



The Bridge Group of Churches

Nackington - Lower Hardres - Bridge - Patrixbourne - Bekesbourne

Sunday 9th January 2022, Baptism of Christ/Epiphany 1

Today's Readings:

Isaiah 43:1-7; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17,21-22

Upcoming Services

16th January 10am Sung Holy Communion at St Mary's Patrixbourne

16th January 4pm Family Service at St Peter's Bridge

23rd January 10am Parish Communion St Peter's Bridge

30th January 10am Holy Communion St Peter's Bekesbourne

Collect

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Post Communion

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

This week's Diary Dates

Mon 10th 1-3pm

BREW at Bekesbourne Recreation Ground

Mon 10th 2.30pm

Caring and Sharing Tea and Chat, 8a Conyngham Lane

Weds 12th 10-12

Bekesbourne Village Coffee Morning, Bekesbourne Rec.

Weds 12th 7.30pm

Bridge Group Parish PCC Meeting on Zoom

Thurs 13th 9-11am

Little Lambs Toddler Group Pavilion, Bridge Recreation ground.

Fri 14th 8.45am

Parent's Prayer Group at St Peter's Bridge

Sat 15th 11am

Eco Church Meeting at The Old Palace, Bekesbourne

Planning Ahead

Thursday 20th 2pm 'In house' Communion Service at Mansfield Court Lounge

Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, 'Give them up', and to the south, 'Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'

Acts 8:14-17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Luke 3:15-17,21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-

fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

The Baptism of Jesus

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Parish News

New Honourary Treasurer needed!

Could you or someone you know be the next Treasurer for the Bridge Group Parish? If you have a few hours to spare and can help look after our finances please do get in touch. Devin is kindly continuing remotely and will provide a comprehensive handover. He will also provide the reporting for the year ending December 2021.

St Mary's Online Auction NOW OPEN

Please go to [Jumblebee.co.uk/stmaryspatrxibournesilentonlineauction](https://jumblebee.co.uk/stmaryspatrxibournesilentonlineauction)

Lots of interesting items, please bid generously.

Auction closes 30th January.

Or contact Sarah Wetherell for an email link, 01227830318.

Covid Safe Church

At the time of printing, the advice around church attendance remains the same so, if you are coming to a church service, please:

- Wear a mask if you can
- Expect to be seated in a socially distanced way
- Take a lateral flow test before you come if you can
 - Don't come if you are feeling unwell
- Wrap up warmly as we will ventilate the building

Thank you!

Thank you and Happy New Year!

Rev'd Estella, Rev'd Miriam, Margaret and Miriam would like to thank you all for your cards, gifts and good wishes for Christmas. We hope that however you spent Christmas this year you were able to enjoy some sort of celebration and offer prayers and blessing for all that 2022 might bring.

With our love and gratitude.



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 members of the Ministry team to attend please make sure they are 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