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Dec

Benefice Newsletter
with Thought for Thursday

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

Thursday December 4th

[Click for Website](#)



SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

Sunday 7th December

09:00 Morning Worship – Glington

10:30 Sung Holy Communion - Peakirk

15:00 Messy Church, Peakirk Village Hall*

16:00 Christingle service - Northborough*

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

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

Thought for Thursday

Last Sunday was 'New Year's Day' in the Church's Calendar, as the first Sunday in Advent is the start of a new cycle. However, I don't recall any fireworks, raucous parties, or songs of Auld Lang Syne. Perhaps the Church is missing a trick here. Instead, we have a sombre and plain warning about being prepared at all times for the final judgement of the world.

Advent is a season of preparation, often mistakenly taken as preparing for Christmas and Jesus's birth, (that's happened and we celebrate its anniversary), rather than being ready for Christ's return.

Obviously for most this is a season of getting ready for celebrating 'Christmastime', decorations, cards, food, drink, presents etc. for some this may have started in September (or earlier) and is now all finished, just waiting for the big day, for others, myself included, it's all a last-minute rush.

It occurred to me how much of life is spent in preparation for some event or another. We get ready for marriage, planning months or years ahead. Preparations for the birth of a child, that's a fairly fixed term.

Getting ready for a new term at school, a new job, a holiday, a hospital stay or visit, retirement and even death, (particularly if you watch all the adverts there seem to be at the moment for funeral plans) All so that when the day comes, wedding, baby, school, holiday etc. everything is ready. Some are meticulous planners, other leave it to the last minute, some are in between, but in some way, we get ready; or it may be too late.

So, advent is a good time to check on our readiness for Jesus, whether we have been working on it for years, or left it to the last minute, He doesn't mind, as long as we don't leave it too late.

Reader Mark

Benefice 2030 – What Can I do? How Can I Serve?

After our very successful Mission Day, Rev Keir is writing out to everybody today to give you the opportunity to express interest in the new roles that are being created on the Benefice Council and in the Family & Friends groups.

A brand-new section has just gone up on the 9 Bridges Benefice website about this. This includes the descriptions of the new leadership roles and information about the wide range of other ways in which you can help in our Parishes and wider Benefice.

Please take time over the next couple of weeks to have a look at the website

<https://9bridges.church/mission-day-2025/> think, and pray about how you can best help and serve, and please return your Expression of Interest Form you will find on the 9 Bridges website by 18 December

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 Orchard Grove, Maxey, Helpston Road, Etton, Walker Road, Glington & Deeping St James Road, Northborough. 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, **David Mostyn, Gaye Swan, Michael Cleathero, Martyn White and Jackie O'Boyle**. 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

SATURDAY 13th December

16:00 Carol Service - Maxey

SUNDAY 14th December

09:00 Morning Worship – Peakirk

10:30 Holy Communion – Etton

16:00 Carol Service – Peakirk*

18:00 Joyful Journey – Glington *

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 Glington

Singing Club for Children



The 9 Bridges Benefice is delighted
to launch a **Singing Club** for
children!

<https://9bridges.church/singing-club/>

Thursday 4th December

Christmas Tree Lighting in St Benedict's
churchyard 18:45

With Mulled wine and Mince Pies.



Saturday 6th December

Christmas Concert at
Sisson's Barn, Peakirk – 19:00

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 18:30



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

Sunday 7th December through
December

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

Sunday 7th December

St Andrew's Church, Northborough
Christingle Service

16:00

**St Andrew's Church
Northborough**

**Christingle Service with Nativity
Sunday, 7th December**

4:00pm



***All proceeds to
The Children's Society***

Everyone is welcome!

Everyone Welcome!

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 16:00



Saturday 13th December

Christmas Fayre

Christmas stalls and refreshments

St. Benedict's Church, Ginton

10:00 - 12:00



Sunday 14th December

The Journey to Bethlehem – a carol service with a difference with children of Messy Church taking part.

St Pega's 16:00 (There is no Messy Church on December as the Village Hall is unavailable)



Friday 19th December

Benefice@The Boozer

20:00 The Blue Bell, Ginton.

All are welcome for pre-Christmas get-together!



