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**Benefice Newsletter  
with Thought for Thursday**

**for the parishes of Etton, Clinton, Maxey, Northborough and Peakirk**

**Thursday January 29th**

[Click for Website](#)



**SUNDAY 1st February**

**09:00 Morning Worship – Clinton \***

**10:30 Sung Holy Communion - Peakirk**

**15:00 Messy Church- Peakirk Village Hall\***

**18:00 Celtic Evening Prayer - Northborough**

**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**

Over the past few days, as Holocaust Memorial Day approached, I found myself unsettled by several things I read — not by any single article, but by what they seemed to reveal when taken together.

One reported that the Holocaust now appears on the curriculum in 60% fewer schools than it once did. Another was an opinion piece in *The Times*, written by a politician of Pakistani Muslim heritage, inviting us — simply and quietly — to light a candle in our window as a sign of remembrance. A third criticised the BBC for introducing the topic on magazine programmes without explicitly mentioning Jews at all. And perhaps most strikingly of all, there was the near-total absence of the day itself from mainstream news reporting.

None of these, on their own, is decisive. Together, they raise an uncomfortable question: what does this say about our collective memory?

The Holocaust is not just another tragic episode in history. It was an industrialised, systematic attempt to erase an entire people — and it happened within living memory, in a continent that prided itself on culture, learning and Christian heritage. Remembering it is not about apportioning guilt to later generations, nor about political positioning. It is about moral vigilance.

Forgetting rarely happens all at once. More often, it happens by quiet omission: fewer lessons taught, fewer names spoken, fewer candles lit. Memory fades not because people actively reject it, but because it becomes inconvenient, uncomfortable, or simply easy to overlook.

Holocaust Memorial Day asks very little of us. It asks us to remember, to name what happened truthfully, and to allow that memory to shape our understanding of human dignity today. In Christian terms, remembrance is an act of faithfulness — a refusal to look away from suffering, and a commitment to say, again and again: this mattered. These people mattered. And they still do.

Reader Simon

## 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 Deeping Road, Glinton, Rectory Lane, Peakirk, Peakirk Road, Glinton & Werrington Parkway, Glinton. 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 and Bill Dean**. 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 and Patricia Toulson**. 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.



### How can we help?

Life can be a lot sometimes — you don't have to figure it out on your own.

**Our Benefice Community Help drop-in runs every Friday, 2-4pm at St Benedict's Church.**

No pressure, no forms, no cost — just people who want to listen and help where they can.

You can:

-  Pop in for a coffee and a chat
-  Ask about local services or issues
-  Share worries (big or small)
-  Get help with phones, tablets, or online stuff
  -  Or just sit and be for a while

You don't need to be religious.

You don't need to be in crisis.

**It's completely free.**

Just come as you are — we'll start with one simple question:

**How can we help?**

Feel free to share or tag someone who might find this useful 

This poem was written by Bruce, who is in Year 7, and it is remarkable not only for its beautiful use of words but for the depth of faith it reveals. In a simple and honest way, it shows a grace-filled understanding of God that feels both thoughtful and heartfelt. I was deeply moved when I read it and felt I really wanted to share it more widely. My thanks to Bruce for writing it, and for kindly agreeing that it could be shared. If anyone else has something they—or their children—have created, please do share it too; it would be wonderful to celebrate and encourage these gifts together.

Rev. Keir

By Bruce Maselli

When I look up at the endless sky,

Stars shining bright and lifted high,

I feel a quiet, holy awe

At all You are and all I saw

You made the world with strength and grace,

Beyond all time, beyond all space,

In Natures beauty, calm and true,

I stand in awe, my God, of You



**Stainer's *The Crucifixion in Holy Week***

The Nine Bridges Benefice Choir is delighted to be singing Sir John Stainer's much-loved Passiontide work *The Crucifixion* during Holy Week, on **Tuesday 31st March at 7.00pm**, at **St Peter's, Maxey**.

First performed in 1887, *The Crucifixion* is a deeply moving meditation on the events of Good Friday. Written to be accessible yet profoundly expressive, it weaves together scripture, reflective choruses, and well-known congregational hymns that invite listeners to contemplate the meaning of Christ's suffering and love. For many, its music has become inseparable from the spiritual journey of Holy Week.

The Nine Bridges Benefice Choir draws together singers from across our churches, united by a shared love of worship, music, and community. Regularly leading services and special events around the benefice, the choir brings warmth, commitment, and joy to everything it sings.

We are especially pleased to be joined by our soloists **Bradley Smith (Tenor)** and **Simon Richards (Bass)**, whose roles as the Evangelist and Christus bring clarity, drama, and depth to this powerful work.

All are very welcome to come and listen, reflect, and prepare their hearts for Easter through this beautiful and prayerful music.

#### **SERVICES NEXT WEEK**

#### **SUNDAY 8th February**

**09:30 Morning Worship – Peakirk**

**10:30 Holy Communion – Etton**

**18:00 Joyful Journey – Clinton \***

**All are welcome at all our services**

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

## DATES for your DIARY

### Friday 30th January

It's the last Friday of the month and  
Benefice@TheBoozer (B@TB) will be  
frequenting the

**Ruddy Duck at Peakirk from 8pm**



### Sunday 1st February

**15:00 - 16:30**

Messy Church is back!

**Theme:** Messy Families - the story of the Prodigal Son. Activities, Songs, Story and Refreshments.

All families welcome.

**Advance notice:** March 1<sup>st</sup> The official opening of the Messy Church Shed. Come along to join in.

You are invited to



**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1<sup>st</sup>**

3.00pm to 4.30pm

PEAKIRK VILLAGE HALL

**Messy Builders**

(and opening of the Messy Church Shed!)



