

The Nine Bridges



Benefice Newsletter

St Andrew's, Northborough, St Benedict's, Glington, St Pega's, Peakirk,
St Peter's, Maxey and St Stephen's, Etton

DECEMBER 2021 and JANUARY 2022

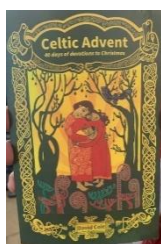
A thought for December and January

The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out.
John 1 v 5

Diary for Advent and Christmastide 2021

THROUGHOUT ADVENT

As we prepare for Christmas, join Rev-Mark-Aaron in a series of reflections from Celtic Advent by David Cole



If you would be interested in sharing these reflections with others in a small group, please contact Rev Mark-Aaron 01733 252359 or 9bridgesrector@gmail.com

Copies of the book are available from The Christian Bookshop, Westgate Peterborough and various other booksellers including Amazon and The Bible Reading Fellowship, its publisher.

THROUGHOUT ADVENT

**Support for Afghan and other Families
in need in Peterborough
We are collecting :**








- *toiletries - soap, shower gel etc for any sex and age*
- *hairbrushes, combs, hair bobbles etc (new please)*
- *small hand knitted items - hats, gloves, mittens; Knitted cuddly toys (please use safe stuffing and avoid things like wobbly eyes for H & S reasons)*

Please put any donations in the box in your church by Sunday December 5th

Sunday Worship in the Benefice



ADVENT SUNDAY November 28th	
ST ANDREW'S	Family Communion Praise 10.30am
ST BENEDICT'S & ST PEGA'S 	Worship4All Café-Style Peakirk Village Hall 10.30am This will be a special Christingle service where we will make a Christingle and discover more about the work of the Children's Society. Everyone is welcome.
ST PETER'S	Holy Communion (BCP) 9.00am
ST STEPHEN'S	No service
SUNDAY DECEMBER 5th SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
ST ANDREW'S	Holy Communion 9.00am
ST BENEDICT'S	Holy Communion 10.30am
ST PEGA'S	Evensong 6.00pm (18.00)
ST PETER'S 	Christingle Service 4.00 (16.00)
ST STEPHEN'S	Family Service 10.00am
PEAKIRK VILLAGE HALL	Messy Church 3.00pm (15.00) Theme : Gifts
SUNDAY DECEMBER 12th THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
ST ANDREW'S 	Christingle Service 4.00pm (16.00)
ST BENEDICT'S	Parish Praise 10.30am
ST PEGA'S	Holy Communion 10.30am
ST PETER'S	All-Age Communion 9.00am
ST STEPHEN'S	No service
SUNDAY DECEMBER 19th FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
ST ANDREW'S 	Carols and Mince pies 10.30am
ST BENEDICT'S	Holy Communion 10.30am
ST PEGA'S 	Morning Prayer with carols 10.30am followed by mince pies. Children are invited to bring their own drawings or paintings of the Christmas Story to 'Show and Tell.'
ST PETER'S	Family Service 10.00am in Maxey Village Hall
ST STEPHEN'S	Holy Communion 8.00am

Collects and readings for Advent

Advent Sunday November 28th	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.
	OT : Jeremiah 33.14-16 NT : 1 Thessalonians 3.9-end Gospel : Luke 21.25-36
Second Sunday in Advent December 5th	Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again, as Judge and saviour, we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.
	OT: Malachi 3:1-4 NT: Philippians 1: 3-11 Gospel : Luke 3: 1-6
Third Sunday in Advent December 12th	God for whom we watch and wait, You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: Give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, And to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.
	OT: Zephaniah 3: 14-end NT: Philippians 4: 4-7 Gospel: Luke 3: 7-18
Fourth Sunday in Advent December 19th	God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son, grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
	OT: Micah 5: 2-5a NT: Hebrews 10: 5-10 Gospel: Luke 1: 39-45



