Benefice Newsletter
with Thought for Thursday

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

Thursday November 12th

Click for Website
https://9bridges.church/



They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

SERVICES THIS WEEK	
2nd Sunday before Advent	**09:00 Holy Communion – Maxey** **10:30 Family Praise – Northborough** **18:00 BCP Evensong - Peakirk**

Thought for Thursday

"When my fears are giant-sized, I know that God is there."
(from David and Goliath – the Rhyming Bible – Bob Hartman)

As many of you may know, I have had bad year! Following a cancer diagnosis, ongoing treatment and major surgery, I approach the end of the year feeling somewhat battered and bruised.
During this rollercoaster year I have found out that God does not always make himself known with the banging of a drum, a flash of light or a grand announcement. He's there in chance encounter, a few words in a book or the kindness of strangers.
Three incidents stick out. A chance meeting Jane had with Kate, a chaplain, outside the Ladies at the hospital led to us meeting her again in the chapel a few weeks later when we had been given the full extent of my diagnosis. She knelt beside us, prayed with us and shared this poem :-

Let Your God Love You by Edwina Gateley

Be Silent
Be still
Alone. Empty
Before your God.
Say nothing.
Ask nothing.
Be silent.
Be still.
Let your God look upon you.
That is all.
God knows.
God understands.
God loves you with enormous love.
God only wants to look upon you
With love.
Quiet.
Still be.
Let your God love you.

The week before my operation, the writer of our Bible reading notes recounted the time when her daughter had lost her courage during the school play, jumped off the stage and ran to her.
"Mummy," she said, " I've run out of brave!"
I know exactly what she meant! As that little girl turned to her mother for love and support I knew I could turn to someone greater than me and I knew that I was also supported by the love and prayers of so many people – not only here in our Benefice – but all over the country.
As Jane and I left the hospital – me in a wheelchair, thinking, "What the hell am I doing, sitting in this thing?" Jane pushing me as well as wheeling a suitcase and carrying a bag of my medical accoutrements, we were approached by a young man with dreadlocks and an interesting array of tattoos. With a brief, "Can I help?" he took hold of the suitcase and the bag and insisted on walking with us to the car park.

As I continue on my journey to better health, for all of your love, support and prayers over recent months I thank you from the bottom of my heart and I pray too, that you will know that God is with you always.

Reader Derek

NEWS

Winter Night Shelter re-opening



As winter approaches, there is a practical opportunity to share God's love with people experiencing homelessness in our city. Light Project Peterborough has secured funding from Peterborough City Council to re-establish the Peterborough Communal Night Shelter from December, and is calling on churches and volunteers to help make it possible.
The response from churches has already been fantastic, but more support is still needed.

Volunteers are needed for evening, overnight and breakfast shifts. The evening team arrives at 6pm to set up and welcome guests, with dinner at 7.30pm. The overnight team takes over at 10pm, and breakfast volunteers arrive at 6am, helping with breakfast and clearing up before leaving by 9am. You do not have to be able to stay all night to help.

Could you offer some time this winter? To find out more and complete a volunteer application, please visit the Peterborough Night Shelter webpage. For further information, including enquiries about church hosting, contact Paddy at paddy.berryman@lightprojectpeterborough.org.uk.

Please share this appeal with friends, neighbours and others in our congregations, and keep the guests, volunteers and host churches in your prayers. Together, we can offer a welcome that puts our faith into action.

Christmas Chocolates for HMP Peterborough

A quick reminder following last week's appeal: we're collecting tubs of chocolates for the Christmas gift packs prepared by the chaplaincy team at HMP Peterborough. For many prisoners, these gifts may be the only present they receive at Christmas, and this simple act of kindness can make a real difference.



If you'd like to contribute, please bring tubs of **Heroes, Quality Street, Celebrations, Roses**, or similar chocolates to the **Benefice Office at Glinton Church by Sunday 6 December**.



Thank you to everyone who has already donated. We can also report that the growing mountain of chocolate in the Benefice Office is providing a significant opportunity for spiritual growth, as Rev Keir undertakes the annual discipline of walking past multiple boxes of festive treats without opening them "just to check they're suitable." Your prayers for perseverance in this testing season would be greatly appreciated.

Together we can help share a little Christmas joy and remind people that they are not forgotten.

Dominus Illuminatio Mea

(with updated QR Code)

Get ready for an afternoon packed with fun, friendship and Christmas cheer! The Deanery Youth Events programme is back with ***Dominus Illuminatio Mea*** ("The Lord is my light"), a special Advent event inspired by Psalm 27:1 for children and young people from across our area.

We're especially excited that **Roisin Kuruvilla**, whom many of you will remember fondly from her time as our intern, is helping to lead the day. It is wonderful to see her continuing to encourage and inspire young people in their faith journey.

The event takes place on **Saturday 5th December, from 1.00pm to 4.00pm at St Jude's Church, Peterborough**, and is open to **young people aged 8-14**. Expect games, activities, new friendships, plenty of laughter, and an opportunity to explore the Christmas story together as we discover what it means to shine God's light in the world.



