

[View this email in your browser](#)



Benefice Newsletter
with Thought for Thursday

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

Thursday December 25th

[Click for Website](#)



SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

Wednesday 24th December

14:00 Crib Service – Glinton*

16:00 Crib Service – Maxey*

17:00 Crib Service – Etton Village Green*

23:30 Midnight Mass - Peakirk

Thursday 25th December

10:30 United Benefice Christmas Service - Etton*

Sunday 28th December

9:00 Holy Communion – Northborough

10:30 Family Holy Communion - Glington *

18:00 Taizé – Maxey

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

The Collect and Readings for the services can be found at the foot of this newsletter

Thought for Thursday

The Benefice Administrator's message took me by surprise: "Please can I have your Thought for Thursday today, as I want to get the newsletter out tomorrow." I had rather assumed that, for Christmas, the routine activities of the Benefice might be quietly suspended.

But of course, Christmas isn't a break from routine at all. It's so much more than that.

Just think of Mary and Joseph. Their lives were full of ordinary routines: travel plans, family expectations, finding somewhere to stay, getting on with what needed to be done. And yet, right in the middle of all that very human busyness, something utterly extraordinary happened. God didn't wait for life to go quiet or tidy before arriving. He came straight into the middle of it.

That's one of the things I love about Christmas. It doesn't sit outside everyday life like a museum exhibit, admired from a distance. It turns up in borrowed spaces, in tired journeys, in disrupted plans — and transforms them.

So, it's brilliant that the Benefice newsletter is still being sent out over Christmas. What a wonderful sign of connection: of someone reaching out, keeping the thread of community going, even on a holy day.

My 'Thought for this Christmas Day Thursday' is a simple one. Christmas brings joy — not because everything is perfect, but because God is present. It brings love — freely given, not earned. It brings hope — especially when things feel uncertain. And it brings peace — not the absence of noise or activity, but a deep assurance that we are not alone.

May those gifts meet you wherever your own routine finds you today.

May you have a blessed Christmas

Reader Simon

Thank You

As we reach the final newsletter before Christmas, I want to say thank you.

Thank you for all the ways we have come together this year – in worship and conversation, in moments of joy and in times that have been anything but straightforward. Again and again, I've been struck by how much happens when people gather with open hearts: faith explored honestly, questions welcomed, prayers shared, and practical care offered to those who need it most.

Christmas, of course, is about coming together around a story that still has the power to surprise us. God choosing not a palace but a stable; not certainty but vulnerability; not the loud and impressive but the small and easily overlooked. It's a story that invites us to slow down, to look again, and to notice the light shining in unexpected places – even when the days are dark and the tinsel has lost a bit of its sparkle.

That's one of the reasons we're so pleased to have Light Project Peterborough as our chosen charity. Their work reminds us that the light of Christ is not just something we sing about by candlelight, but something lived out through compassion, dignity, and practical support for people facing homelessness and hardship. If ever there was a Christmas-shaped ministry, this is it.

There will be full churches, familiar carols, and possibly a shepherd or two wearing a tea towel slightly askew. There will also be quiet moments, deep longings, and the holy invitation to be people who carry light for others. My prayer is that, as we celebrate, we might be renewed in faith and encouraged to keep supporting one another into the year ahead.

May your Christmas be joyful, gentle, and just a little bit holy. And may you know that you are not alone – Emmanuel, God with us, still as true today as it ever was.

With every blessing for Christmas and the New Year,

Benefice Prayers

Our benefice prayers are taken from this week's pew sheet.

For Our Community

We lift up in prayer all who live in High Street, Glington, Lincoln Road, Glington, Lincoln Road, Deeping Gate & Castle End Road, Maxey. 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, David Cupit, Marie Hayes, Mollie Watkin, Kirsty Warn and Jane and Rhiannon Peasnell**. 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, **Michael Cleathero, Jackie O'Boyle and Jean Leeds**, and on his anniversary, **Gordon Childs**. 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 WEEK

SUNDAY 4th January

09:00 Morning Worship - Glington

10:30 Sung Holy Communion - Peakirk

18:00 Celtic Evening Prayer - Northborough

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/>



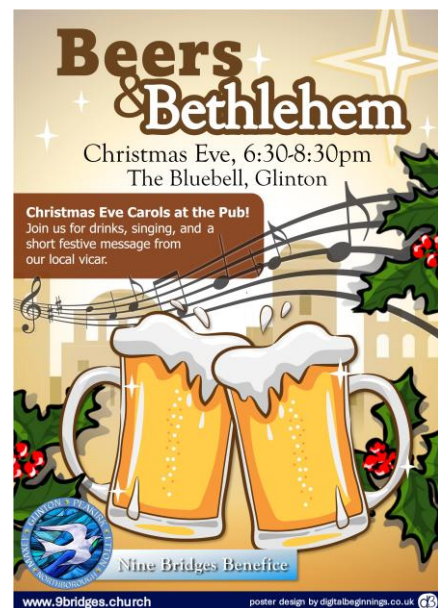
Wednesday 24th December

Beers and Bethlehem

Carols and beverages at

The Blue Bell, Ginton

18:30 - 20:30



Friday 6th February

St Benedict's are hosting a Beetle Drive at Glington Village Hall at 7pm on Friday 6th February. Fun and games, Fish and Chips, £15.00 a ticket

Tickets will be available from Helena (07802 279756), or from Julie (01733 252712) after Christmas.