CHRISTMAS EVE DECEMBER 24th	
ST ANDREW'S	Midnight Holy Communion 11.30pm (23.30)
ST BENEDICT'S	Family Nativity Service 4.00pm (16.00) Midnight Holy Communion 11.30pm (23.30)
ST PEGA'S	No service
ST PETER'S	Crib Service 4.00pm (16.00)
ST STEPHEN'S	Family Nativity Service 5.00pm (17.00)
CHRISTMAS DAY DECEMBER 25th O come let us adore Him..... Christ the Lord!	
ST PEGA'S	Benefice Family Communion 10.30am
BOXING DAY DECEMBER 26th St Stephen's Patronal Festival	
ST STEPHEN'S	Benefice Communion 10.30am

Collects and readings for Christmastide

Christmas Eve December 24th	Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; 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 forever.
	OT: Isaiah 9: 2-7 NT: Titus 2: 11-14 Gospel: Luke 2: 1-14
Christmas Day December 25th	Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt thanks and praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God.
	OT: Isaiah 52: 7-10 Psalm 98 NT: Hebrews 1: 1-4 Gospel: John 1: 1-14
1st Sunday after Christmas Feast of St Stephen December 26th	Gracious Father, who gave the first martyr, Stephen, grace to pray for those who took up stones against him: grant that in all our sufferings for the truth we may learn to love even our enemies.
	First Lesson: Acts 7: 51-end Second Lesson: Galatians 2: 16b-20 Gospel: Matthew 10: 17-22

Other Christmas Activities

SATURDAY November 27th ST BENEDICT'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE



3.00pm – 5.00pm in GLINTON VILLAGE HALL Refreshments available.
Come and have some Christmas fun!

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 1st St Pega's Peakirk : Lighting of the Christmas Tree
at 6.00pm (18.00) in the churchyard followed by carols, hot chocolate and cookies.



THURSDAY DECEMBER 2nd St Benedict's Glinton : Lighting of the Christmas Tree
6.45pm (18.45) in the churchyard followed by carol singings and refreshments.



SATURDAY DECEMBER 4th



Benefice Prayer Walk. Starts 10.00am at St Benedict's Church. Why don't you join a time of prayer, witness and fellowship?



SATURDAY December 4th ST ANDREW'SPOP-UP CHRISTMAS



By the shop 10am 'til 12noon . Crafts, cakes etc.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 5th



St Stephen's Etton : Switching on the Christmas Tree lights
5.00pm (17.00)

From A DATE TO BE CONFIRMED in mid DECEMBER



Look out for further details on Facebook, posters and Th4Th mailings.

St Benedict's Glinton Trees Treesand more Trees

The church will be open from 10.00am to 4.00pm to view the trees which have been decorated by local organisations and community groups.

SATURDAY December 11th ST ANDREW'SCHRISTMAS FAYRE

In the Village Hall 2.30pm 'til 4pm. Craft stall. Cake stall. Refreshments.
Tombola. Raffle..... and more!!!

TUESDAY DECEMBER 14th

Tuesday@10 from 10.00am to 12.00noon at Peakirk Village Hall.

Coffee, scones and fellowship. Christmas hats or jumpers optional! All welcome. Transport can be arranged if you would like to come along but can't get to the village hall. Ring Jane 01733 574311 or email 9bridgescommunications@gmail.com



TUESDAY DECEMBER 21st 7.00pm (19.00) St Peter's Maxey

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols with the Benefice Choir.

Sunday Worship in the Benefice**JANUARY 2022**

DATE	SERVICE	St Andrew's Northborough	St Benedict's Glinton	St Pega's Peakirk	St Peter's Maxey	St Stephen's Etton
January 2 nd	Epiphany	Holy Communion Rev M-A 9.00	Holy Communion Rev M-A 10.30	Evensong Rev M-A 6.00	No Service	Parish Praise Reader MH 10.00
January 9 th	The Baptism of Christ	All Age Praise Reader FS 10.30	Parish Praise Reader MH 10.30	Holy Communion Rev M-A 10.30 St Pega's Patronal festival DH 18.00	All Age Holy Communion Rev M-A 9.00	No service
January 16 th	Epiphany 2	Holy Communion Rev M-A 9.00	Holy Communion Rev M-A 10.30	Morning Prayer Reader DH 10.30	10.00 Café Church Village Hall Reader FS and Reader MH	Holy Communion Rev M-A 8.00
January 23 rd	Epiphany 3	Family Communion Praise Rev M-A & Reader FS 10.30	Worship4All Café-style St Benedict's united with St Pega's Glinton Village Hall Reader DH 10.30		Holy Communion BCP Rev M-A 9.00	No service
January 30 th	Epiphany 4	Benefice Holy Communion Rev M-A Church to be confirmed 10.30				

