



The Bridge Group of Churches

Nackington - Lower Hardres - Bridge - Patrixbourne - Bekesbourne

Weekly Sheet for the Bridge Group of churches:

Sunday 17th January 2021, 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Today's Readings:

1 Samuel 3.1-10, (11-20); 1 Corinthians 6.12-20; John 1.43-51

Upcoming Services:

At present all services are being offered online.

Collect

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Readings

1 Samuel 3.1-10, (11-20);

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel

got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.' Then the LORD said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering for ever.' Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, 'Samuel, my son.' He said, 'Here I am.' Eli said, 'What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.' So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, 'It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.' As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

1 Corinthians 6.12-20;

'All things are lawful for me', but not all things are beneficial. 'All things are lawful for me', but I will not be dominated by anything. 'Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food', and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, 'The two shall be one flesh.' But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication!

Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

John 1.43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

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:

St Peter's Bridge	Wednesday 10-4pm
St Peter's Bokesbourne	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

Christian Aid

Over the years Canterbury Christian Aid Group has held a New Year Tea to thank supporters and give them the opportunity to hear about CA's plans for the coming year. This year the Tea will be on Zoom on Saturday 23rd January at 3.0pm. Dr Mark Johnson, CA's Church Engagement and Fundraising Officer for Sussex and Kent, will be talking about the focus for Christian Aid Week in May. Everyone is welcome (but provide your own tea and cake!) Email brian@mchenry.co.uk to book. A donation to CA for attending will be welcome. Please ask him for details.

Virtual Suggestion Box

Over the course of the last year, we have tried various different ways to keep connected and maintain our worshipping life across the Parish – this has included our weekly online service on YouTube, some more interactive services via Zoom (Evensong and Christmas morning), Zoom 'coffee and chat', small group reflections during advent, sharing printed and online devotional materials and other things as well. As we find ourselves 'locked down' again I would love to hear from you – what have you found helpful or what you might find helpful in the weeks to come, particularly as we approach Lent.

We are limited by our resources (human, technological and material!) but would love to hear your thoughts. Do drop me a line with your suggestions estellalast@gmail.com.

Supporting our church financially

Just a reminder that even though we are unable to hold services we do still have bills to pay – if you are in a position to be able to give please remember you can use our online giving

at: <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/50a9529f-4dc5-4e6e-a429-ce51883d637b>

or you can pop a cheque (payable to 'PCC Patrixbourne with Bridge') through the Vicarage door.

Contact Details: **Vicar:** Rev'd Estella Last Tel: 01227 206272 estellalast@gmail.com
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