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Benefice Newsletter
with Thought for Thursday

for the parishes of Etton, Glington, Maxey, Northborough and Peakirk

Thursday November 13th

[Click for Website](#)



SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

Sunday 16th November

09:00 Holy Communion – Maxey

10:30 Family Praise – Northborough*

18:00 Evensong – Peakirk

All are welcome at all our services. * Indicates a service designed with children and families in mind

Thought for Thursday

“If you feel like singing, sing!”

That old Judy Garland song could have been written for me! Anyone who knows me also knows how I love to sing.

My participation in the Messiah at the Royal Albert Hall is described elsewhere in this newsletter but I also sang with the Benefice Choir at the Holy Communion service on Sunday 26 October and at the Mission Day last Saturday as well as with the Glebe Singers at a concert in Spalding on Saturday 25th.

For the last two years a group of us calling ourselves “The Six” have presented concerts at St Pega’s to help raise funds for the church. Through a connection via Marie, one of The Six, we were asked if we would like to perform a similar concert in the hall at Christ the Carpenter Church in Dogsthorpe.

I was reminded of these concerts at the Mission Day when we were all asked to look at ourselves and see what skills and talents we have that could be put to use in furthering God’s work here in the Benefice and also in the wider world.

Like the Benefice Choir and the Glebe Singers, the Six is a group of people to whom God has given the gift of making music.

My ability to sing and what I do in my role as a reader are gifts that God has given to me, gifts that in some small way I can use in the work of God’s kingdom.

I am sure that all of you have gifts – very different from mine that could all be used for the very same purpose.

Do you enjoy gardening? I regard it as an extreme sport for which I don’t have the insurance and neither have I been on the training course! There two types of plants – live ones that are green and dead ones that are brown.

Can you make something out of wood or metal? Can you service a car? I wouldn’t even know here to start as I have no practical skills whatsoever.

Can you paint or draw? My efforts never turn out as I intended.

Do you enjoy cooking or baking a cake? You wouldn’t want to eat mine!

The point is that we are all good at something. We all have different skills and talents, gifts from God in the form of things we can do and that we enjoy doing. As St Paul told the church on Corinth, “There are many gifts, but the same Spirit”.

It was amazing at the Mission Day to see how many different and varied facets are involved in carrying out the work of God in a benefice. Christian mission can, indeed, take many different forms – visiting the elderly or lonely, getting shopping for someone who is ill or provided bacon sandwiches on a Saturday morning to name but three!

So, to ask again the question we were asked at our Mission Day, what God-given gifts, skills and talents do you have that you could use in furthering the work of God?

Reader Derek

Benefice 2030 – Releasing People for Mission

Over 30 of us came together on Saturday for our **Mission Day**. We started the morning with worship – including two songs of praise sung by the Benefice Choir. Rev Keir spoke about what we are seeking to do in the Benefice, drawing inspiration from the East window in St Pega's; Simon Bysshe spoke about the consultative and development work the Benefice 2030 Working Group has been undertaking, particularly about the Family and Friends groups. Lucy Malcolm spoke about the new Benefice structure, and she and Keir outlined the new roles and how things would operate. Bishop Debbie said how excited she was about the developments in the Benefice and how supportive she was of what we are doing - including reaching out to share our faith and serve our communities.

After a 'bring and share' lunch, Lucy facilitated the afternoon session. We looked at all the roles there are to do the Benefice under main headings, thought about areas we are particularly interested in and put stickers of them on our 'hats'. The video which Roisin has produced (below) shows how that worked and the fun that was had!

There were Q&A sessions before lunch and at the end. Some heartfelt contributions were made, including regarding how 'inclusive' having 'Family and Friends' groups feels and how they will help us to welcome people in Parishes and enable them to use their gifts.

The feedback on the evaluation forms everybody completed was very positive. Overall, 53% felt the day was 'excellent', with 46% feeling it was 'good'. Most felt they understand the key changes being introduced, that they were able to share their views during the day and feel

confident about the next steps – although clearly some uncertainty still exists. Comments on the most helpful part of the day included: ‘The explanation of where we are - and why - on the journey to the Benefice wide coordination has been very good’; ‘Coming together as one to discuss how we can be the best we can be as a church family’; ‘Hearing that Bishop Debbie believes in what we are doing and that we may assist other benefices to travel the same road’.