Families of all ages are welcome

Jane Harris : [communications@bridges.church](mailto:communications@bridges.church)

● The Nine Bridges Benefice

Families of all ages are welcome

### **Friday 6th February**

St Benedict's are hosting a Beetle Drive at Clinton 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**

**Clinton Village Hall**

**£15 To include**

**Fish & Chips**



**Please bring your own drinks**

**Tickets from Helena 07802 279756  
or Julie 01733 252712**

### **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February**

**6.00pm to 8.00pm**

Messy Church Family and Friends Bottle Bingo

Peakirk Village Hall

Bingo games for all the family. (Please bring a wrapped bottle, maximum value £5.00, towards the prizes)

Half time pizza

£5.00 a table for a family/friends group



To  
book: [communications@9bridges.church](mailto:communications@9bridges.church)  
or text 07731669264

**St Andrew's Church, Northborough**

**Annual Quiz with Peter Kemp**

**6<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7.30pm**

Northborough Village Hall

£10 per person, light supper included

BYO drinks

Tables of up to 4

Please book with Polly – 01778 380849

Or Jane – 01778 345101



**REGULAR DATES for your DIARY**

**Every Wednesday**

St Benedict's Glinton

Singing Club for Children

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



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

## NEWS

### Benefice Christmas Quiz

Don't forget to send in your answer sheet even if you have not managed to answer all the questions correctly. This year and last year only 2 people got everything right.

Answer sheets to Bob Quinn - 28 St. Benedict's Close, Glinton, Peterborough PE6 7LJ by  
or Scan and email to [r372quinn@btinternet.com](mailto:r372quinn@btinternet.com)

Boxes in all 5 churches for completed entries from the 25th of Jan to the 7th of Feb.

Please ensure you have given your name, address and/or telephone number.

Original sheets only, no copies. You may add another sheet for your answers if you need to.

If you haven't already had a copy of the quiz there is still time (up to 8<sup>th</sup> Feb) to have a go.  
There are quizzes available in all 5 churches or contact Bob Quinn on 07958 572095 or email  
as above.



*A fundraising concert of Ukrainian music*  
marking the 4<sup>th</sup> year of vital aid for Ukraine after the Russian invasion



**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb  
at 3:30pm**

for about an hour

Bridget Howarth *soprano*

Katherine Parsons & Leon King *violas*

Fergus Black *piano*

**at St John's Church**

Cathedral Square, Peterborough

Tickets: £10 (please scan QR code)

accompanied children free

**stripe**  **PayPal** 

Since the onset of the conflict in February 2022, HOUF has been actively working to provide humanitarian aid to families and communities in Ukraine, as well as to Ukrainian refugees in Britain and Poland. The organisation has completed numerous projects, including delivering essential supplies, organising summer camps for war widows and their children, and raising significant funds to support their initiatives.

Further Information on HOUF:

[www.rb.gy/myzdpz](http://www.rb.gy/myzdpz)



The concert programme includes art songs, folk songs, a picture of Old Kiev in music, Postcards from Ukraine (character pieces in authentic song and dance styles of Ukraine), duets for two violas, and some variations on Paganini's famous caprice. Composers featured include Didorenko, Dychko, Bilash, Glière, Shamo, Skoryk (his famous *Melody*), Berkovich and Stetsenko.

Promoted by  
St John's CIC





# Thank You for the Music



*A DELIGHTFUL MUSICAL MISCELLANY  
BY COMPOSERS FROM THE 16<sup>TH</sup> TO THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY*

**ST BOTOLPH'S CHURCH  
LONGTHORPE, PETERBOROUGH, PE3 6LU  
SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 7.30PM**

**ST PETER'S SINGERS — JEREMY JEPSON: DIRECTOR**

**TICKETS £15 (UNDER 16S FREE)**

**TO INCLUDE A GLASS OF WINE OR NON-ALCOHOLIC FIZZ. CASH-ONLY BAR AVAILABLE.**

**INTERVAL RAFFLE.**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE IN ADVANCE FROM**

**JACKIE LAST 07532 457007 [jackie@aspleyway.co.uk](mailto:jackie@aspleyway.co.uk)  
OR YVETTE MAGRI 07858 529203 [yvette\\_magri@hotmail.com](mailto:yvette_magri@hotmail.com)**



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>

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>

### Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel: make your home among us, and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father,  
your God, and our God.

**Amen**

### Malachi 3.1–5

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress

the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

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

**Hebrews 2.14-end**

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**

**Luke 2.22-40**

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

***All Glory to you, O Lord.***

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.' Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her

husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

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

### **Solutions to clues from last month**

**1 HEROD** (King) A lurker in ot~~H~~ER O~~D~~dities.

**2 TARSHISH** (Jonah's intended destination) An anagram (recycled) of **HIS TRASH**.

**3 CARPENTER** (Joseph's trade) **CARP** (Fish) **ENTER** (go into).

**4 JOEL** (prophet) First letters (Initially) of **Join Odd Ends Lengthways**.

**5 PASSOVER** (Jewish festival) An anagram (Revised) of **VAR POSES**.

### *This time's clues*

1 Hype a pin about. It's the season. (8)

2 Jamie and her get together for prophet. (8)

3 Epistle in some jam Esme made. (5)

4 Part of cha-cha rotation backing Jewish scripture. (5)

5 Leased free six weeks before Easter. (4)

It's wonderful to see the influx of articles and news items this week. Please keep them coming for this newsletter, our social media feeds and the Village Tribune. I'm here to help.

Simon

admin@9bridges.church



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