



The Bridge Group of Churches

Nackington - Lower Hardres - Bridge - Patrixbourne - Bekesbourne

Weekly Sheet for the Bridge Group of churches:

Sunday 27th September 2020, 16th Sunday after Trinity

Today's Readings:

Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

Upcoming Services:

Sunday 4th October 8.00am at Nackington and 10.00am at Bekesbourne

Sunday 11th October 10.00am at Bridge

Please contact Estella to book for Nackington or Bridge and Nicky Fry to book for Bekesbourne.

Collect

Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Post Communion

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Readings

Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32

The word of the LORD came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die. Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is

unfair.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’ O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Matthew 21:23-32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?" But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. 'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Parish News

PCC Meetings and APCM (Year end 2019)

There will be PCC meetings of the three (former) PCCs this week:

St Peter's Bekesbourne Wednesday 23rd at 2pm

Patricxbourne with Bridge Wednesday 23rd at 7.30pm

Lower Hardres with Nackington Thursday 24th 7.30pm

At these meetings we will be finalising arrangements for the APCM which was postponed in April. **The new proposed date for the joint APCM is Wednesday 21st October.** If you are not currently a PCC member and would like to stand for the new Single Parish PCC to represent one of our churches, or if you are interested in becoming a churchwarden please contact Estella or one of the Churchwardens for a conversation. Once the

new PCC has been elected there will be opportunities to join local sub committees for each of our churches. If you wish to be added to or removed from the Electoral Roll you must do so within the next 2 weeks – please contact your local Electoral Roll officer or our Parish Administrator bridgeoffice23@gmail.com to arrange this. Formal notices will be posted in the churches this weekend.

Harvest

A Harvest Songs of Praise is to take place in Bekesbourne Church on 4th October at 10.00am. It will not be quite the same as there will be no singing, you will be required to wear masks and social distancing rules will apply. Numbers therefore will be limited and we are asking you to let us know if you intend to come so that this can be facilitated. Please contact Nicky Fry (830319) to book a space at this service.

Foodbank Collection Bridge Church

We are now able to receive gifts for the Canterbury foodbank via the yellow bin in St Peter's Church in Bridge on Wednesdays and Sundays when the church is open. If you have a large amount to donate please contact Evelyn Andrews directly rather than over filling the collection bin.

Churches Open for Private Prayer

Our churches remain open for Private Prayer as per the schedule published previously which can be found in the Parish Magazines, and on our website and facebook pages.

Contact Details: Vicar: Rev'd Estella Last Tel: 01227 206272 estellalast@gmail.com
(Estella is generally not available on Mondays). Reader: Mrs Margaret Clarke Tel: 01227 765 598 Administrator: Mrs Megan Shirley, bridgeoffice23@gmail.com