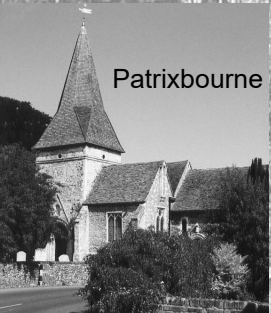
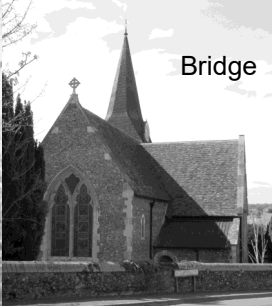


On the Nail

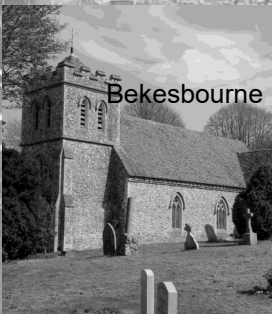
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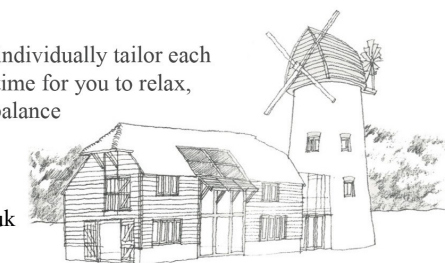
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April 2021

Dear Friends

We still find ourselves living in uncertain times, one minute the sun is shining, and we can walk in the sunshine, the next its grey and wet or very cold again! I hope you have been enjoying being able to get outside while the weather was dry and sunny if cold. Uncertainty too in what we can and can't do and what the next step on the Government roadmap might mean and when.

I wrote last month about finding ways in which to turn towards the love of God even while we are still in that space where nothing is 'normal'. Nothing has been truly normal for over a year now, there is palpable anxiety about the next steps.

The disciple's lives would have been full of uncertainty during that first Easter. They had gone from the high of Palm Sunday, with many people lining the streets and shouting Hosanna, through the surprise of Maundy Thursday when Jesus again turned their expectations on their head by washing their feet. That's before we mention the bread and wine which he took, thanked God for, and gave to his startled disciples saying "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper saying, 'this cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant of my blood' (Matthew 22:20-21)

The disciples then lived through the horror of Good Friday. 'at about noon, darkness came over the whole land, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, Jesus cried out 'Father into my hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last.' (Matthew 24). The one whom they had followed for three years was gone – what could possibly happen next? What would make this situation any better? Had it all been for nothing? Questions many are asking about the pandemic.

These events may be familiar to us, through years of attending church and Sunday school, but for the disciples they would have been profoundly unsettling, it is no wonder that even 2 days later, on the Sunday morning, they were gathered together in fear in the upper room. The fear maybe mirrored by our own experiences through the last year, not sure what will happen next. Not sure what to make of the events that have happened over the last weeks and months – do they make sense? What do we, like the disciples, make of our experiences of Jesus during this time... have we known him as the Messiah or has his presence been absent for us as we haven't been able to gather for worship in our church buildings?

In spite of all the uncertainty and the ups and downs of the past year, Sunday 4th April is once again Easter Sunday, the day of Resurrection. All our churches will be decorated and open all day and we will celebrate with worship online for anyone and everyone to join in with. Whether in church or at home I invite you to hear again the words of hope that the angel gave to the women who had gone to the tomb 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised...go quickly and tell his disciples, He has been raised from the dead. (Matthew 28: 5-7)

The hope of the Resurrection is ours, today, tomorrow, and forever. Whether we are currently feeling lost, or if we are full of hope for the future God's message is the same to us as it was to the first disciples 'He is risen.'

I pray that each of us will be able to hold on to the hope we have in the Resurrection of Jesus, the uncertainty of Holy Saturday will pass, the joy of the resurrection will return, life will get back to a sense of normality, not quickly, but we will work through it together. One day, hopefully in the not-too-distant future we will gather in person to say together 'Alleluia. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia'

We are keen as we plan to reopen our churches to find ways to reach out further into our community. If you have been given cause to think a bit more deeply about your own faith or spirituality in these past months and want to find out more do please get in touch. We would love to help you explore the possibility of faith for yourself.