Thanks to all who attended and contributed to the success of the Mission Day. The Working Group will consider all the thoughts and feedback that have been shared and further information will come out shortly on next steps.

Simon Bysshe, Chair, Benefice 2030 Working Group

Benefice Prayers

Our benefice prayers are taken from the previous week’s pew sheet.

For Our Community

We lift up in prayer all who live in Barn Close, Maxey, Pembroke Grove, Glington, Lincoln Road, Glington & Helpston Road, Glington.

May they be surrounded by love, peace, and the presence of God in their daily lives.

For Those in Need of Healing

We pray for all who are suffering in mind, body, or spirit, especially those dear to us: **Ann Rata, Chris Skillman, Matty Phillips, Richard Denham and Alison Booker and David Cupit.** May they find strength, comfort, and restoration.

For Those We Hold in Our Hearts

We remember with love those who have gone before us: especially, **John Stables.** Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

For the Growth of Our Church

We pray for all who are engaging with the changing structures of our church’s governance. Grant that each of us may discern the right role in which to use our gifts in service of your

mission in this place. Give us courage to speak with one another about our own calling and to encourage others in discovering theirs.

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY 23rd November

09:00 Holy Communion – Northborough

10:30 Family Holy Communion - Ginton *

18:00 Taizé – Maxey

All are welcome at all our services

*** Indicates a service designed with children and families in mind**

DATES for your DIARY

Every Wednesday

St Benedict's Ginton - Singing Club for Children - <https://9bridges.church/singing-club/>

Saturday 15th November

Benefice@The Boozer Pop-Up Café in St Benedict's Church 09.30 – 11.00 serving bacon sarnies and hot and cold drinks. Do come along!

Christmas Fayre - in Peakirk Village Hall, 14:00 - 16:00

Christmas stall with decorations and gifts; Christmas tombola; Christmas-themed games;
Refreshments

Monday 17th November

Christmas/greeting cards workshop - Etton - **WORKSHOP IS NOW FULL**

Saturday 23rd November

St Pega's Café is open for Brunch between 9.30 and 11.30 in Peakirk Village Hall.

Serving traditional Full English and Continental breakfast.

Reserve your table. Sheila 01733 252416

Friday 28th November

Wreath Making in Peakirk Village Hall 7.00pm to 9.00pm.

Make a festive wreath or decoration. Materials provided. Seasonal refreshments Book your place. Pauline 01733 253 116

Saturday 29th November

Christmas Fair - Northborough Village Hall, 2.00-4.00pm and everyone is invited to join in the festive fun!

What's On? - Crafts - Gifts - Tea and Cake - Books and DVD's - Raffle and Tombola -
Children's activities

All proceeds to St Andrew's Church, Northborough.

We look forward to seeing you there and wish you an early Merry Christmas!

Monday 1st December

Christmas wreath making workshop - Etton - **WORKSHOP IS NOW FULL**

Thursday 4th December

Christmas Tree Lighting in St Benedict's churchyard with Mulled wine and Mince Pies.

Saturday 6th December

Christmas Concert at Sisson's Barn, Peakirk – 7pm Tickets are available from Simon Richards - 07802 279752, and from each of the parishes and any choir member.

Minced pies, mulled wine and licensed bar from 6.30pm

Monday 8th December

through December - Decorated Christmas trees, from village groups and the school, in St Benedict's Church.

10.00 - 12:00 Christmas stalls and refreshments in St. Benedict's church.

Tuesday 9th December

Tuesday@10 10.00 – 12.00 in Peakirk Village Hall. All are welcome for Coffee and Scones

Saturday 13th December

St Peter's, Maxey - Family Carol service is planned for 4:00pm (1600hrs)

Sunday 14th December

The Journey to Bethlehem – a carol service with a difference with children of Messy Church taking part. St Pega's 4.00pm (There is no Messy Church on December as the Village Hall is unavailable)

Friday 19th December

Benefice@The Boozer 8.00pm The Ruddy Duck Peakirk. All are welcome for pre-Christmas get-together!

