



The Bridge Group of Churches

Nackington - Lower Hardres - Bridge - Patrixbourne - Bekesbourne

Sunday 19th December 2021, 4th Sunday of Advent

Today's Readings:

Micah 5:2-5a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55

Upcoming Services

*22nd December 4pm 'Walk by' Nativity at St Peter's Bridge.

22nd December 7pm Carol Service at St Mary's Patrixbourne. **CANCELLED**

24th December 3pm Christingle Service at Lower Hardres

Booking Essential through Ann Nichols ann_nicholls@hotmail.co.uk

24th December 4.30pm Outdoor Christingle Service on the playground at Bridge School **(Bring your own Christingle if you can)

24th December 10pm Early 'Midnight Eucharist' at St Mary's Nackington

25th December 9.30am Christmas Eucharist at St Mary's Patrixbourne

25th December 11am Christmas Carol Service at St Peter's Bekesbourne

Booking Essential through Nicky Fry nicolafry@cscope.co.uk

26th December 10am Parish Communion at St Peter's Bridge

Collect

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Post Communion

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen.

Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

Hebrews 10:5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God" (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).' When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

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

***Scratch Nativity** FORMAT CHANGED Now 4-5pm outdoor meet and greet with Banks our donkey, children are invited to visit between 4 and 5pm to meet Banks, take pictures with him and take part in our nativity scene.

**** 24th December 5pm Christingle Service at St Peter's Bridge** FORMAT CHANGED Now 4.30pm Outdoor Christingle Service on the playground at Bridge School (Bring your own Christingle if you can)

Advent Book Groups

Our last Advent Book Group sessions are on Monday at 2pm at 8a Conyngham Lane and Thursday on Zoom at 4.30pm (for link email estellalast@gmail.com)

Bridge Christmas Raffle and Community Carol Singing

If you have any Prizes for the Christmas Raffle or small unwrapped gifts for Santa's sack at the Christmas Market on Tuesday 21st December 3-6 pm being held in the Red Lion Car park, these would be gratefully received. The raffle will be drawn there at 4.30pm. At 5pm there will be Community Carol Singing. Donated items can be left at the Red Lion, Bridge.

Still required, pkts of nuts, dates, biscuits, bottles of wine, Christmas Crackers and small unwrapped gifts for Santa's sack, suitable for children up to the age of 11. Donations can be left at 8a Conyngham Lane before Monday please. Anything superfluous that is edible will be given to the Foodbank and toys to the Salvation Army.

St Mary's Patrixbourne Silent Online Auction

We will be running an 'online silent auction' through the Jumblebee website to raise money for the planned extension at St Mary's. We need donations of items that can be put on the auction site. Anything from small to large, expensive or cheap, unwanted gifts or a service or an experience you felt able to offer. Examples include jigsaws, pictures, bottles (full!), make up a hamper or basket, bake a cake, offer an hours tuition, jars of chutney, jam or marmalade.

Please contact Sarah Wetherell on 01227 830318 or email Sarah.Wetherell1@btinternet.com if you have anything someone else might like to bid for. The auction will run from 9/1/22 to 30/1/22 but offers of donations or items are needed from NOW! So if you have any thoughts let me know. Thank you.

Covid Safe Church at Christmas

You will have noticed with the increasing concern about Covid case numbers in our area and Government advice on mixing, we have changed the format for some services and cancelled some as well. If you are coming to a church service please:

- Check whether you need to book for the service you have chosen
 - Wear a mask if you can
 - Expect to be seated in a socially distanced way
 - Take a later flow test before you come
 - Don't come if you are feeling unwell
- Wrap up warmly as we will ventilate the building
 - Thank you!

Parish Diary

We now operate a central Parish Diary – if you have any plans for events, fundraising activities or social events to add please let Estella or Megan (bridgeoffice23@gmail.com) know. If you want the Vicar to attend please make sure she is aware and available. Many thanks.

Contact Details: Vicar: Rev'd Estella Last Tel: 01227 206272 estellalast@gmail.com (Estella is generally not available on Mondays). Curate: Rev'd Miriam Hinksman bridgecurate@gmail.com Reader: Mrs Margaret Clarke Tel: 01227 765 598 Administrator: Mrs Megan Shirley, bridgeoffice23@gmail.com