Yours in Christ

Estella Last

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

Churches open for Prayer

Usually, the churches of the Bridge Group Parish remain open for Prayer / Quiet time as outlined below. Occasionally it is necessary to change the regular day to accommodate other activities (e.g. Funerals). Thank you for your understanding:

St Peter's Bridge	Wednesday 10-4pm
St Peter's Bekesbourne	Sunday 10am -12pm
St Mary's Patricbourne	Tuesday 2-4pm & Saturday 10am-1pm
St Mary's Nackington	Sunday & Wednesday 10-4pm
St Mary's Lower Hardres	Monday & Thursday 10-4pm

Opening times for Holy Week and Easter

St Peter's Bridge	St Mary's Lower Hardres
Palm Sunday 10-4	Palm Sunday 10-4
Good Friday 10-4	Maundy Thursday (1 st Apr) 10-4
<i>with guided prayer stations</i>	Easter Sunday 10-4
Easter Sunday 10-4	
St Mary's Patricbourne	St Mary's Nackington
Tuesday 30 th March 2-4	Palm Sunday 10-4
Easter Sunday 10-4	Good Friday 10-4
	Easter Sunday 10-4
St Peter's Bekesbourne	
Palm Sunday 10-12	
Easter Sunday 10-12	

Service details and readings for Services in April 2021

Please see the advice note about attending services in church. If you plan to attend a service you must let us know either via email to estellalast@gmail.com or by phone 01227 206272

Date	Known as	Readings	Church Service
1 st April	Maundy Thursday	Exodus 12:1-4, [5-10] 11-14 Psalm 116 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35	Online – contact estellalast@gmail.com for details
2 nd April	Good Friday	Isaiah 52:13-end 53 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25 John 18:1 -end of 19	St Peter's Bridge and St Mary's Nackington are open 10-4 Guided prayer walk with prayer stations available in Bridge Church.
4 th April	Easter Sunday All Churches open for prayer today!	Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 John 20:1-18	Online – contact estellalast@gmail.com for details All Churches open for prayer today.
11 th April	2 nd Sunday of Easter	Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 John 20:19-end	Online – contact estellalast@gmail.com for details
18 th April	3 rd Sunday of Easter	Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 Luke 24:36b-48	10am St Peter's Bridge (Please book estella-last@gmail.com Online option
25 th April	4 th Sunday of Easter	Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 John 10:11-18	10am St Peter's Bridge Online option
2 nd May	5 th Sunday of Easter	Acts 8:26-end Psalm 22: 25-end John 15:1-8	8am BCP Communion St Mary's, Nackington 10am St Peter's Bekesbourne Online option

If you wish to attend a service, as we have to limit numbers according to Government Rules, you MUST contact us to let us know that you are coming.

Easter Lillies

In the present situation with covid restrictions there are no services at St. Peter's Bridge, but the church will be open for private prayer. There will be a limited flower display, but the tradition of Easter lilies will continue, as well as a bright, cheerful welcome at the door. Anyone wishing to buy a Lilly in memory of a loved one please contact either a churchwarden or Viv Brasier. Thank you.

A word about Finance, and the future of the Church of England

During the early weeks of February there was a further spate of articles in the news media about the future of the Church of England and lots of acrimony flying around about where the money goes. The Archbishops responded by writing in The Spectator (13th February) about the 'rascally voices who want to undermine the Church' and sought to reassure the nation that the church is here, still a valuable part of every community. Meanwhile, those of us on the ground just keep doing what we do, being the church of God, and seeking to make Christ present in every situation and for every person we find ourselves with. Since we first learned the word Coronavirus, our church has continued to be a presence in each of our communities. Opening when able and safe to do so, closing when advised to but remaining visible online, through emails, telephone calls and mailings. Funerals and other pastoral ministry have continued (baptisms and weddings too when allowed!) and we even managed to hold a carol service in each of our 5 churches at Christmas! If you do give money to the Bridge Group Parish, this is where it goes, towards ensuring a local ministry that is present and available for everyone who lives here regardless of whether they attend church. And of course, even when we can't use them, our buildings still have to be maintained and insured. We are deeply sad not to have been able to offer the open door welcome we always have done especially at times of festival, Easter and Christmas but we are committed to ensuring that we will be able to as soon as it is safe to do so and for many more years to come.

