



# The Bridge Group of Churches

Nackington - Lower Hardres - Bridge - Patrixbourne - Bekesbourne

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*Weekly Sheet for the Bridge Group of churches:*

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

## **Today's Readings:**

2 Samuel 7.1-11,16; Romans 16.25-27; Luke 1.26-38;  
Luke 1.46b-55 (Magnificat);

## **Upcoming Services:**

**24<sup>th</sup> December 10pm St Mary's Nackington – Fully Booked**

**25<sup>th</sup> December 9am Lower Hardres – Spaces available**

**25<sup>th</sup> December 10.20am St Peter's Bridge – Fully Booked**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December & Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January Online only**

**St Peter's Bekesbourne will be open from 10-12 on Christmas Day**

## **Collect**

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## **Readings**

**2 Samuel 7.1-11,16;**

**God's Covenant with David**

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.' But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I

brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

### **Romans 16.25-27;**

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

### **Luke 1.26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor

David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

### **Luke 1.46b-55;**

And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’

## **Parish News**

### **Salvation Army**

Thanks to everyone’s generosity we were able to send £465 to the Salvation Army after our Carol Service at St Mary’s Nackington last Sunday.  
Thank you to everyone who contributed.

### **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 20<sup>th</sup> December**

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

<b>St Peter's Bridge</b>	<b>Wednesday 10-4pm</b>
<b>St Peter's Bekesbourne</b>	<b>Sunday 10am -12pm</b> (except 20 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup> December)
<b>St Mary's Patrixbourne</b>	<b>Tuesday 2-4pm &amp; Saturday 10am-1pm</b>
<b>St Mary's Nackington</b>	<b>Sunday &amp; Wednesday 10-4pm</b>
<b>St Mary's Lower Hardres</b>	<b>Monday &amp; Thursday 10-4pm</b>

**Contact Details:** Vicar: Rev'd Estella Last Tel: 01227 206272 [estellalast@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:bridgeoffice23@gmail.com)

# CAROLS ON THE DOORSTEP

\* SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER  
5:30 PM

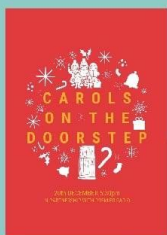
**Join us for a National carol sing on your doorstep with your neighbours.**

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

\*Download and print the Carol Sheet and invitation from  
[www.premierchristianradio.com](http://www.premierchristianradio.com). or  
[www.newcastlemethodistdistrict.org](http://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 <sup>nd</sup>	Red Lion Inn, 75 High Street
3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 Saxon Road
4 <sup>th</sup>	The Forge, 49 High Street
5 <sup>th</sup>	10 High Street
6 <sup>th</sup>	54 Western Avenue
7 <sup>th</sup>	Brookside Lodge, Patricbourne Rd
8 <sup>th</sup>	83 High Street
9 <sup>th</sup>	Mahoney's , Western Avenue
10 <sup>th</sup>	22 High Street
11 <sup>th</sup>	9 High Street
12 <sup>th</sup>	4 Ford Close
13 <sup>th</sup>	19 Union Road
14 <sup>th</sup>	25 High Street
15 <sup>th</sup>	30 High Street
16 <sup>th</sup>	Paydens Pharmacy, 16 High Street
17 <sup>th</sup>	1 Riverside Mews
18 <sup>th</sup>	11 Windmill Close
19 <sup>th</sup>	9 Conyngham Lane
20 <sup>th</sup>	48 High Street
21 <sup>st</sup>	7 Union Road
22 <sup>nd</sup>	16 Riverside Close
23 <sup>rd</sup>	20 The Close, (off Union Road)
24 <sup>th</sup>	St Peter's Church, High Street

