Bridge and the Curious Tale of the White-Letter Hairstreak'**, is the intriguing title of the talk, which we can look forward to from Roland Brown, Chair of the Kent Branch Committee of Butterfly Conservation.

We shall be having our usual bring and buy plant stall and November's competition, **'Your Best Pot Plant'**, which is open to members only. The winner will be awarded a cup so please bring along a pot plant which you feel is worthy of entering. Hopefully there will be many entries this month to make it hard for the judge to pick out a winner!

There will be the usual small entry fee to include refreshments. We very much look forward to seeing you then. Thank you for your continued support.

## Kath Diss

Many residents will remember Kath Diss, who for many years lived in Bridge, latterly at 1 Ford Close and moved five years ago to Marlborough to be closer to her son Colin and his family.

Kath enjoyed good health until recently and her health declined rapidly over the past weeks and she died at 99 years and 9 months mid October and I absolutely know she was doing her best to make a century!

Jane Ludlow

## Fish Scheme

The monthly Pop-in Will be on Friday 14th, the second Friday of the month. Everybody is very welcome and , as is the tradition for this month, the coffee and biscuits are free.

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**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

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**(Pre-booked Stalls only)**

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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.





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## The Kingsbourne Players

Don't forget to book your places for **'The Knife Before Christmas'**, a Murder Mystery in Kingston Barn, for one night only on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November. In aid of The Barn, the ticket price is £15 each, and includes a 'Ploughman's Platter' and nibbles. There will be a bar. There are only 64 spaces in total – don't miss out on this seasonal sleuthery! Book tickets for this event via email: [helensole@btinternet.com](mailto:helensole@btinternet.com)

Panto time is getting closer. The Kingsbourne Players have chosen **'Snow White'** as their next pantomime, with Sara Strain reprising her role as Director, to take place as usual in the last weekend of January, in Barham Village Hall.

Shows will be on the Friday and Saturday evenings, plus a Saturday matinee; and – in an exciting new development – another on the Sunday.

There will be some familiar faces in the cast, and some new ones too. Tickets will be on sale from 1<sup>st</sup> December, and details will follow; but pencil the dates in: 30<sup>th</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> February. Watch this space, see local advertising and check us out on social media. We'd love to see you there - Oh Yes We Would!

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

Please note that the programme for the rest of the 2025/2026 season has had to be re-arranged. In place of "New Age Kurling" which will now take place at our January meeting, on **Friday 21 November at 2.00 pm in Bridge Village Hall**, Clare Boggia has agreed to come to tell us about **"The Life and Designs of Clarice Cliff"**. If you watch any of the antiques programmes on television, you will certainly know the name of Clarice Cliff and be familiar with her work.

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 21st November.

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

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