



# The Bridge Group of Churches

Nackington - Lower Hardres - Bridge - Patrixbourne - Bekesbourne

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*Weekly Sheet for the Bridge Group of churches:*

## **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020, Sunday After Ascension**

**Today's Readings:** Acts 1:6-14; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

**Next Sunday is 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020, Pentecost**

Readings: Numbers 11: 24-30; Acts 2: 1-21; John 20:19-23

### **Collect**

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph,  
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,  
that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness  
and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

**Amen**

### **Readings**

#### **Acts 1:6-14;**

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from

you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

### **1Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11;**

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

### **John 17:1-11**

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in

your presence before the world existed. 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

### **Prayer Share**

Please continue to pray for Barry Whiting as he recovers from having a pacemaker fitted.

Pray for all schools, but especially Bridge and Patricxbourne school as they prepare for a 'phased return' for some year groups. Please pray for all school leaders, teachers, parents and governors as they discern the safest way forward.

Pray for our Churchwardens, PCCs and clergy who met together this week to discuss the impact Corona virus has had on our churches and begin to think through what church life might look like in the coming months.

## Village News

**Nackington:** Nackington church is looking beautiful in the May sunshine , surrounded by trees & fields.

The sounds of birds lambs and chickens are all present even if the congregation is temporarily absent.

The young trees in the churchyard extension are all flourishing and looking good.

**Bekesbourne:** Bekesbourne church is looking wonderful in the May sunshine. Lots of people are enjoying a walk and taking time for rest and reflection in our lovely churchyard. The paths have been swept, the spent daffodils cut down and the churchyard has been mown and tidied. We are sad that the church is locked and we cannot enjoy the bells and worship together. But we can appreciate the peace and calm and beauty of God's creation all around us.

**Bridge:** For many years Barry Whiting of Conyngham Lane has been our Flag Master at Bridge Church, keeping the flag fling appropriately for every occasion, caring for the flags and arranging fundraising for and the purchase of new flags as and when the need has arisen. Most recently you will have seen the 'Thank you NHS' flag flying. Barry has now decided to pass on this role to David Latham , who now takes over as Master of the Flags. We want to offer our sincere thanks to Barry for all his work in this role over so many years and to David for volunteering to carry on this important role in our community.

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