Our thanks to all who give support to the churches in community whether in terms of time and energy or in monetary gifts. Whatever goes on elsewhere it is you who make the difference and enable us to serve our communities in the way we do. For more information about ways of giving please contact bridgeoffice23@gmail.com.

Planning for the future

At the time of writing, we don't know what level of restriction we will be under during March. Although in theory we are allowed to hold gathered worship, it has not yet seemed wise to do so. If we do make the decision to reopen for services in person, we will publicise these through emails, social media and notices on Church noticeboards. It would be a joy to be able to open our Churches on Easter Sunday so watch this space as they say and thank you for your patience.

The Bridge Group Parish 2021

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 22ND FEBRUARY -7TH MARCH

For two weeks each year at the end of February and start of March, thousands of individuals, companies and groups across the UK come together to share the stories of the people who grow our food and drinks, mine our gold and grow the cotton in our clothes - people who are often exploited and underpaid.

In 2021, Fairtrade Fortnight will feel very different. Usually the churches in our Parish have a range of Fairtrade chocolate, cocoa and chocolate biscuits for sale after services during the Fortnight and this has been very popular. Bridge Group Parish now has 'Eco Church' status which includes a commitment to buying Fairtrade produce, so it has been our way maintaining that commitment. We know that by helping the farmers who grow our cocoa to get a fair price, they can earn an extra premium to improve the life of their, often poor, communities and achieve sustainability.

For obvious reasons it won't be possible this year to sell in church. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has shown us more than ever how interconnected we are globally, so perhaps we could all still help by buying some of these items elsewhere - to enjoy now or put aside for Easter.

All the supermarkets now stock Fairtrade chocolate, so why not pick up some goodies next time you shop or when you fill in your on-line shopping list? There are many other sites where Fairtrade chocolate is available too, maybe something for a special occasion? Try www.traidcraftshop.co.uk, www.yumbles.com, www.oneworldshop.co.uk or www.notonthehighstreet.com

For more information about Fairtrade visit www.fairtrade.org.uk

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 9-16 MAY 2021



This is Florence Muthiani. She lives in Kyeng'e village, in a dry part of Kitui county in Kenya. For much of her life she has had to walk 6 hours a day to collect a limited amount of water - almost unimaginable to us in the UK where water is on tap whenever we need it. Christian Aid partnered with ADSE (Anglican Development Services Eastern) to help her community build an earth dam near her village. This is what she says, "I have been sustained by the dam. My life has changed. It has helped me to start beekeeping, plant a garden and keep chickens because water is nearby".

Recently I was privileged to hear Florence speaking direct through a live link-up organised by Christian Aid. Kenya is suffering from the Covid pandemic as we are and her sons who help support her have been laid off work. In spite of this she sounded remarkably cheerful and resilient. She was so grateful to Christian Aid for changing her life so significantly.



Last year, due to the pandemic, Christian Aid Week had to be cancelled. Christian Aid feared the worst but amazingly £3 million was raised through donations, sponsored events and all sorts of other enterprises. This year Christian Aid Week is going ahead and it is hoped that the result will be more like the average £7 million that is usually raised in the UK.

Christian Aid has made a wide range of resources available so that money can be raised in all sorts of different ways, not just house-to-house collections. In the next 'On the Nail' there will be information about how we are going to try and fund-raise in our villages. However it happens the aim will be to raise the sum achieved in previous years through the generosity of our residents (nearly £3,000 in 2019). Your support will be greatly appreciated.