Parents, grandparents, godparents, aunts, uncles, and honorary family members: if you know a young person who might enjoy the afternoon, please encourage them to come along. Better still, invite a friend and come together! We'd love to see children and young people from across the benefice joining in, making connections, and having a memorable start to Advent.

One final confession: some of you may have discovered that last week's QR code had all the navigational reliability of a wise man without a star. Our apologies! The new QR code has been tested and now appears to be behaving in a much more Christian manner. Please do give it another try.

Take a look at the event poster for booking details and help us spread the word. Let's fill St Jude's with the sound of laughter, excitement and the joyful anticipation of Christmas

Mission 2027

As we continue to seek ways of growing in faith and sharing the good news of Jesus, we are delighted that an **Alpha Course** will be starting in the New Year, offering a relaxed and welcoming space to explore faith and life's big questions.

We are also looking ahead to our **Benefice Mission Day** around the beginning of Lent, an opportunity to reflect together on God's call to serve our communities, deepen our discipleship, and grow in confidence as witnesses to Christ. Further details about both events will be shared in the coming weeks.

9 Bridges Benefice Drama Group



PARISHGIVINGSCHEME

Your GIVING MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Faith. Worship. Community. Hope.

Your regular gift through the **Parish Giving Scheme** helps us to share God's love and support our church and our community – today and tomorrow.

BENEFITS OF GIVING THROUGH PGS

REGULAR & RELIABLE
Your gift is received safely and on time, every time.

EASY & CONVENIENT
Set up online, by phone or by post – and manage your gift when you need to.

SAFE & SECURE
Your details are protected and your gift is transferred securely.

FLEXIBLE
You're in control – change or pause your gift at any time.

MORE IMPACT
Lower costs for the church mean more of your gift goes to mission and ministry.

Give TODAY

FOR A STRONGER CHURCH TODAY
AND A BRIGHTER FUTURE TOMORROW.

Give online
parishgiving.org.uk

Or call us
0333 002 1260

Where does your gift go?

- Your donation **stays with the Parish** you choose, supporting its ministry and mission.
- Click the link above to **choose** the Parish you would like to support.
- **Want to give to the whole Benefice?** Please contact **admin@9bridges.church** for advice on how to do this.

Thank you for your generosity and support.

Every gift, every week, changes lives.

