



# The Bridge Group of Churches

Nackington - Lower Hardres - Bridge - Patricbourne - Bekesbourne

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*Weekly Sheet for the Bridge Group of churches:*

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2020, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas /**

**John the Apostle**

**Today's Readings:**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Galatians 3:23-25,4:4-7

John 1:1-18, Psalm 147

**Upcoming Services:**

**All In person services remain suspended, pending a change in Government restrictions and local virus rates.**

**Services will be provided online.**

**Collect**

Almighty God,

who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ:

grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,

so we may share the life of his divinity;

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**Readings**

**Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

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.

#### The Vindication and Salvation of Zion

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

#### **Galatians 3:23-25,4:4-7**

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

#### **John 1:1-18**

#### The Word Became Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me." ') From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**The Psalm for today is 147**

## **Parish News**

### **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 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>

### **Sad News**

Sadly on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December we lost a dear friend to the church in Bekesbourne and a most valuable member of our local community when Jill Thomas sadly died of kidney failure. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband Stephen and their two sons and the whole community. On Christmas Eve we opened Bekesbourne Church from 10am-12 noon for people to pray and light candles for Jill and her family. She will be very much missed.

### **Thank you!**

A huge thank you from all of us at the Vicarage and from Margaret for all the lovely cards, gifts and good wishes you sent us for Christmas! We pray blessings and prayers for a New Year in which we can all get together again.

### **Advent Trails**

Thanks too to all who took part in the Advent Window trail in Bridge and Advent number trail in Lower Hardres. A list of the Bridge windows with their theme titles (did you guess them all?) is attached to this bulletin.

### **Taking a break**

The Parish Office will not be staffed during the period 26<sup>th</sup> December – 4<sup>th</sup> January however email and phone messages will be monitored, and any urgent matters attended to.

Thank you for your understanding.

**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)



## The Bridge Village

# 'Advent Window Trail'

1 <sup>st</sup>	The Ship, 40 High Street	Little Donkey
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Red Lion Inn, 75 High Street	Once in Royal David's City
3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 Saxon Road	When Santa got Stuck up the Chimney
4 <sup>th</sup>	The Forge, 49 High Street	Ding Dong Merrily on High
5 <sup>th</sup>	10 High Street	Good King Wencelas
6 <sup>th</sup>	54 Western Avenue	Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer
7 <sup>th</sup>	Brookside Lodge, Patricxbourne Rd	Deck the Halls
8 <sup>th</sup>	83 High Street	Silent Night
9 <sup>th</sup>	Mahoney's , Western Avenue	The Holly and The Ivy
10 <sup>th</sup>	22 High Street	Joy to the World
11 <sup>th</sup>	9 High Street	I Saw Three Ships
12 <sup>th</sup>	4 Ford Close	It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
13 <sup>th</sup>	19 Union Road	Jingle Bells
14 <sup>th</sup>	25 High Street	Let it Snow
15 <sup>th</sup>	30 High Street	O Christmas Tree
16 <sup>th</sup>	Paydens Pharmacy, 16 High Street	Love Came Down at Christmas
17 <sup>th</sup>	1 Riverside Mews	Hark the Herald
18 <sup>th</sup>	11 Windmill Close	Frosty the Snowman
19 <sup>th</sup>	9 Conyngnam Lane	Angels from the Realms of Glory
20 <sup>th</sup>	48 High Street	While Shepherds watched their flocks by night
21 <sup>st</sup>	7 Union Road	The Little Drummer Boy
22 <sup>nd</sup>	16 Riverside Close	See amid the Winters Snow
23 <sup>rd</sup>	20 The Close, (off Union Road)	We Three Kings
24 <sup>th</sup>	St Peter's Church, High Street	Away in a Manger