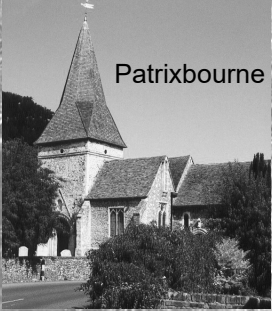



On the Nail

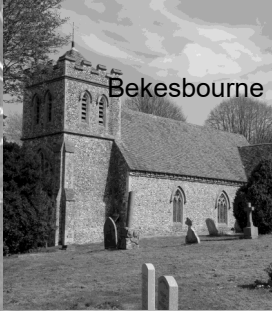
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Patrixbourne



Bridge



Bekesbourne

February 2021

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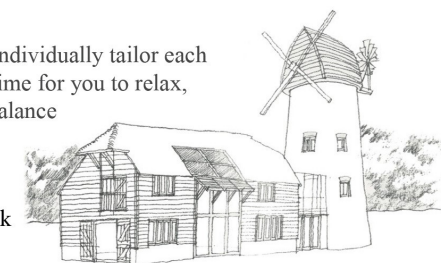
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February 2020

Dear Friends,

It's February- many of us are tired- and a lot of us are fed up. There isn't a huge amount left in the tank, and we may feel pretty disenchanted with the way things are. COVID- and everything that goes with it- continues to cast a real shadow, to cause real strain, sadness, illness, loneliness and death. It's really hard.

Of course, we have good things to look forward to. There is light at the end of the tunnel. Even if it's a pretty awful tunnel. As I write this, in the second week of January, we have three vaccines licensed for use in the UK. The days are getting longer. By my very rough calculations we will be enjoying about an hour per day more sunlight by the beginning of February than we are right now.

I have even seen some very wary snowdrops beginning to poke up in the Vicarage garden, peeking out of the soil. It is a comfort to me, and perhaps to you, to know that the seasons roll on and that this season of physical darkness is waning.

But the things that have comforted me most in recent weeks have been the kindnesses of other people, in which I see the love of God breaking out, sometimes where I would hope to see it, sometimes in very unexpected places. An unexpected bunch of flowers. A phone call from an old friend. An email from a colleague. Those who provided food to some individuals and families in need over Christmas. The many donations to the FoodBank and Salvation Army. Ever since the start of the pandemic back in March, in our villages, we have always had more help on offer than we've had requests support.

Jesus talks a lot about little things making a big difference. He talks about the widow's mite- a tiny financial contribution given with a big heart. He talks about a tiny bit of yeast raising a whole basin full of flour. He talks about a mustard seed of faith growing into a great tree. He talks about someone who offers a little one a cup of water being rewarded in heaven.

Locked down as we are, we may feel helpless or useless, but we can all be bringers of light, encouragement and comfort to others. When you have to go out to buy necessities, make a point of thanking the person who serves you at the till. If you live on your own, perhaps you could call a friend and hear their news. If you live with someone else, perhaps you could be the one to put the bins out. If you have a neighbour who is home schooling their children, could you offer to pick up something for them at the shops so that they don't have to drag the whole family around Sainsbury's?

You yourself, I am sure, will have memories of small acts of kindness which have made a big difference to you. It's not rocket science, but kindness really works. It really transforms people's lives.

As we move on through the church year and in the weeks to come enter the season of Lent, I am sad that we are not yet able to return to in person worship in our churches. I am so grateful to all our volunteers who still somehow make time for the essential work of looking after our buildings, and opening them at least for one day a week so that anyone who needs to can visit for prayer. I look forward very much to the time when we can open our buildings and gather for worship again.

I pray for each and every one of you, the blessing of giving and receiving unexpected small kindnesses in the coming weeks.

Yours in Christ

Estella Last

Rev. Estella Last, Priest in Charge
The Bridge Group Parish

Churches open for private Prayer from 1st January

Unless circumstances change, the churches of the Bridge Group Parish will be open for Personal prayer / Quiet time on the days and times listed below

| Name of Church | Open Days / Times |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| St Peter's Bridge | Wednesday 10am-4pm |
| St Peter's Bekesbourne | Sunday 10am-12pm |
| St Mary's Patricxbourne | Tuesday 2-4pm Saturday 10am-1pm |
| St Mary's Nackington | Wednesday 10am-4pm Sunday 10am-4pm |
| St Mary's Lower Hardres | Monday 10am-4pm Thursday 10am-4pm |

