



The Bridge Group of Churches

Nackington - Lower Hardres - Bridge - Patrixbourne - Bekesbourne

Sunday 28th November 2021, Advent Sunday

Today's Readings:

Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21: 25-36

Upcoming Services

Sunday 5th 8am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington

10am Songs of Praise St Peter's Bekesbourne

6pm Advent Carol Service St Mary's Lower Hardres

Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Post Communion

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

This week's Diary Dates

Mon 29th 1-3pm	BREW at Bekesbourne Recreation Ground
Mon 29th 2.30pm	Advent Book Group 8a Conyngham Lane
Thurs 2nd 9-11am	Little Lambs Toddler Group Pavilion, Bridge Rec.
Thurs 2nd 11am	Funeral at St Mary's Nackington
Thurs 2nd 4.30pm	Advent Book Group on Zoom (Link from Estella)
Thurs 2nd 7pm	Salvation Army Concert at Bridge School (£3 on the door)
Fri 3rd 8.45 am	Parent's Prayer Meeting at St Peter's Bridge
Fri 3rd 10am	Advent Book Group at St Peter's Bridge
Sat 4th 10.15am	Coffee & Cake concert at St Peter's Bridge

Planning Ahead

Please note that the Pensioners Tea Party scheduled to be hosted by Bridge and Patrixbourne on Thursday 9th December has been cancelled due to concerns about Covid.

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Luke 21: 25-36

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

Advent Book Groups start this week!

Get together with others for an informal chat to share thoughts and reflections from our Advent Book 'Finding Hope under Bethlehem Skies'

Mondays 2.30pm 8a Conyngnam Lane

Thursdays 4.30 on Zoom (for link email estellalast@gmail.com)

Fridays 10am St Peter's Bridge

Parish News

The Friends of St Peter's Bridge (FOSP)

FOSP is pleased to announce the welcome return of its popular **Coffee & Cake Concerts on 4th December 10:15 to 11:30am** to celebrate its 5th

Anniversary with Carols and Readings. We will be using Covid safe distancing etc. in the concert. All proceeds are for Canterbury Food Bank.

Farewell to Devin and family

As many of you will know Devin Brougham who has been our Treasurer for some years is standing down at the end of the year as he and his family are relocating to Romania. We will be saying farewell to them properly with drinks after the **Advent Carol Service on 5th December at 6pm at St Mary's Lower Hardres** so please do come along if you can. Please see your Churchwarden if you would like to contribute to a farewell gift.

Covid Safe Church at Christmas

We love to open our doors for everyone to attend services and sing carols at Christmas time. This year we do have to put some precautions in place to help try to keep everyone safe from Covid, especially as our Christmas Services can sometimes be very busy!

- We are **not** asking you to book to attend services but please ensure you arrive in good time to be seated safely.
- We have moved some of our services to different churches in the group to make it easier for us to keep everyone safe (for example the 3pm Christingle will this year be at Lower Hardres Church). If you can't get to a service in your village please do think about going to one of the other churches.
- Adults and those over 12 years old please wear a Face Covering if you possibly can. This will help keep you safe and will allow others who are perhaps more vulnerable to feel safe. It also helps to reduce the risk for anyone who is unable to wear a Face Covering if the rest of us do.
- Please **DO NOT COME** if you have any Covid Symptoms or have been in recent contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid 19.

The above are of course subject to change in line with any new Government advice or restrictions.

Update: This week the Government have advised that people should take a Lateral Flow Test before attending events where there are likely to be large number of people present. Please consider doing this if you are able to.

Please also note that all Services and Events may be subject to cancellation at the last minute for Covid related reasons.

As a church we take seriously our commitment to caring for one another - thank you for helping us in this way.

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