Collects and readings for January

2nd January Epiphany	O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; 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.
	OT: Isaiah 60: 1-6 NT: Ephesians 3: 1-12 Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

9th January The Baptism of Christ	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.
	OT: Isaiah 43: 1-7 NT: Acts 8: 14-17 Gospel: Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22
16th January Epiphany 2	Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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.
	OT: Isaiah 62: 1-5 NT: 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11 Gospel: John 2: 1-11
22nd January Epiphany 3	God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.
	OT: Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10 NT: 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a Gospel: Luke 4: 14-21
30th January Epiphany 4	Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
	OT: Malachi 3: 1-5 NT: Hebrews 2: 14-end Gospel: Luke 2: 22-40

Additional services in the Benefice

During the Week

Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer is live-streamed on the Benefice Facebook page.

8.00am Daily Monday – Friday

9.00am Saturday

Compline at every Sunday 9.00pm (21.00)

Compline is live-streamed on the Benefice Facebook page.

Prayer and Reflection

Both St Pega's and St Benedict's churches are open during the week, usually from 10m until 4.00pm. Please check their respective notice boards for details.

Th4Th is circulated on the Benefice Facebook page and by a Benefice email every Thursday.

Messy Church : Sunday 5th December at 3.00pm (15.00) at Peakirk Village Hall
Gifts

Messy Church : Sunday 2nd January at 3.00pm (15.00) at Peakirk Village Hall

One more step

A warm welcome to all our Messy Church families and to anyone of any age who would like to worship in a less formal way with plenty of activity – and glue!

Sunday 9th January at 6pm (18.00)

St Pega's Patronal Festival (see more information below)

Our Church Family

OCTOBER and NOVEMBER

Baptisms : Welcome to our church family

St Andrew's

Holly Iris Mann

St Benedict's

Mason Jack Lake

George Thomas Evan-Newstead

Weddings : Congratulations and God's blessing as you begin your married life together

St Peter's

Jessica Jamieson to Ryan Davies

St Stephen's

Lucy Jackson to Keiran Larsen (God willing on November 27th)

Funerals : Rest in Peace and Rise in glory

Ashley Bennington Gogerly at St Benedict's followed followed by burial in the cemetery

Damian Spencer May at St Benedict's followed by cremation

Gladys Hilda Faulkner at the crematorium

Kenneth William Broom at St Benedict's followed by burial in the cemetery

Joyce Neaverson at St Benedict's followed by cremation

Gaynor Spence at St Benedict's followed by cremation

Celebrations in October and November

Congratulations to Rhiannon on celebrating her 18th birthday.

Congratulations to Pat who celebrated a significant birthday in November.

Ann also celebrated her birthday – happy birthday.

Congratulations to Orla who won two silver medals swimming for her club in her first gala.

Mark and Rosemary will celebrate their birthdays in December and January - have a lovely day.

If you have also celebrated an anniversary or birthday without letting on – congratulations!

If you know of anyone who would like a personal mention in the Newsletter for a celebration, birthday or anniversary, let me know. It is good to be able to share good wishes throughout our church congregations.

Commemorations

In this newsletter we are remembering those who have been baptised or married within the benefice during October, November and December during the last four years. Do hold each of these names in your prayers, for each of these names is attached to an individual person and each individual person, to a family. We will continue to remember our baptism families and wedding couples in future newsletters.



