



The Bridge Group of Churches

Nackington - Lower Hardres - Bridge - Patrixbourne - Bekesbourne

Weekly Sheet for the Bridge Group of churches:

Sunday 6th December 2020, 2nd Sunday of Advent

Today's Readings:

Isaiah 40.1-11; 2 Peter 3.8-15a; Mark 1.1-8

Upcoming Services:

Services on Sunday Mornings remain suspended for the time being.

Christmas Services

If you would like to attend one of our Christmas Services (for details see Page 4 of this sheet) please book your place **as soon as possible** by emailing **BGPChristmas2020@gmail.com**

Collect

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.
Amen

Post Communion

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Readings

Isaiah 40.1-11;

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make

straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.' A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

2 Peter 3.8-15a;

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him,

Mark 1.1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" ', John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

Parish News



Advent – watching and waiting, a time to reflect

As Advent begins join Estella once a week on Zoom to spend some time reflecting on the Advent Gospel reading for the week and thinking about what this means for us in this current time. These sessions will take place weekly with a choice of two opportunities to attend each week. **Sundays 11.30am and Wednesdays 4.15pm starting on Sunday 29th November.** An additional evening slot could be added if there was sufficient demand. Please contact Estella to book your place and to receive the Zoom link.

Please book your places at our Christmas Services as soon as possible!



Special Services for Christmas

The Bridge Group Parish Carol Service*

A Carol Service with a Live Choir in each Church of the Bridge Group Parish – one service, five options to attend! (Assuming Covid Restrictions Allow!)

Saturday 12th December St Mary's Lower Hardres 3pm	Sunday 13th December St Mary's Nackington 6pm	Friday 18th December St Mary's Patricbourne 7pm	Saturday 19th December St Peter's Bokesbourne 4pm	Sunday 20th December St Peter's Bridge 4pm
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Also available in an Online Format from Christmas Eve

Celebrating Christmas in Church*

24 th December	Christmas Eve 10pm St Mary's Nackington	<p>To book your seats at one of our Christmas Services please email BGPCChristmas2020@gmail.com (or phone 01227 206272)</p> <p>Please ensure you include the following information:</p> <p>The date and time of the service and the name of the church you would like to attend</p> <p>How many (up to a max of 6) will be in your family group / bubble</p> <p>A contact telephone number</p> <p>You will receive a confirmation email which you should keep for your reference. Please do let us know if for any reason you are unable to attend as booked so that we can offer your seats to someone else.</p> <p>We will also need to take contact details of all those attending for the purposes of Track and Trace.</p> <p>Thank you for your patience and understanding.</p>
25 th December	Christmas Day 9am Family Service St Mary's Lower Hardres 10.30am Christmas Communion St Peter's Bridge	
27 th December	1st Sunday after Christmas 10am St Mary's Patricbourne (Communion Service)	
3 rd January	2nd Sunday after Christmas / The Epiphany 8am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington 10am St Peter's Bokesbourne	

****BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL FOR ALL CHRISTMAS SERVICES****

* Please note at the time of printing congregational singing in church is not permitted.

Advent Trails

There are two Advent Trails taking place in our villages in the run up to Christmas.

Bridge: a trail involving the unveiling of a themed Advent window in houses round the village each day through Advent

Lower Hardres: a trail involving a different decorated number from 1-24 in gardens / front drives around the village.

Carols on the Doorstep – Sunday 20th December

Premier Christian Radio are encouraging the whole nation to join together singing Carols on their doorsteps on Sunday 20th November- see flyer attached. Tune in to Premier Radio (Freeview 725) at 5.30pm on Sunday 20th December!

Churches open for private Prayer

Unless circumstances change, the churches of the Bridge Group Parish remain open for Personal prayer / Quiet time as follows:

St Peter's Bridge	Wednesday 10-4pm
St Peter's Bekesbourne	Sunday 10am -12pm
St Mary's Patrixbourne	Tuesday 2-4pm & Saturday 10am-1pm
St Mary's Nackington	Sunday & Wednesday 10-4pm
St Mary's Lower Hardres	Monday & Thursday 10-4pm

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

CAROLS ON THE DOORSTEP

* SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER
5:30 PM

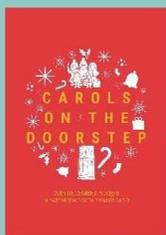
Join us for a National carol sing on your doorstep with your neighbours.

It's so easy to join in....

*Download and print the Carol Sheet and invitation from
www.premierchristianradio.com. or
www.newcastlemethodistdistrict.org

*Pop them through your neighbours' doors inviting them to join you

*5:30pm on 20th December tune your radio to Premier Radio or Freeview 725 or download the Premier Radio app on your phone, then sing along to the Carols played. Why not wear your festive jumpers too and even bring out something to shake or rattle?



<https://www.facebook.com/CarolsOnTheDoorstep>

The Bridge Village

'Advent Window Trail'



1st-24th

December 2020

Supported by The Bridge Group Parish

How does it work? - On each day of Advent a different address in the village will light up a window display based on a Christmas Song or Carol.

Windows will be lit between **4pm and 6pm** for villagers to spot .

1st	The Ship, 40 High Street
2 nd	Red Lion Inn, 75 High Street
3 rd	1 Saxon Road
4 th	The Forge, 49 High Street
5 th	10 High Street
6 th	54 Western Avenue
7 th	Brookside Lodge, Patricxbourne Rd
8 th	83 High Street
9 th	Mahoney's , Western Avenue
10 th	22 High Street
11 th	9 High Street
12 th	4 Ford Close
13 th	19 Union Road
14 th	25 High Street
15 th	30 High Street
16 th	Paydens Pharmacy, 16 High Street
17 th	1 Riverside Mews
18 th	11 Windmill Close
19 th	9 Conyngham Lane
20 th	tbc
21 st	tbc
22 nd	16 Riverside Close
23 rd	20 The Close, (off Union Road)
24 th	St Peter's Church, High Street