Readings for Church Services in February 2021

At present due to the National Lockdown we are not able to hold any in-person services in our Churches. If the situation changes before the end of February we will notify any Services we can plan through email, social media and posters at the relevant church. Our worship continues online. If you would like to receive a link to our online services please contact us via email to estellalast@gmail.com

| Date | Known as | Readings |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| 31 st January | The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) | Deuteronomy 18.15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8.1-13; Mark 1.21-28 |
| 7 th February | 2 nd before Lent | Proverbs 8.1, 22-31, Psalm 104.26-35, Colossians 1.15-20, John 1.1-14 |
| 14 th February | Next before Lent | 2 Kings 2.1-12; Psalm 50.1-6; 2 Corinthians 4.3-6; Mark 9.2-9 |
| 17 th February | Ash Wednesday | Isaiah 58: 1-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6,16-21 |
| 21 st February | 1 st of Lent | Genesis 9.8-17; Psalm 25.1-10; 1 Peter 3.18-22; Mark 1.9-15 |
| 28 th February | 2 nd of Lent | Genesis 17.1-7,15-16; Psalm 22.23-31; Romans 4.13-25; Mark 8.31-38 |
| 7 th March | 3 rd of Lent | Exodus 20: 1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2: 13-22 |

Lent Groups Online

In Advent we held a weekly discussion and reflection group via Zoom. The intention is to do the same during Lent. If you would like to join a Zoom Lent Group please let Estella know by emailing her at estellalast@gmail.com.

News From Canterbury Medical Practice

COVID-19 Vaccinations

We are providing COVID-19 vaccinations at Bridge Health Centre and the programme started on Monday 21st December. Please note you do not need to contact the surgery until you receive a letter, text message or a phone call inviting you to make an appointment. Please be patient and wait to be contacted about when the vaccine is available for you. This is because our phone lines are exceptionally busy and we appreciate your help in keeping the lines open for people needing to make appointments for other health matters. There will also be home visits for our patients who are housebound.

In the meantime, it is as important as ever to maintain social distancing, handwashing and wearing face coverings in public spaces.

Ethelbert Road – new premises update

We are very excited to inform you that our new surgery at Ethelbert Road is on target to be ready in early February 2021. For more information please visit our website. <https://www.canterburymedicalpractice.nhs.uk/news/new-surgery-opening-soon>

Staff Update

We would like to introduce some new members of staff who have joined us recently:

Clinicians - Dr Oluwamayowa Adewole, Dr Jim Cole, Dr Adrian North & Dr Tony Onuchukwu.

Receptionists - Tim and Rose.

For more surgery news please visit our website: <https://www.canterburymedicalpractice.nhs.uk/>

Nailbourne Horticultural Society

The Nailbourne Horticultural Society is certainly not going to let this pandemic spoil every event in 2021 and, as last year, we plan to hold virtual Spring and Summer Shows. Members should be carefully nurturing their Chairman's Challenge daffodil bulbs ready to be judged on Saturday 27 March and we hope to add a limited number of additional classes for people to enter. Likewise, we intend to do something similar for the Summer Show because, at the time of writing, it seems unlikely we will be able to arrange our usual Summer Show at the end of July.

Please watch out for more information, including details of the virtual classes and how to enter, in the March edition of "On the Nail".

Submissions criteria for On the Nail

- All submissions for On the Nail should be received by the 15th of the Month at the **latest** to bridgeoffice23@gmail.com
- Any posters should be A5 in size with a portrait and landscape version provided.
- Any written content should be in Arial size 10.
- Attachments should be clearly labelled as to content.
- Files should be submitted in .doc, .pdf, .pub or .jpg format

BEKESBOURNE 100 CLUB

The winners in December were: Nicky Fry £50; Mike Baldwin £25; Honor Pollard £15.

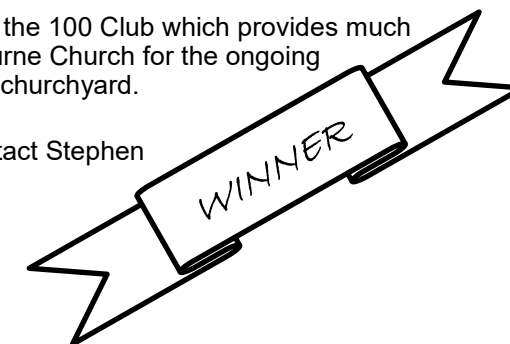
The special Christmas prize of £250 goes to Hugh Pearson

Thank you to all who continue to support the 100 Club which provides much valued funds for the Friends of Bekesbourne Church for the ongoing maintenance of the church and its lovely churchyard.

New members are always welcome: contact Stephen

Thomas, stevethomas@gmail.com,

01227 832573



'Advent Window Trail'

Thank you to all of those who made displays for the Advent Window Trail around Bridge. Here are a few of the wonderful displays....