ANNIVERSARIES OCTOBER, NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Baptisms

November 2019 Tommy Douglas Chapman

December 2019 Bailey Thomas and Arthur Jon Darkin
Joshua Charles Nicholson

November 2018 Austin Rex Homewood

October 2017 Leo Valentine Douglas
Ruby Ann Noble

November 2017 Abigail Rose Norris

December 2017 Julie Steen

Matrimony

October 2019 Suzanne and Max Warren

Bereavement

October 2020 Richard Bullock Jack Harris
(Maurice) David Dearman

November 2020 Peter Lake

December 2020 Colin Bateman Rowena Laud
Doris Boyden Stephanie Strachan
Jacqueline Morgan

Our Prayers

We seek God's guidance and blessing to bring growth to our church. Make this prayer part of your prayers at home and in our church worship.

Prayer for Growth



**God of Mission, you alone bring growth to your church.
Send your Holy Spirit to give Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions, Joy to our worship
and Power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
in spiritual commitment to you and
in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

During this month we pray for :

The souls of Joyce and Gaynor, thanking God for their service in his name. We remember John and Julie and all members of the Neaverson family and Graham, Lauren and Ryan and the extended Spence family as they grieve.

All who have died recently, especially those who have died in tragic circumstances while attempting to cross the channel and those who have died as a result of violence and aggression.

All who are ill, undergoing treatment and awaiting results of tests and investigations.

All who are sad, lonely, isolated, anxious or bereft at Christmastime, remembering especially those who mourn the loss of loved ones.

All who look forward to the new year without hope, with anxiety or who fear what the new year may bring.

Help them to put their trust and hope in you.

Our troubled world, for its leaders and the decisions they make. Help them to show wisdom, courage and compassion in their actions that our all nations can live in peace and harmony.

All who live, work, learn and play or travel through our Benefice. Help us to be good neighbours and let the light of your love shine through us into their lives.

Rev Mark-Aaron and our readers they prepare for our worship during Advent and Christmas time and as they guide us into a new year in service to you.

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."
And he replied:
"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."
(Minnie Haskins)

Diary Dates

FRIDAY DECEMBER 31st

There will be no **Benefice@The Boozer** as it is New Year's Eve. Hope to see you in January!

JANUARY

Saturday January 1st



fellowship?

Benefice Prayer Walk. Starts 10.00am at Northborough Village Hall. What better way to start 2022! Why don't you join a time of prayer, witness and



Sunday January 9th at 6.00pm (18.00)



St Pega's Patronal Festival and Become a Friend of St Pega's service.

There will be a special service to remember the life of St Pega when Dr Sam Graper will sing the anthem composed in the thirteenth century in Pega's honour by a monk from Crowland Abbey and Dr Avril Lumley-Prior will give a short talk about the Saint's life. We are also looking forward to welcoming anyone who would like find out more about becoming a friend of St Pega's or its Support the Church for a Day initiative. Refreshments will be served at the end of the service. If you would like further details please contact Sheila or Pauline.

Tuesday January 11th

Tuesday@10 from 10.00am to 12.00noon at Peakirk Village Hall.

Coffee, scones and fellowship. All welcome. Transport can be arranged if you would like to come along but can't get to the village hall.

Ring Jane 01733 574311

or email 9bridgescommunications@gmail.com

Friday January 28th (last Friday in the month)

Benefice@The Boozer at 8.00pm (20.00) onwards

Meet at The Five Horseshoes at Barholm PE9 4RA. All welcome - but gentlemen are particularly encouraged to join an evening of convivial conversation over a pint.

Friday January 28th

St. Andrew's Annual Quiz Night Northborough Village Hall.

Teams of four please. Tables must be booked in advance. Light Supper provided but BYOD.

£8.00 per person.

News from around the Benefice

The History of Christingle



The idea of Christingle came from a Moravian Church in Germany in 1747. The minister, John de Watteville, gave the children at the service a lighted candle with a red ribbon around it. This represented Jesus being the light of the world and the final prayer at that first service was "Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these children's hearts, that theirs like Thine become." The custom went around the world with the church and was brought by Moravian missionaries to Britain in the late 1700s. The word Christingle could be the Anglicized version of 'Christkindl' meaning 'little Christ child.' The first Christingle service to be held in an Anglican church took place in 1968.