Please put it in your diary!"



Beetle Drive
Friday 6th February
Starting at 7pm
Glington Village Hall
£15 To include
Fish & Chips
Please bring your own drinks
Tickets from Helena 07802 279756
or Julie 01733 252712

NEWS

Northborough Christingle

I am pleased to say that we had a wonderful turnout of people, including at least 20 children, and what pleased me as much as anything was that three families from Maxey joined us. A real Benefice feel.

£155.80 was also collected for The Children's Society.

With my best wishes and thanks

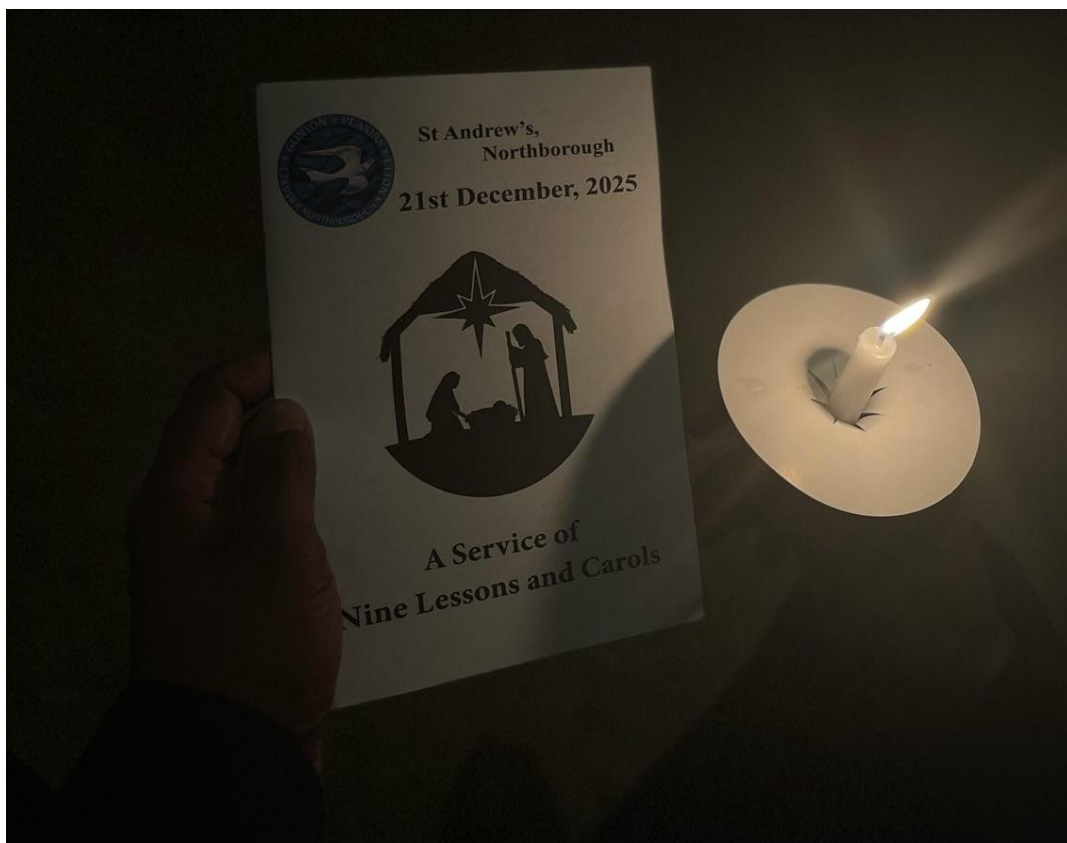
Freda Skillman

9 Lessons and Carols

A congregation of some 80 people joined the Benefice Choir at St Andrew's Northborough for the 9 Lessons and Carols on Sunday 21st. As the candles were lit, the lights dimmed and the choir processed to Once in Royal David's City, I felt Christmas had really started. The traditional readings, from Genesis through Isaiah, to the gospels of Luke and Matthew, culminating in that most wonderful text from John 1, were read by representatives from each part of our Benefice; they were interspersed with carols, some familiar, some new, sung by the choir with the congregation joining for many.