I would just like to thank all those involved in putting up the Christmas Trees in Bridge as they do every year to herald Christmas - this year more than any other they lifted our spirits when we needed it most as well as looking wonderfully festive. Thank you too for the 24 Tableaus around the village, what a marvellous idea, I do so hope that this will now become an annual event along with the Christmas Trees giving us all so much joy.

Penny Spence

Remembering Jill Thomas, Bekesbourne (1954 -2020)

On Wednesday 20th January we said goodbye to Jill Thomas in a small funeral service at Bekesbourne Church. Hearing the sad news of her death just two days before Christmas was a shock to so many in the community. Jill was such a big hearted person who had time and for everyone and huge energy for her local community. She was part of the On the Nail team as our Advertising coordinator and often came up with ideas for editorial input to benefit our subscribers and we are truly grateful for her contribution and input. Here are a few tributes from some of the many local community groups that Jill was a part of and by whom she will be very much missed.

Bekesbourne and Patrixbourne Parish Council

Jill became Parish Clerk in 1998 and conducted the business of clerk of Bekesbourne with Patrixbourne Parish Council with great efficiency. Jill remained Parish Clerk until 2006 and in 2019 returned to the Parish Council as a councillor serving the Patrixbourne Ward.

Jill was very much involved with village life even when not a member of the Parish Council. Her help was invaluable especially when the Nailbourne was in flood; maintaining contact with all in need and with the various agencies dealing with the emergency. Since its inception in 2000 Jill was Secretary of the Nailbourne and Little Stour River Management Group, using her knowledge and lobbying skills to help get improvements to how the Nailbourne and Little Stour rivers are managed, and striving for mitigation measures to reduce the effects of flooding.

Bringing the community together was something Jill was passionate about. Jill as Secretary of the Recreation Ground management Committee helped organise a Golden Jubilee party on the recreation ground for local residents, and summer afternoons playing croquet or boules. Jill also encouraged local mothers and carers to set up year-round meetings (BREW- Bekesbourne Rec Every Week) on a weekday afternoon in the Recreation Ground pavilion for parents and pre-school children, and others from the villages were welcome to drop in for tea and a chat. Many of the knitted poppies used to commemorate the 100th Centenary of the end of the first world war were created at these lovely social afternoons. Monthly Wednesday morning coffee mornings at the Village Hall were another opportunity to meet friends and neighbours.

Jill will leave a very big hole in the heart of all her friends in the local community, but her involvement with other charitable and campaigning activities spread far beyond our villages. Our tribute to her must be that all the things she started up and was involved in should continue for the benefit of everyone in our villages here. Roll on the end of the current pandemic so we can all get together and be a lively vibrant community again!

Bekesbourne Church

Jill will always be remembered fondly in Bekesbourne Church. She loved the church. She found peace there and was fascinated by the stories it contained. Her extensive research into those buried in the churchyard led to the creation of the churchyard trail. Her kindness and generosity were demonstrated in the way she was always eager to get involved and help in practical ways. She was a great communicator and support when you were down. She encouraged us when we started our lay-led Songs of Praise service. As a great believer in serving the needs of the community, she inspired others to do the same.

The Friends of Bekesbourne Church Committee.

"We know this will be only one of the numerous tributes to such a lovely and selfless lady - Jill Thomas. Words cannot truly express our gratitude, respect and admiration for her help and enthusiasm in helping us, and the entire Village to create a community spirit. It will be with sadness and regret that we will feel the loss of her unbounding enthusiasm, and smile. Bless you Jill.

Matthew Jones, Chair of Governors, Bridge and Patrixbourne Church of England Primary School

Jill Thomas was an integral part of our school community at Bridge and Patrixbourne CEP School and we are incredibly sad to have lost her. She had been a Foundation Governor at the school long before I joined the governing body and was a fount of knowledge and experience on whom we could all rely for good sense and, because it was Jill's forte, absolutely forensic research! There were countless times, as an incoming Chair, I would turn to Jill for advice.

Jill was always willing to step forward and take on another role or task, she was Vice-Chair, lead governor for safeguarding and data protection and sat on both of our governors' sub-committees. In every instance she was extraordinarily diligent, engaged and caring. In one or other of these many roles, Jill regularly visited classrooms meeting with children and teachers and I often remember Jill's huge smile coming away from these meetings. It was clear that Jill found great joy in these visits and I hope it came close to matching the huge amount that she contributed to our school community. As a governing body we will all miss her greatly and our thoughts are with her family.