Discipleship Matters

This autumn's New Testament readings from the book of Hebrews

I wonder how you have got on with Hebrews this autumn. It is quite tricky, I think, to keep hold of the overall picture of what the author is revealing. So if, like me, you would like a little bit of help, why not click on Youtube, and search for: **Bible Project Overview Hebrews**. You will find an excellent 10 minute description of the book with graphics to help. Enjoy!

Advent

Brian Draper's Advent Reflections are called 'The Presence Felt'. If you have not signed up with him, there is more information on www.briandraper.org.

Please see Rev Mark-Aaron's information about Celtic Advent.

After Christmas

What is the best news you have ever heard?

Beginning in February and running through Lent there will be an opportunity to find out about this best news ever from St Mark's gospel. There will be a video presentation, and then time to think through and discuss what we hear. The series is called 'Christianity Explored' so do look out for more info after Christmas.

Freda

Harvest Supper at St Benedict's



A goodly number of people gathered in Glinton Village Hall to celebrate Harvest. Everyone enjoyed a delicious ploughman's supper and enjoyed taking part in the Quiz. A raffle of harvest produce raised additional funds for the Foodbank Thank you to everyone who made such a lovely evening possible.

Benefice@TheBoozer

The group has continued to meet on the last Friday the month at the Five Horseshoes at Barholm, although numbers have decreased over the last two months as Christmas and other commitments kick in! Our next meeting will be Friday 26 November from 8.00pm.

There has also been a suggestion that an outing be organized to the National Brewery Centre at Burton upon Trent (<https://nationalbrewerycentre.co.uk/>). Possibly the best time for this would be a Saturday in March next year. If you would be interested in going, please let Derek know. Other family members who may not be interested in the Brewery Centre tour would also be welcome to come along and to possibly enjoy the other delights of Burton upon Trent!
Derek

St Andrew's Fish Festival



The Festival celebrated St Andrew the fisherman and the church was decorated for the weekend with all manner of things “fishy” – nets, fish, squid, crabs, seaweed, driftwood and even an enormous pink seahorse. The flower arrangements were a triumph of more things fishy with rods, reels, baskets and bullrushes. The whole village supplied so many fascinating props and our talent was on display again – knitting from the Knit and Natter Group, paintings from the Art Group, all manner of craft and an amazing array of cakes for our stalls.



The weekend kicked off on the Friday with the teachers at the Northborough Primary school reading Fishy Tales to the children whose costumes were delightful from teetering mermaids to scary pirates! The fun continued in the evening in the church. As we devoured our fish and chips (hand- delivered by Linford's in Market Deeping), Bradley Smith, Northborough's own favourite tenor and musician, entertained us with “fishy” music on the organ and the piano. He then went on to get everyone singing away with sea shanties, hilarious acting, and musical rounds which ended in chaos. A wonderful and uplifting evening!



Saturday was the turn of the children as they went round the church collecting “fishy” stickers for the many activities that they could enjoy – Tin Can Alley, Squish a Squid, Flying Fish, Create a Fish, Paint a Pebble and many more. The church came alive with laughter, chatter and good humour everywhere. On Sunday we had a special service to honour St Andrew and learnt so much more about his life and death.

We have so many people to thank for such a fun-filled weekend, but the warmest of thanks go to the people of Northborough and neighbouring villages who joined in and made the whole event such a success with proceeds going to our SOS Save Our St Andrew's fund

Clare Strak – Secretary, St Andrew's PCC

Peakirk Brunch

After a break of eighteen months due to Covid, Peakirk Brunch returned on the first Sunday morning in November. Although the arrangements were slightly different – reservations were taken for two sittings, it was good to welcome old friends and see some new faces too while raising funds for St Pega's church.

St Peter's Maxey Café Church in the Village Hall

All ages from pre-schoolers to pushing 90 celebrated Christ the King at Maxey Village Hall on Sunday 21st November. The next Cafe Church is on December 19th at 10.00am. You will be most welcome! Freda



A Big Thank you

Maxey St Peter would like to thank all the lovely volunteers that have been helping and giving their time to help maintain and improve the churchyard and building in this last year.

Our 'Strumpets' have yet again cleaned meticulously for every service we have had to make sure that the interior is clean for us to enjoy, even in the presence of so many bats. Last count 220 plus!

