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**Benefice Newsletter
with Thought for Thursday**

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

Thursday February 5th

[**Click for Website**](#)



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**

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

Thought for Thursday

Dawning Brightness

As I looked out of the window just before eight o'clock this morning (Monday), the sun was a glorious red globe in the sky, well above the horizon. And as I reflected on the increasing amount of light every morning and every evening, and rejoiced in it, my mind led me on to reflect on the season of Epiphany which has now just ended.

Epiphany has been a season of revelation, of light, of hope, of new beginnings. New beginnings for the nations as the Magi arrived to worship Jesus, new beginnings for Jesus himself at his baptism, new beginnings for John the Baptist and for those first disciples – Andrew and Peter, James and John, and the hope of new beginnings for us all.

And for us in the northern hemisphere, this season of Epiphany happens as nature itself is looking forward to new beginnings, bulbs poking through the dark soil, catkins hanging in hope on bare branches, and the unfurling of shy hellebores which prefer to keep their beauty chastely hidden.

As Epiphany ends, there are new beginnings for the Nine Bridges Benefice as the unfurling of a new season of governance begins this very evening.

So, just as year after year, the bulbs appear, the catkins hang, the hellebores delight, so can the light of Christ unfurl new beginnings for every one of us. New opportunities to shine for Christ in a myriad different ways, reflecting the myriad different ways nature itself shines and reflects the glory of God. What a privilege and what a joy!

Freda Skillman

5th February 2026

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 Perkins Lane, Maxey, Pembroke Grove, Glinton, Rectory Lane, Etton & Vergette Road, 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: 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.



Benefice Council Meeting

It was a joy to gather for our first Benefice Council meeting on 2 February at St Benedict's Church. We began, as we hope always to do, in prayer—seeking Jesus at the centre of our shared life and ministry together. The council also agreed that different members will open and close our meetings in future, helping us share this ministry of prayer.

We received and accepted the Scheme from Bishop's Council, clarifying how our shared work will be shaped and how responsibilities are held across the benefice. Safeguarding remains a vital priority, and all members will ensure their training and DBS checks are up to date as part of our commitment to creating safe, loving spaces for all.

During the meeting, we also elected people to serve in key roles within the Council:

Lay Chair: Derek Harris

Secretary: Simon Clayton

Treasurer: Simon Richards

We agreed to adopt the existing finance and safeguarding policies from our parishes, with a full review planned in six months. We also affirmed the importance of good communication and decided to use Microsoft Teams to share documents and support our ongoing collaboration. We ask that everyone feels comfortable contacting the benefice council and this can be done by emailing Simon Clayton on admin@9bridges.church.

On finances, the Council approved the creation of a central benefice bank account (this will only hold central funds - all parish bank accounts will remain), requested a draft budget for 2026, and formed a small group to help us reflect on giving across our churches.

Finally, we agreed that Benefice Council meetings will take place **on the second Monday of each month**, offering a steady rhythm for prayerful planning and shared mission.

As always, thank you for holding our benefice in your prayers. May God continue to guide us in unity, generosity, and hope.

Rev. Keir Dow



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 

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

Ephesians 4:32 NIV

Please come and join us for our **Benefice Lent Course**, starting later this month.

Our theme this Lent is ‘Forgiveness - making peace with the past.’

Dates: 25th February to 25th March (5 Wednesday evenings)

Time: 7.15pm

Venue: Sissons Barn, Moor Road, Thorney Road, Peakirk PE6 7NT

We need to know numbers ahead of the first week so please can you let Lucy Malcolm know if you are going to attend on either ukmalcolms@gmail.com or 07587 799462 by Wednesday 18th February. If you have any questions about the course, please get in touch with Lucy.



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 15th February

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**

DATES for your DIARY

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!"



Friday 20th 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

or text 07731669264

Sunday 22nd February

9.30am - 11.30am

St. Pega's Cafe Brunch

Peakirk Village Hall

Full English Breakfast

Continental Breakfast

Bacon Roll

To book: sheila.lever@btinternet.com or

01733 252416



ST PEGA'S CAFÉ

Join us for Brunch

in Peakirk Village Hall.

Full English breakfast

Continental breakfast

Bacon bap

Sunday February 22nd

9.30am to 11.30am

To book contact : 01733 252416

sheila.lever@btinternet.com



St Andrew's Church, Northborough

Annual Quiz with Peter Kemp

6th 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. 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

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 8th Feb) to have a go.
There are quizzes available in all 5 churches or contact Bob Quinn on 07958 572095 or email
as above.