James Tibbles, Headteacher, Bridge and Patrixbourne Church of England

Primary School

Jill Thomas first joined the school community as a governor 10 years ago due to her commitment to the village of Bekesbourne and especially to St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne. From her appointment she brought with her a sound knowledge and clear passion of local history which she loved to share with both staff and pupils, in particular the story of Ada Lovelace.

As well as a source of great support to the school, she was also a champion of reading. Her latest donation to the school library 'The Boy, The Mole and The Horse' to "to share with as many in the community as possible" contains many beautiful quotes and these sum up Jill's way of caring and spreading a message a hope for the wider community.

Through speaking to staff and parents, the phrase I heard the most was that she had a '*heart of gold*'. She lived a life of service – to the school and to her community and this is the legacy that she leaves behind. She was an example to us all.

Stephen Thomas, Jill's husband

In 1998 we made a big decision in our lives – to leave Epsom, and all of our very dear friends, to live in Bekesbourne. It was difficult to leave our established comfort zone, but it was a move we felt that we had to make. And over the next 22 years Jill fell in love with Bekesbourne, and Bekesbourne fell in love with Jill. We have been bowled over by the messages of condolence we have received since Jill's totally unexpected passing on the 23rd December. The messages all acknowledge the village's debt to her.

Emily Young on behalf of BREW

Jill Thomas was the first person I remember meeting in Bekesbourne when we moved here just under 5 years ago. She'd opened up the pavilion for anyone who wanted to come down and enjoy the facilities and get a free cuppa. No-one else was there and she was inside, quietly getting on with cleaning the kitchen and serving drinks. This sums up Jill; kind, proactive, serving. She did so many things for others, probably many of which we'll never even know about. When a couple of us asked if we could start a coffee and chat group (BREW, Bekesbourne Rec Every Week) she positively encouraged us at every turn. Jill not only helped us with community projects, she would take an interest in the personal lives of all those who came along from the elderly to the teens. She found a way to communicate with everyone. I have the honour to say that Jill became a very dear friend and those who knew her, will miss her terribly. But more than that. How will we repay all the kindness she showed us? How will we fill her shoes? Jill was an inspiration to us. Our debt to her is overwhelming and now that we cannot repay it we should endeavour to pay it forward to our community, just as I know she would want us to.

In remembrance.....



Our prayers and love go to Stephen and the family, we are deeply indebted to Jill for all that she was and all that she did for our community. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Kate's Puddings – What's Cooking?

Second time around for this simple pudding, as sometimes familiar things are best in a time of uncertainty. This is a light, Christmassy pudding, which I originally served in home-made chocolate bowls, but that's not mandatory – you could just make a lovely hot chocolate sauce to pour over the top instead – the recipe is on my blog. Our top tip is to grease the balloon moulds, also to be ready to do a second dip if the first isn't strong enough (and do a couple extra). You could also make it in silicon moulds (oil them first). At this time of year, it is easy to cool down the ice cream mixture, so this is made with a warm custard mix which gives it a really unctuously smooth taste!

Christmas Pudding Ice Cream

3 egg yolks

1 vanilla pod, or 1tsp good quality vanilla extract

4½oz/120g caster sugar

23floz/600ml double cream and milk – normally ¾ cream to ¼ milk

1 jar mincemeat or 6tbsp home made mincemeat

Whisk the egg yolks with the sugar and vanilla in a jug. In a non-stick pan (good gadget!), heat the cream and milk, stirring, to blood heat. Pour this warmed mixture into the egg yolk mix and stir well, before pouring it back into the pan (off the heat, but using the residual warmth). When it is completely combined, leave it to cool/chill. Pour into an ice cream maker and churn until it is thick – probably about 35-50 minutes. Mix the mincemeat into it at the very last minute, or, if you are making it in advance, layer the mincemeat with the cream in a plastic box and put it into the freezer to firm up. Serve in chocolate bowls - see below.

Chocolate Bowls

8oz/220g dark chocolate

6 or 7 balloons, half blown up (plus one test one)

light oil for greasing; baking parchment

Blow up the balloons and secure before wiping them with oil. Spread baking parchment over a tray. Melt the chocolate and stir well. Dip each balloon into the bowl, twisting it to give a good coating of chocolate, then sit it on the parchment. Allow to cool and harden. When the chocolate is set, prick a test balloon and peel the shreds off the chocolate bowl. If the chocolate implodes, melt some more chocolate and repeat! (you can always eat the failures....) This is not tempered chocolate, so will not be glossy.

For more delicious recipes, visit my blog <https://katespuddings.blogspot.co.uk>

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