This last month has seen a tremendous effort from 'new to us' volunteers as well as our regulars and we now have some fantastic, straight and regravelled footpaths around the church. Thank you all for doing this, it has been a massive, time consuming and energy sapping job to complete and simply wouldn't have been done without everyone one of you. Thanks also go to Craig from Tarmac, Martin Webster with his tractor and Tina Lapinskis for coordinating.

Liz and her John Clare Countryside Team have also been busy planting a tree, bulbs and sowing seeds as part of the conservation project within our churchyard.

Our next recruitment campaign is going to be for Fundraising volunteers to join our existing ones so that we can literally 'raise the roof'. Our South Aisle roof is end of life and leaking, we have a huge challenge as it is going to cost around £40k just to make it watertight. Anyone who is interested in helping please do get in touch with me, Mandy Loveder, 01778 343100.

Remembrance Sunday at Etton



Over 40 residents of Etton gathered at the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday. The short service was led by Derek and Eddie Bristow played the last post. Graham brought Ike which added to the drama of the

occasion. We tuned into the hear Big Ben at the Cenotaph before laying a wreath on the memorial.

Anne



And at St Benedict's



On Armistice Day, Glinton residents were joined by the Faith council of Peakirk-cum-Glinton School to lay a wreath at the war memorial in the churchyard. All the pupils in Key Stage 2 also stood in silence in the playground to pay their respects at 11.00am

Worship4All - Café Style

This is a new venture for the united congregations of St Benedict's and St Pega's. In a relaxed style, sitting at tables with light refreshments, the first service was held in Glinton Village Hall on the fourth Sunday of October when the theme of the service was "The Sabbath".

Although there were a few organisational teething problems, (this was the first one after all), the feedback from those who attended was overwhelmingly positive.

The next café style service will be in Peakirk Village Hall on Sunday 28 November at 10.30am when it will take the form of a Christingle service. Do come along! Derek

Benefice Choir News

The Choir has sung at two services. The first was at St Benedict's Harvest Festival where S. S. Wesley's "Lead Me Lord" was performed and the second at St Andrew's where the Choir sang Mozart's "Ave Verum Corpus" during the distribution of communion.

Under the charismatic direction of Bradley Smith, ably assisted by Simon Richards, the Choir is now rehearsing for the Benefice Service of Nine Lessons and Carols which will take place at St Peter's on 21 December at 7.00pm.



Nine Bridges Benefice Messy Church



Messy Church Nine Bridges Benefice



Lots of multi-generational co-operation at October's Messy Church where we created a village which was also a crazy golf course!



Mark is getting in a bit of practice at the Nine Bridges water feature! Our theme was Living Together, and we thought about getting on with and praying for people we meet at school, in the shop, on the playpark – and at church.



In November our theme was Remember Me and we created a cross with symbols of Jesus's crucifixion.

We also squashed grapes and made soda bread. Rev Mark-Aaron explained the importance of these in the Last Supper and Holy Communion.

Would you like to be involved with Messy Church?

Messy church is a different style of worship which welcomes everyone, of all ages, with or without children. An important part of the service is fellowship, meeting and sharing refreshments. It would be a great help to have a rota of helpers who would help to prepare and serve the refreshments – it's a lovely way to meet new people too. If you feel you would be able to help, please get in touch with Jane at 9bridgescommunications@gmail.com. The Messy Church team would be very grateful for your support.



The Story of Christmas Carols

Carols were first sung in Europe thousands of years ago... these were pagan songs sung at the winter solstice celebrations as people danced round stone circles. The word carol means 'a dance of joy and praise'. Christmas, the time when the birth Christ is celebrated was held at the same time as the solstice so early Christians started singing Christian songs instead of pagan ones. In 129AD a Roman bishop said that a song called Angels' Hymn should be sung at a service to celebrate Christ's birth. What happened in the history of Christmas carols after 129AD to the present day is a another long but interesting story.