Wednesday 24th December

19:00 - 21:00 Beers and Bethlehem - carols and beverages at The Blue Bell, Glington

NEWS



Messiah from Scratch

On Sunday 9 November nine members of our Benefice Choir along with a couple of friends from Peterborough Choral Society travelled to the Royal Albert Hall in London to be part of a 3,200 strong choir from 22 different countries to sing Handel's oratorio, Messiah.

Some of us had taken part in this annual event, which is always over-subscribed, in previous years; for others it was their first time.

A pre-dinner drink in a pub was followed by a superb meal at an Italian restaurant in Gloucester Road before we made our way to the venue to join what is officially known as “The Really Big Chorus”.

Add to this four professional soloists, a full orchestra and everything conducted by Brian Kay, the bass singer in the original line-up of the Kings Singers, and there is the recipe for a truly great evening of music.

Even though our train home did not arrive in Peterborough until after midnight and the fact that we were all sung out and very tired, everyone of us agreed that it had been a great experience and one we would all like to repeat.

Derek R Harris



12 days, 120 charities
£1,000 each, £120,000 total

**Nominate
now!**



We're giving away £120,000 in December

12 Days of Giving is the festive final phase of the Benefact Group Movement for Good. In December, we'll be giving 120 charities £1,000 each over 12 days.

The first draw takes place on **December 1st** and the last on **December 16th** with 10 charities drawn every weekday.

Every charity you've nominated in our £1,000 draws this year is already in. But there's still time to spread more festive cheer - **feel free to nominate as many other charities as you like.**

Need inspiration? Visit our [Giving Map](#) to discover charities near you.

Nominations are open now and close at 23:59 on December 15th 2025.

[Nominate a charity for £1,000](#)

[Terms and conditions apply](#)

Thank you for your support this year. We're delighted you're helping us channel profits to brilliant causes.

Promoted by Ecclesiastical Insurance Office PLC, part of the Benefact Group.



Be the first to hear - follow us on our
social media channels.

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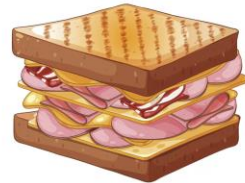
<https://secure.campaigner.com/csb/Public/show/ggno-6omxd--lwxu-2g8g0t8>

**Out and about on Saturday
morning?**

**Walking your dog
or out for a bike ride?**



B@TB



**invites you for a
coffee or tea,
a bacon sandwich
and a friendly chat
at St Benedict's Church
Glinton on**

**Saturday 15 November
between 9.30am and 11.00am**

No charge – donations welcome - and dogs!

See you there?





CHRISTMAS FAYRE

NORTHBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 29th NOVEMBER
FROM 2:00pm

TOMBOLA • GAMES • RAFFLE •
BOOKS • CAKE STALL • BRIC-A-BRAC
• TEA • COFFEE • CAKES

Also...

CHRISTMAS GIFTS • CARDS • CANDLES
• SWEETS • CHOCOLATES •
TOILETRIES • AND MORE...

ALL PROCEEDS TO ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

PEAKIRK VILLAGE HALL QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 29th November 2025

7.30pm



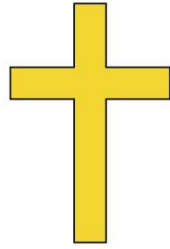
Teams of 4-6
£5 per person



To book a table:

Email: heatherrevell@yahoo.co.uk
or message me through Facebook

All money raised supports St Pega's Church, Peakirk



EXPLORE DAY

We are all invited by God to be the best version of who we can be, to serve Him and the wider church, but how can we step into what he is inviting us into?

Join us to hear from people who have gone into new opportunities to serve God, Church and community and have the opportunity to meet others who are also wondering what God is inviting them to next.



**Saturday 29
November 2025**



9.30am - 3.30pm



**All Saints School, Kingsthorpe
Northampton NN2 7AJ**



www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/explore



<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/explore-day-tickets-1679106034349?aff=oddtcreator>

THE MOOR FARM NATIVITY

It's back!



