

The Bridge Group of Churches

Nackington - Lower Hardres - Bridge - Patrixbourne - Bekesbourne

Weekly Sheet for the Bridge Group of churches:

Sunday 13th December 2020, 3rd Sunday of Advent

Today's Readings:

Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11; 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24; John 1.6-8,19-28

Upcoming Services:

Sunday morning Communion Services remain suspended however we hope to be able to go ahead with our Christmas Carol Services and Services Christmas Eve and Christmas Day – please email bgpchristmas2020@gmail.com or phone 01227 206272 to book your place.

Collect

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to
prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the
truth, to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of
right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Post Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for
these heavenly gifts; kindle in us
the fire of your Spirit that when
your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his
face; who is alive and reigns now
and forever.

Amen.

Readings

Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11;

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

1 Thessalonians 5.16-24;

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

John 1.6-8,19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" ', as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the

Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Parish News



Advent – watching and waiting, a time to reflect

Estella is still hosting and Advent group on Sundays at 11.30 and Wednesdays at 4.30. Please contact Estella if you would like to join in and receive the Zoom link.

Christmas Services

Carol Services

- 13th Sept 6pm Nackington** – Spaces Available
- 18th Dec 7pm Patrixbourne** – Spaces Available
- 19th Dec 4pm Bekesbourne** – Spaces available
- 20th December Bridge** – Limited spaces available

Christmas

- 24th December 10pm Nackington** – spaces available
- 25th December 9am Lower Hardres** – spaces available
- 25th December 10.30am Bridge** - Full, waiting list in operation

Please email bgpchristmas2020@gmail.com or phone 01227 206272 to book your place.

Advent Trails

There are two Advent Trails taking places 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. Please contact Carol Day on 07961 955525 if you live in Lower Hardres and would like to take part.

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 (except 16 th December) |
| 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 (except 2 nd December) |
| 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

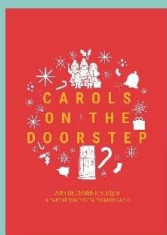
**Join us for a National carol sing on your
doorstep with your neighbours.**

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 |