The annual Canterbury Christian Aid Service is due to take place on Sunday 9 May at 6.30pm in the Cathedral. If ongoing Covid restrictions prevent this happening there are plans for a virtual service. Past Archbishop Rowan Williams, Chair of Christian Aid, is to be the guest speaker. More news on this next month.

For more information go to www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week

Jean Barber

Bridge & District History Society

At long last we are able to give you some dates for your diary for the new season that, all being well, begins in September. As our programme was cut short last year, there will be no membership fee for the year 2021-2022.

In the meantime, we hope that subscribers enjoyed Imogen Corrigan's talk in March via Zoom on the burial mound at Sutton Hoo. Another free to all Zoom talk is planned for June, so please look out nearer the time for details on posters around the village, the Bridge Village website, Bridge Bulletin and in "On the Nail". Subscribers for whom we hold contact details will be emailed and our website www.bridgehistory.org.uk will be regularly updated.

Thursday 16th September brings the first of our meetings at 7.30 in Bridge Village Hall when following a short AGM Hilary Tolput returns to tell us about "Frontline Folkestone, World War I".

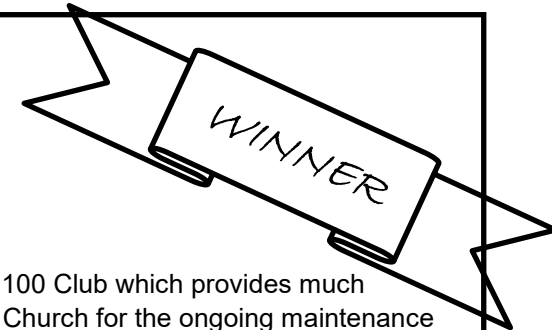
Our next talk, which we know will be very popular, is on Thursday October 18th and given by Alan Walton whose subject is "The Pubs of Bridge".

November 18th brings Martin Crowther to help us relive our childhoods as he tells us about "Rupert Bear and Friends" and in December we shall have our usual Christmas meal.

We very much look forward to meeting again with those who have subscribed to the Society in the past and of course extend a very warm welcome to others who would like to join us.

BEKESBOURNE 100 CLUB

The winners for February were :£50
Mike Barker; £25 Joy Smith;
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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.

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- 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

A new hospital in Canterbury?

At the moment, if one mentions 'hospital' one thinks of the heroic efforts of all those working in the NHS to combat the pandemic and save lives. However, now that there is a glimmer of light at the end of the COVID tunnel, it is time to turn our attention to the decisions which will have to be made about the hospital service in this part of the world.

There has been talk over many years of the need to establish a major new specialist hospital for the whole of East Kent. At present there are three (at Ashford, Canterbury, and Margate), each of them struggling to attract highly-qualified staff, and struggling to cope with the budgets they are given. Clinicians say there should be one Centre of Excellence, which would have all acute specialist services for East Kent under one roof, and which would be able to attract top-class senior staff to work here in East Kent.

Four years ago the local NHS partnership worked out a plan to build this Centre of Excellence, and they identified two possible locations: Ashford (Option 1) and Canterbury (right next to the existing Kent and Canterbury buildings—Option 2). Some of us who campaigned fifteen years ago to save the Kent and Canterbury from being made into a small cottage hospital decided to set up a group to promote the Canterbury option. We think it makes absolute sense to put that major hospital in the centre of east Kent, not at the edge.

It is possible that the decision to go out to public consultation on the two options will be made this year or early next year. The decision-makers in Government will take notice of the volume of people who respond to that consultation. We believe that those of us who want the Kent and Canterbury to become that major acute specialist hospital must have our arguments ready, and to persuade as many of our fellow local residents as possible to respond. We have set up a website (option2group.org) which sets out our arguments for choosing Canterbury, and a Facebook page. To ask to be invited to join that page please email optiontwo4u@gmail.com

We know that there are many questions about the location of the possible Option 2, access to it, and the role of a developer in offering to provide a new hospital building. We hope to be able to assist in answering those questions.

MARTIN VYE Chair, Option2 Group



Who are we?