Come and join us as we re-tell the Christmas story at Moor Farm, complete with LIVE animals, and an opportunity for everyone to join in! Come dressed as a character from the Christmas story (optional). There will be carols and refreshments.



*Moor Farm, Decoy Road,
Newborough, PE6 7QD*

Sunday 30th November, 2025, 4pm

All proceeds to the churches of the
Benefice of Eye, Newborough & Thorney

ADMISSION FREE
but
donations welcome!
(suggested £5)



Ginton Christmas Tree Switch On



Thursday 4th December 2025 at 6.45pm
St. Benedict's Churchyard Ginton

All welcome to our annual Christmas Tree Lights Switch On
Sing festive songs & carols
Countdown to the grand illumination
The church bells ring as the lights are switched on
Refreshments including mulled wine & mince pies,
served inside St. Benedict's Church

Funded by Ginton Parish Council



Benefice Christmas Concert

6th December 2025

7pm at **Sissons Barn, Peakirk**

Mulled wine and Mince Pies
Licensed Bar from 6.30pm

£15 Admit one

Ticket No.....



“ Tickets for the above concert are available from Simon - 07802 279752, and from each of the parishes.”

Pastores in Nocte

Shepherds in the night

Come & join us for a
Christmas fun morning
of play, faith &
fellowship.

St Mary's church, Peterborough.
PE1 1TT

Saturday 6th December 2025
9am - 12pm

Scan the QR Code to register!
Only 40 spaces available!



Ages 10-15





ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH,
GLINTON

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SATURDAY, 13TH
DECEMBER, 2025

10 A.M. - 12 P.M.



REFRESHMENTS

FESTIVE STALLS

TOMBOLA

RAFFLE

GAMES



Come and visit the
church with
Christmas Trees
decorated by village
groups from
Sunday, 7th Dec.

"I've seen many a Messiah in my time but few as powerfully
engaging as this. It held me in its grip from start to finish."
Michael White

G. F. HANDEL
MESSIAH

NEW THEATRE, PETERBOROUGH

Thursday 11 December, 7.30pm

Critically-acclaimed opera company Wild Arts (★★★★★ Opera Now,
★★★★ The Guardian) bring their enthralling dramatisation of Handel's
legendary oratorio to the New Theatre, Peterborough – bringing
the Christmas story to life.



Book Now
newtheatre-peterborough.com
Box Office: 01733 852992




across Peterborough

Across Peterborough is a communication tool with a website, social media and newsletter.

It is managed by [Light Project Peterborough](https://www.acrosspeterborough.org.uk) whose aim is to enable and equip the church and community to heal the broken hearted, set free the oppressed and bring good news to the poor.

Wherever you are on your life journey we hope you will find something useful there.

Their aim is to showcase some of the amazing work done in our city and provide resources that will help improve the Peterborough community.

We will be sharing more content from across the city in the future.

<https://www.acrosspeterborough.org.uk>

Solutions to clues from last month

1 GALILEE (lake in Israel) An anagram (reconfigured) of **I ALLEGE**.

2 ROMANS (letter) First letters (initially) of the first six words of the clue.

3 AMOS (prophet) A lurker (Partly) in Bala**AM O**stracised.

4 CHRONICLES (Old Testament books) An anagram (around) of **RICH CLONES**.

5 MOUNT SINAI (place of law-giving) **MOUNT** (Get on a horse) **SIN** (do wrong) **AI** (Artificial Intelligence)

This time's clues

1 Slides Wren rebuilt where the Baptist cried out. (9)

2 Some normal achievements of prophet. (7)

3 Outlet after short publicity is prep period. (6)

4 Apocryphal book around Mecca base. (9)

5 Part of epistle in advance goes west for Old Testament book. (6)

This week's picture is of a small model diorama I noticed at Scale Modelworld last weekend, an annual gathering of some of the best modelmakers from across the world, in Telford. I found it moving, as Remembrance services continued this week and the 2 minutes silence, was impeccably observed by the 6000 attendees on Sunday.

What an amazing array of events we have going on, both within and without the Benefice.
Thank you so much for all your contributions!

Simon

admin@9bridges.church



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