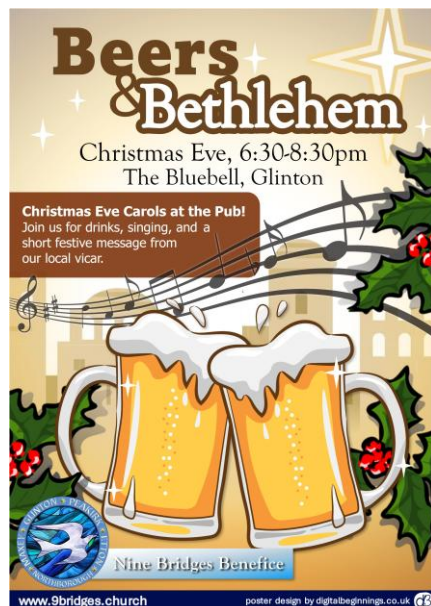
Wednesday 24th December

Beers and Bethlehem

Carols and beverages at

The Blue Bell, Ginton

19:00 - 21:00



NEWS

Dear friends around Peterborough

Although it may seem early to be writing about Christmas, we know from past experience that local churches like plenty of notice to get organised.

If you have been in Peterborough for a few years, you will know that it has become something of a tradition for local churches and people of good will to provide chocolates for those who will be living and working in prison over the Christmas season. Would your congregation be able to help us in this act of Christian kindness?

As a chaplaincy team, we are able - by courtesy of different charities - to provide a diary, a calendar and a Christmas card in addition to some chocolates. For some of our prisoners this package of goodies will be the only present they have for Christmas.

If you and/or your congregation are able to help, we are asking for the 740-800 gram sized tubs of 'Heroes', 'Quality Street', 'Celebration' or 'Roses', all of which are now, or soon will be, on special offer at many supermarkets. Also, Sainsbury's and Morrisons's have tubs of own brand chocolates. Some shops have a 'buy one, get one free' promotion. It is really helpful if you stick just to the tubs, as they all have to be unpacked and put into bags for each resident.

You might like to know that, with around 1300 people in the prison, we need sixteen tubs in order to be provide one sweet per person: you will therefore appreciate that we need quite a few tubs if we are going to provide even two or three chocolates to each person, so the more tubs the merrier. Last year, through your generosity, we were able to give each resident a decent number of sweets, which was a magnificent achievement.

PLEASE PASS TUBS TO SIMON CLAYTON, BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR
(admin@9bridges.church)

This kindness from local people is really appreciated by our prisoners, and those prisoners who have been here over a Christmas in the past are already asking if we are going to do it again this year. We know from previous years that many prisoners are deeply touched that people are thinking of them at this special time.

With grateful thanks

Prison Chaplaincy Team

Messy Church

The theme of Messy Church in November was Why Advent?

As well as making an advent wreath and advent calendar we also made Christmas puddings!

We learnt a new advent song as well.





St Pega's Christmas Fayre

Everyone one got into the Christmas spirit and enjoyed having a photo opportunity with Santa!
The chocolate tombola proved to be very popular. Thank you to everyone who supported the afternoon.



St Pega's Brunch

The St Pega's Brunch on November 23 was as popular as ever. Once again, the 'full English' was in great demand and an enjoyable morning was had by everyone.



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 THIS WEEK'S PEW SHEET

Collect

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. **Amen**

Isaiah 11.1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

Romans 15.4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope. 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

Matthew 3.1-12

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." 'Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

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

Solutions to clues from last month

1 WILDERNESS (where John the Baptist cried out) Anagram (rebuilt) of **WREN SLIDES**.

2 MALACHI (prophet) Lurker (Some) in nor**MAL ACH**ievements.

3 ADVENT (prep period) **VENT** (outlet) after **AD** (short publicity).

4 MACCABEES (Apocryphal book) Anagram (around) of **MECCA BASE**,

5 DANIEL (Old Testament book) Reverse lurker (Part of . . . goes west) in epist**LE IN AD**vance.

This time's clues

1 The French go after old record - winner - one of Paul's perhaps. (7)

2 Oh! A harp played for Egyptian ruler. (7)

3 Prophet found in Eskimos escape. (5)

4 Banal about Jacob's uncle. (5)

5 Legislation and God's messengers hang on two commandments. (3,3,3,3,8)

My thanks to all who have provided feedback on the new layout and content, I do appreciate it.

There are still so many wonderful things happening in our Benefice and across the Diocese, I do hope you have the opportunity to enjoy some of them.

Simon

admin@9bridges.church