We are Bridge FISH scheme, serving Bridge, Patrichtown, Bekesbourne and Bishopsbourne. The concept of a FISH scheme originated in Oxford when Dr. Donald Richards came up with a scheme to help those who are lonely, ill or simply needed help from a neighbour. He took the Christian Fish as a symbol and in Bridge we have used that same symbol and also the acronym Friendship, Independence, Support and HelpFISH. In Bridge we have in the past primarily offered our help to the elderly but we are there for anyone in need.

What do we do?

Every day we offer transport to anyone who needs it to get to a local hospital, GP, opticians or dental appointment. We have a dedicated telephone number for this service. One of our volunteers will take your details and then match you up with a volunteer driver (all of whom have been DBS checked) who will drive you to your destination. We ask for a small donation to cover the driver's mileage dependent on the distance travelled and need at least a few days notice to coordinate the driver with the journey. Last year we made 158 journeys, that's a journey almost every other day. We currently have 40 drivers on our list.

Every month we hold a coffee morning, often referred to as the 'Coffee pop-in' in Bridge village hall between 10am and 1130am. This is always on the second Wednesday of the month and is a great place to meet up with friends for a coffee and a chat. Everyone is welcome to come along and there is a lending library of books to borrow and a supply of knitting materials too.

Every year, usually in the Spring/Summer we have an outing with lunch somewhere in the local area and in the depths of the winter we hold a 'Winter warmer' lunch in Bridge Village Hall. We are a charity so to raise funds we hold an annual fundraiser morning usually in the early summer with coffee and cakes, maybe a raffle and a bring and buy. Look out for local advertising or on social media to keep up with these events.

Could we help you?

If you think any of the above services could help you, or someone you know, please get in touch using the contact number at the bottom of this leaflet.

Could you help us?

We are so grateful for all those volunteers who have given their time over the years but as always we welcome new people. If you have a few spare hours a month to be a volunteer driver, to help at coffee mornings, to deliver leaflets or help us in any way we would really love to hear from you.

Contact number
07935 966080

Kate's Puddings – What's Cooking?

I know when spring is on the way when I start feeling like making ice cream again! Here's a two in one recipe for honeycomb ice cream - either with an ice cream maker, or without. The latter does not contain eggs. The honeycomb is ridiculously easy to make, but you have to work hard to stop yourself (and everybody who passes the kitchen) from testing it. And the ice cream is divine!



Honeycomb Ice Cream

Honeycomb: 3oz/85g caster sugar
2tbsp clear honey or golden syrup
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda

Grease (well) a non-stick baking tray with a light oil. Heat the sugar and syrup/honey in a pan, stirring until the sugar has melted. Bring to the boil and allow it to boil until it is pale caramel coloured (it will darken later)

Take it off the heat, throw in the bicarbonate of soda and then mix it up with a metal whisk. It will foam uncontrollably. Pour it into the baking tray to cool it down. After about half an hour, it should be cool and crisp. Break into large pieces for eating, or smaller pieces for the ice cream, and make sure you keep all the crumbs.

Ice Cream: ½ pint/300ml double cream
½ pint/300ml milk
4oz/100g sugar
3 egg yolks

Warm the milk/cream in a pan until blood temperature. Beat the eggs, vanilla and sugar in a bowl, add the milk and cream and then pour it all back into the pan. Stir lovingly for about 2 minutes but don't let it boil or it will split, then allow to cool. Pour into an ice cream maker and churn until thick. At the end, add the honeycomb pieces/crumbs and mix in, and top with more pieces.

Honeycomb Ice Cream – no egg version

Ice Cream: 1 pint/600ml whipping cream
1 small tin condensed milk
1 tsp vanilla

Make the honeycomb as above. Whip the cream until it is thickening and fold it into the condensed milk. Add the honeycomb and fold it in, keeping some back for the top. Pour the mixture into a plastic container and freeze. You do not need to stir this mixture as it is freezing.

For more delicious recipes, including Easter treats, simply Google Kate's Puddings!

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