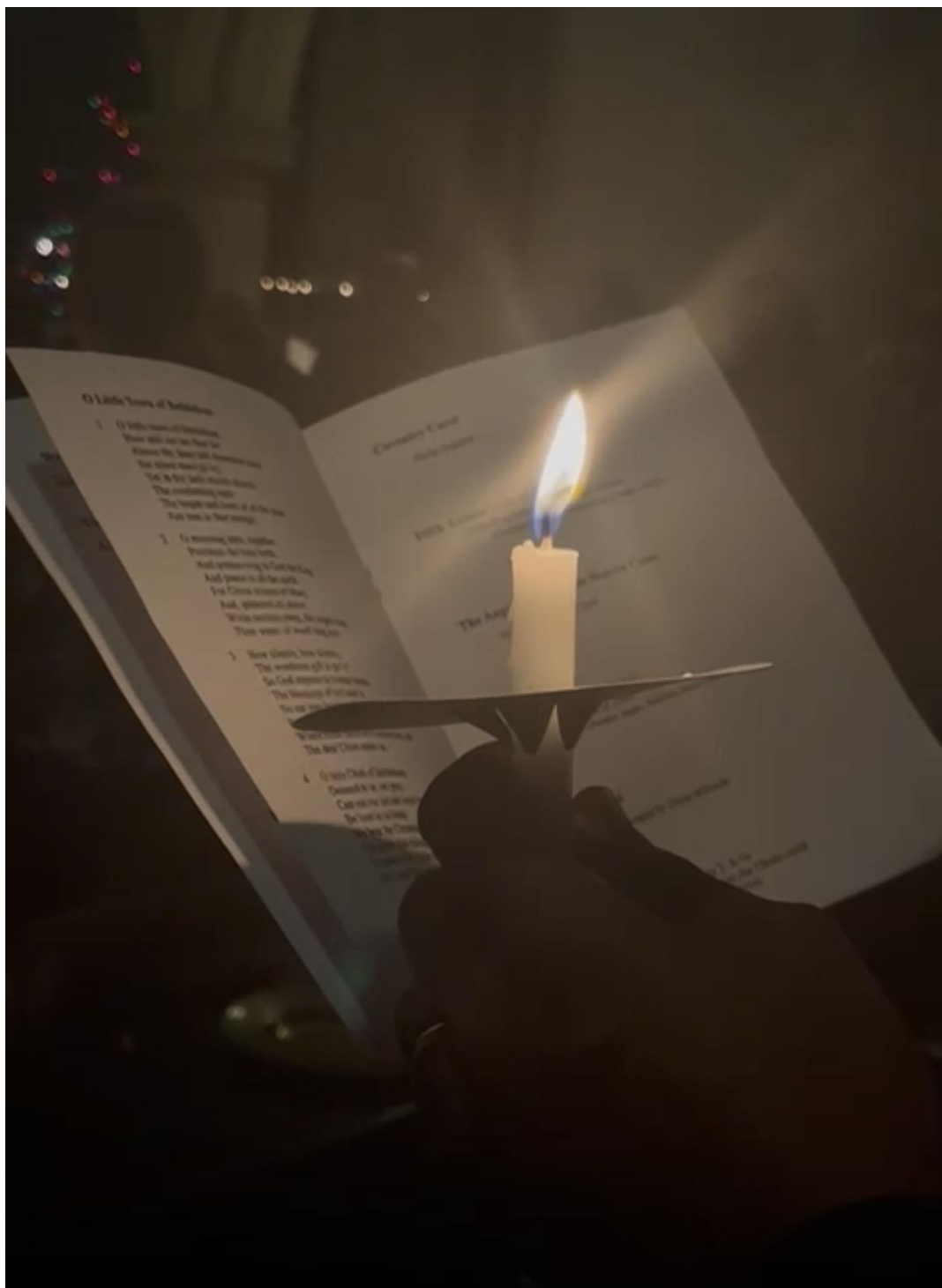
Rev Keir gave a powerful address, the church resounded to Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Choir Director Bradley Smith treated us to a wonderful organ voluntary and the service concluded, with welcome refreshments served in the Claypole Chapel.

Simon Richards











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

It is managed by [Light Project Peterborough](https://www.lightprojectpeterborough.org.uk)

<https://www.lightprojectpeterborough.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>

THE COLLECT AND READINGS FROM THE CHRISTMAS PEW SHEET

Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. **Amen**

Isaiah 9.2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Titus 2.11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Luke 2.1-20

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So, they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Gospel of our Lord; **Praise to you, O Christ**

John 1.1-14

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of our Lord; **Praise to you, O Christ**

THE COLLECT AND READINGS FROM THE 28TH DECEMBER PEW SHEET

Collect

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Isaiah 63.7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said 'Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely'; and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity here deemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Hebrews 2.10-18

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason, Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.' And again, 'I will put my trust in him.' And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.' Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore, he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Matthew 2.13-23

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.' When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in

Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

This is the Gospel of our Lord; **Praise to you, O Christ**

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas, full of joy and laughter, love and kindness.

Thank you to everyone who has made me feel so welcome and for the support you have given me in this role. Being part of this community is rewarding and fulfilling.

I want to thank Rev. Keir in particular, who makes Christianity so accessible and enables us to answer our calling in the way that fits us best, and for trusting me to support him this year.

Simon

admin@9bridges.church



Copyright (C) 2025 The Nine Bridges Benefice. All rights reserved.