DATES for your DIARY

Sing Along Night

of Remembrance

St. Peter's church

Maxey

Saturday 14th November

19:00



Christmas/Greeting Card

Workshop

The Coach House

Rectory Lane, Etton PE6 7DB

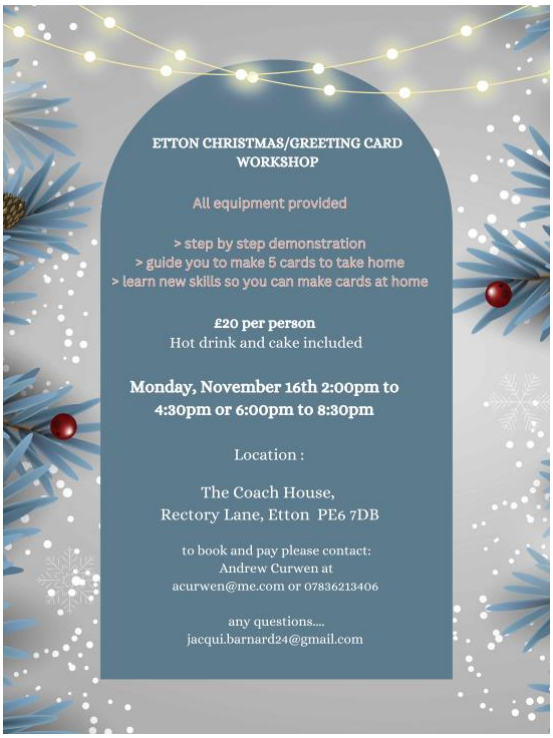
Monday 16th November

14:00 – 16:30

Or

18:00 – 20:30

All equipment provided



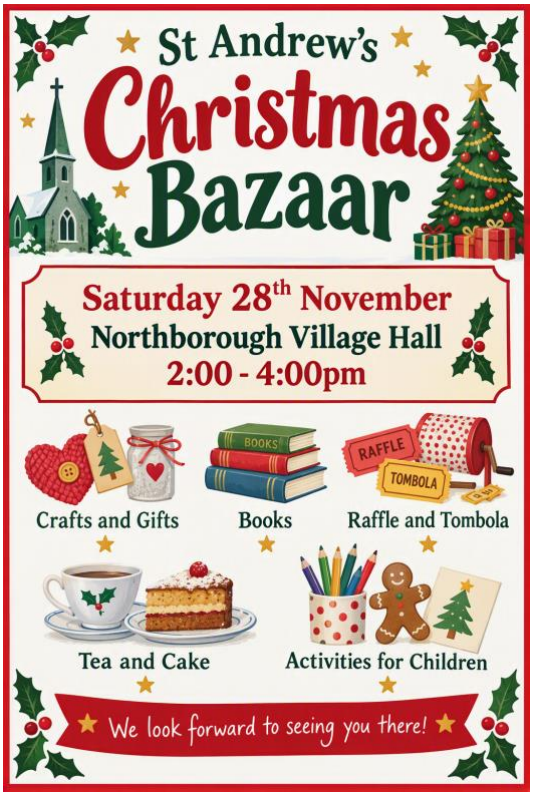
St Andrew's

Christmas Bazaar

Northborough Village Hall

Saturday 28th November

14:00 – 16:00



St Pega's Christmas Fayre

Saturday 28th November

2-4pm

Peakirk Village Hall



Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

The Golden Pheasant pub

Etton

Monday 30th November

14:00 – 16:30

Or

18:00 – 20:30

All equipment provided





Last few Tickets

Nine Bridges

Christmas Concert

Sissons Barn

Peakirk

Saturday 5th December

19:00

Tickets available form Simon Richards (simon.richards@9bridges.church)



Peakirk Christmas Tree Lighting and Festivities

Sunday 6 December at 3.00pm

Join us in **Peakirk Church** for the lighting of our Christmas tree, accompanied by carols as we begin the Christmas season together.

Afterwards, everyone is warmly invited to **Messy Church** and a **Bring-and-Share Christmas Tea** in the Village Hall. Whether you're a regular churchgoer or simply looking to enjoy some festive community spirit, we'd love to welcome you.

All are welcome. Come and celebrate the joy of Christmas with us! 🎄✨



Sunday 13 December at Peakirk Church
9:00 Morning Worship: *Love Came Down at Christmas*

Join us at **Peakirk Church** for a special Christmas service exploring the wonder of God's love revealed in the birth of Jesus Christ. Through familiar carols, readings, reflection, and opportunities for congregational participation, we will celebrate the hope, peace, joy, and love that Christmas brings.

Come and share in this uplifting and festive act of worship as we prepare our hearts for Christmas.

Everyone is warmly welcome. 🎄✨



This Week's Collect and Readings

Collect

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Old Testament

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand: the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm.' Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Zephaniah 1.7, 12–end

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

Psalm

Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another. Before the mountains were brought forth, or the earth and the world were formed, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn us back to dust and say: 'Turn back, O children of earth.' For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday, which passes like a watch in the night. You sweep them away like a dream; they fade away suddenly like the grass. In the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered. For we consume away in your displeasure; we are afraid at your wrathful indignation. You have set our misdeeds before you and our secret sins in the light of your countenance. When you are angry, all our days are gone; our years come to an end like a sigh. The days of our life are three score years and ten, or if our strength endures, even four score; yet the sum of them is but labour and sorrow, for they soon pass away and we are gone. Who regards the power of your wrath and your indignation like those who fear you? So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. *Psalm 90:1-8, 12*

Epistle

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians

Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

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

Gospel

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

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

Jesus told his disciples this parable: 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 'After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." 'And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things;

enter into the joy of your master." 'Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." 'But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 25.14-30

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

Post Communion Prayer

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Benefice Prayers

For Our Community

We lift up in prayer all who live in The Willows, Glinton, Lincoln Road, Deeping Gate, North Fen Road, Glinton & Mill 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, Jacqui Barnard** and **Derek Harris.** 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**, Graham Gudgin and and Lynne Johnson.** We also pray for those whose anniversaries fall at this time especially **John Stables and Jaqueline O'Boyle.** Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

For the Growth of Our Church

Lord, as we remember those who have gone before us, unite our church in love and hope. Help us welcome all, serve our neighbours and work for peace. Amen.

Contact Simon C (administrator) Tel: 01733 372726 admin@9bridges.church Works Monday PM & Tuesday PM	Contact for Rev Keir: Tel: **01733 372725** Mob: 079804 12345 vicar@9bridges.church Rest day usually Friday

And Finally

A heartfelt word of thanks to everyone who contributes to this weekly Benefice Newsletter. It turns out that gathering news from five churches, countless groups, several committees, dozens of volunteers, and at least three people who only remember important information five minutes after pressing "send" is no small task!

Special recognition must go to those bravely holding the fort while Simon enjoys what now appears to be a gap year disguised as a holiday. We continue to pray for his safe return and wellbeing, while also petitioning the Lord, in His infinite mercy, to gently discourage Simon from ever going away for quite this long again. We trust that by the time he returns he will still recognise Glinton, remember his password, and know where the church is.

In the meantime, please keep the newsletter supplied with your events, celebrations, notices, photographs, updates, achievements, and any other snippets of parish life. Contrary to popular belief, newsletter items do not appear by divine revelation alone.

Please continue sending all contributions to **admin@9bridges.church**. The earlier the better, the clearer the better, and ideally before the event has actually happened.

May God bless you all, bless our churches, and bring Simon safely home before we have to add him permanently to the intercessions. Amen. 😉

Rev Keir

admin@9bridges.church

You can use the email address above to UNSUBSCRIBE

You are also free to share this with friends and relatives, who can in turn SUBSCRIBE by emailing the same address