PRAYER NEWSLETTER

PETERBOROUGH DEANERY



the ministry
experience scheme

Issue 17
February 2026

In this issue of our prayer newsletter, we'll be catching up with Roisin's continued work with schools, with Liv-Astrid's Future Youth course and hear about their trip to the national MES conference in London. But we will start with the next exciting deanery youth event, Poiema.

Deanery Youth Event 2.0



Details:

Saturday 14 March 9.30-12.30

St Matthew's Church, Eye

Age group – 8-14

An activity and craft based morning, focusing on Ephesians 2.10: 'For we are God's handiwork'

Liv-Astrid and Roisin are excited about their next Deanery Youth Event, called "Poiema - God's masterpiece". They want to assure people that St Matthew's, Eye is only a 15 minute drive from Peterborough city centre! It looks to be a wonderful morning; with many volunteers helping to run this session and lots of fun craft activities encouraging and building growth in discipleship.

QR code to
sign up



Please pray for: lots of young people to come along and enjoy the morning. They can easily accommodate 30 children.

More news from our interns

Liv-Astrid and Future Youth

From the beginning of her 2nd MES year, Liv-Astrid has embarked on a 'Future Youth' course run nationally by the Church of England. It focuses on children, youth and families and Liv-Astrid is the first person ever from our diocese to pursue it! Here's what she says about it:

'I am a little surprised by how much I am enjoying the academic side of Future Youth (Aurora). It wasn't something I thought I would enjoy when I started the year, and it has surprised me the most. I have really enjoyed doing something I genuinely love. Children's and youth work is something I enjoy a lot, and being able to do that through this course has been amazing. I have also loved doing it alongside everyone else on Future Youth – it has been such an interesting and valuable learning experience so far.'

01/02

Liv-Astrid asks for prayer 'that the academic side continues to go well and that I can keep learning from it and put it into practice, not just on paper.'

Highlight from Roisin

Roisin's highlight this month was the visit of EYFS children from Eye Primary School to St Matthews church as part of their learning of 'why church is an important place for Christians.' She says 'I spent time with the two EYFS classes and a separate session specifically for children with SEND. They focused on learning & naming the key features of a church and its importance. When asked why the cross was important, one child answered that it was because 'Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins.' They loved the stained-glass windows and enjoyed being able to freely explore the church.

When children from the Nest visited, they were given more time to explore what they were interested in. One child was playing with the piano the entire time; while we were singing 'my lighthouse', he joined in by dancing and jumping with joy. This was a very special moment to be a part of & seeing him worship God just by being who he is brought me great joy.

It was encouraging to see how welcome the children felt in the church, spending their time exploring, chatting, and jumping about, especially enjoying the font and baptising the baby teddy. It was an afternoon that evidently showcased the love of Christ and was a reminder of how important children are in God's family.'



Please pray for the 'Growing Faith' movement joining church, home and school.

National MES Conference



Please pray for: the network of MES participants across our deanery, diocese and nation

On 15 January, we [writes Roisin and Liv-Astrid] attended the National MES Conference alongside other interns from across the diocese. It is an annual event that provides an opportunity for all MES (and Future Youth) participants to meet together for teaching, learning and networking. This year it was held at St Mark's Regent's Park, London.

The day began with a shared time of worship, followed by an enriching session on Christian leadership and vocation, led by Bishop Lynne Cullens and Revd Alexandra Podd, which offered space for personal reflection and group discussion. Throughout the day, we had the opportunity to meet interns from different dioceses and engage in meaningful conversations. Hearing the testimonies of others was particularly encouraging and provided valuable insight into the diverse ways God is at work within the Church. Liv particularly enjoyed reconnecting with interns from the Future Youth stream.

For those who would like to financially support the Internship scheme within the deanery:

Account name: Peterborough Deanery
Ministry Experience Scheme
Sort Code: 23-05-80
Account number: 56120203

Social Media



Please do like and follow to find out more about the MES Peterborough Deanery Interns!



A fundraising concert of Ukrainian music
marking the 4th year of vital aid for Ukraine after the Russian invasion



**Sunday 22nd 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



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





ST PETER'S
SINGERS

Thank You for the Music



*A DELIGHTFUL MUSICAL MISCELLANY
BY COMPOSERS FROM THE 16TH TO THE 20TH CENTURY*

**ST BOTOLPH'S CHURCH
LONGTHORPE, PETERBOROUGH, PE3 6LU
SATURDAY 28TH 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
OR YVETTE MAGRI 07858 529203 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

Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Genesis 1.1 – 2.3

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the

waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.'

So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on

the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

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

Romans 8.18-25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience

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

Matthew 6.25-34

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ‘So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.’

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

What an amazing week! The Benefice Council meeting for the first time, a new course launched and another event for your diary. It's all happening in our Benefice.

Please keep me posted on all your news, so I can help spread the word.

Simon

admin@9bridges.church



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