Derek's Cryptic Clues

Solutions to clues in the last issue

- 1 **CHILDREN OF ISRAEL** (Issue of Jacob aka Israel).
- 2 **GENESIS** ("in the beginning") An anagram of **SEES GIN**.
- 3 **HABAKKUK** (Prophet) An anagram of **KKK, AA** and **HUB**.
- 4 **LABAN** (Uncle of Jacob) An anagram of **BANAL**.
- 5 **NINEVEH** (Town) Hidden in **NINE VEH**icles.

Clues for December and January

- 1 In the Old Testament, John and George, but no Paul or Ringo. (5)
- 2 Messed about, I'd consume a Pharisee. (9)
- 3 Part of a post less disciples. (8)
- 4 The name's Bond, epistle writer. (5)
- 5 Hopes at the start of January for a carpenter. (6)

And Just a thought :

When you don't feel able to stand, try kneeling. It's the strongest place from which you can face the day.

(With thanks to the BRF newsletter)

Community News

THE MOBILE LIBRARY will be at Peakirk village hall from 12noon until 12 30pm on the following Thursdays :

16th December

13th January

10th February

This is a great service – please use it and promote it to others.

The Newsletter

The next newsletter will be sent out by email before the first Sunday in December and will be for two months – February and March 2021

Please remember : In receiving this Newsletter, you are agreeing to your emails being sent BCC (blind copy) via the 9bridges email account

If you need to get in touch :

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Nine Bridges Benefice
Messy Church Nine Bridges Benefice



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DECEMBER 2021

DATE	SERVICE	St Andrew's Northborough	St Benedict's Glington	St Pega's Peakirk	St Peter's Maxey	St Stephen's Etton
Dec 5th	Second Sunday of Advent	Holy Communion Rev M-A 9.00	Holy Communion Rev M-A 10.30	Evensong Rev M-A 18.00	Christingle Service Rev M-A 16.00	Parish Praise Reader MH 10.00
Dec 12 th	Third Sunday in Advent	Christingle Service Reader FS 16.00	Parish Praise Reader MH 10.30	Holy Communion Rev M-A 10.30	All Age Holy Communion Rev M-A 9.00	No service
Dec 19 th	Fourth Sunday in Advent	A service of Carols (followed by mince pies) Reader FS 10.30	Holy Communion Rev M-A 10.30	Morning Prayer with carols Reader DH 10.30	10.00 Family Café Church Village Hall Reader FS and Reader MH	Holy Communion Rev M-A 8.00
Dec 24 th	Christmas Eve	Holy Communion Rev M-A 23.30	Family Nativity Service Rev M-A 16.00 Holy Communion Rev M-A 23.30	No service	Crib Service Reader FS 16.00	Family Nativity Service Reader MH 17.00
Dec 25 th	Christmas Day	Benefice Holy Communion at St Pega's Peakirk Rev M-A 10.30				
Dec 26 th	Feast of St Stephen	Benefice Holy Communion at St Stephen's Etton Rev M-A 10.30				

JANUARY 2022

DATE	SERVICE	St Andrew's Northborough	St Benedict's Glington	St Pega's Peakirk	St Peter's Maxey	St Stephen's Etton
January 2 nd	Epiphany	Holy Communion Rev M-A 9.00	Holy Communion Rev M-A 10.30	Evensong Rev M-A 6.00	No Service	Parish Praise Reader MH 10.00
January 9 th	The Baptism of Christ	All Age Praise Reader FS 10.30	Parish Praise Reader MH 10.30	Holy Communion Rev M-A 10.30 St Pega's Patronal festival Reader DH 18.00	All Age Holy Communion Rev M-A 9.00	No service
January 16 th	Epiphany 2	Holy Communion Rev M-A 9.00	Holy Communion Rev M-A 10.30	Morning Prayer Reader DH 10.30	10.00 Café Church Village Hall Reader FS and Reader MH	Holy Communion Rev M-A 8.00
January 23 rd	Epiphany 3	Family Communion Praise Rev M-A & Reader FS 10.30	Worship4All Café-style St Benedict's united with St Pega's Glington Village Hall Reader DH 10.30		Holy Communion BCP Rev M-A 9.00	No service
January 30 th	Epiphany 4	Benefice Holy Communion Rev M-A Church to be confirmed 10.30				

