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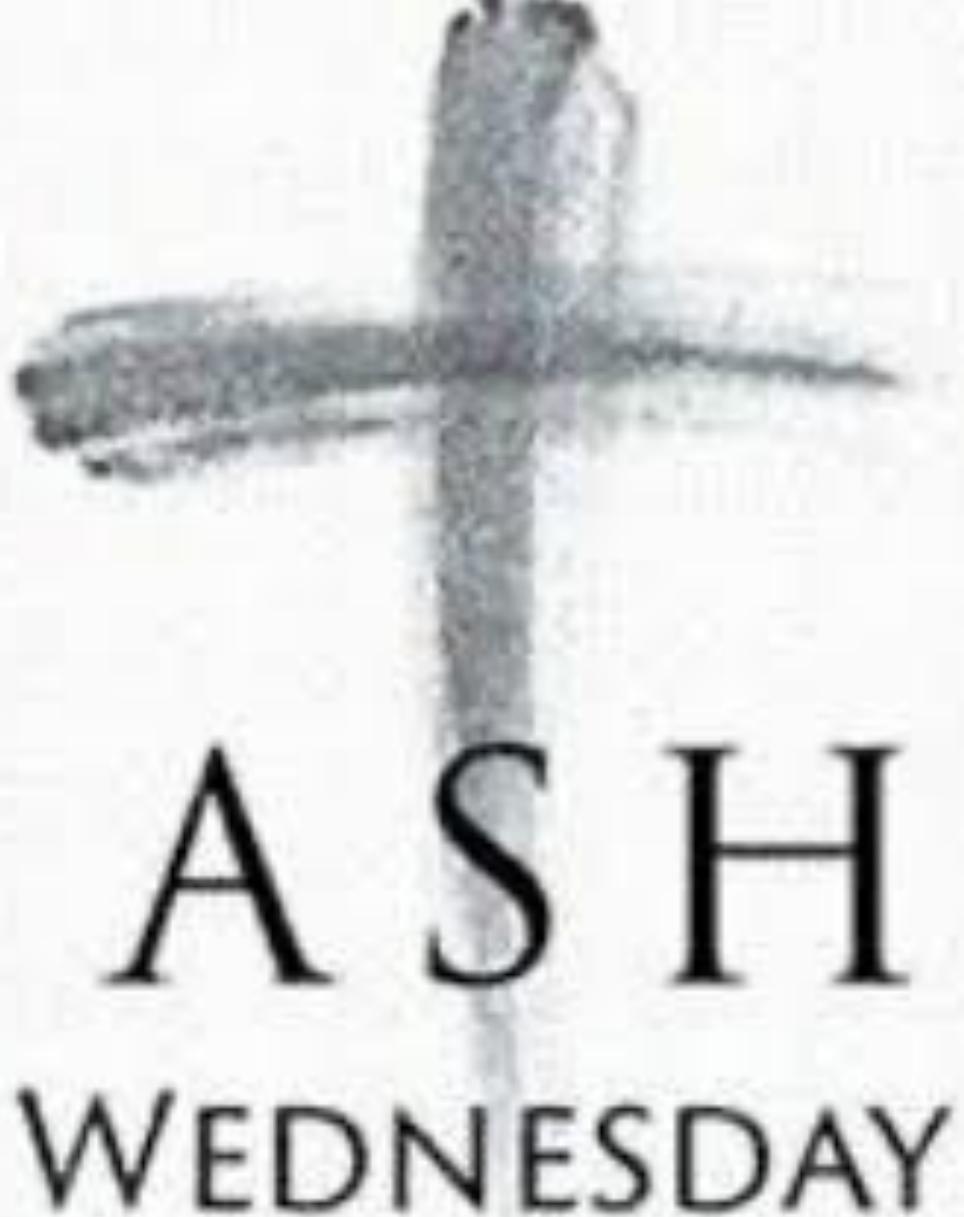


**Benefice Newsletter
with Thought for Thursday**

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

Thursday February 12th

[Click for Website](#)



ASH WEDNESDAY

SUNDAY 15th February

09:00 Holy Communion – Maxey

10:30 Family Praise – Northborough

18:00 Evensong - Peakirk

WEDNESDAY 18th February

19:00 Communion with Imposition of Ashes - Peakirk

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

Morning Worship – A simple, reflective service of prayer, praise, and teaching.

Sung Communion – A communion service enriched with traditional sung liturgy.

Messy Church – Creative, hands-on worship for families of all ages.

Celtic Evening Prayer – Peaceful, contemplative worship with Celtic liturgy.

Holy Communion – A traditional service celebrating the Eucharist.

Joyful Journey – Modern, relaxed, and fun worship for all ages.

Family Praise – Lively, informal worship designed with families in mind.

Evensong – A quiet, prayerful evening service with traditional liturgy.

Family Communion – An accessible communion service suitable for all ages.

Taizé – Meditative worship with simple chants and extended silence.

United Benefice Communion – A shared communion service bringing the whole benefice together.

Thought for Thursday

Lent

Lent is a season of invitation. For forty days, the Church sets aside intentional time to slow down, reflect, and return our attention to God. It echoes Jesus' forty days in the wilderness — a time of testing, clarity, and deep dependence on the Father. Lent is not meant to be gloomy or burdensome, but purposeful: a chance to reset our spiritual direction and make space for grace to do its work in us.

Lent begins with ashing — with the simple, ancient sign of ashes traced on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday. Before Lent becomes about giving things up or taking on new practices, it begins with this quiet, physical reminder that we are human, fragile, and deeply loved. The words spoken remind us that our lives are precious and finite, and that turning toward God matters now, not someday.

Ashing is not about shame; it is about truth and hope held together. We acknowledge our need, and we receive God's mercy. The mark of ashes is a small sign with a large promise: a new beginning is always possible in Christ. No one comes to Lent perfectly organised or spiritually strong — we simply come willing.

Receiving ashes can be a wordless prayer: "Lord, I'm here. Begin again with me." It opens the door to a season of renewal — in prayer, generosity, honesty, and love.

You are warmly invited to begin this journey together. Our main Ash Wednesday service will be at Peakirk at 19:00, and all are welcome. If attending a full service is difficult, there will also be an "Ash and Dash" opportunity from 14:00–15:00 — a brief and welcoming moment to receive ashes and step into Lent.

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 Church Street, Northborough, Maxham's Green Road, Etton, Clare Road, Northborough & School Lane, 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 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, **David Tapscott**. 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 

FORGIVENESS

“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 Passontide 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 22nd February

09:00 Holy Communion – Northborough

10:30 Family Holy Communion - Clinton

18:00 Taizé – Maxey

Morning Worship – A simple, reflective service of prayer, praise, and teaching.

Sung Communion – A communion service enriched with traditional sung liturgy.

Messy Church – Creative, hands-on worship for families of all ages.

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DATES for 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



Mothering Sunday

15th March 2026

Services across the Benefice

MOTHERING SUNDAY

at

NINE BRIDGES BENEFICE

**9:00am Holy Communion at
Maxey**

**10:30am Family Praise
at Northborough
with the children of
SINGING CLUB**

**6:00pm
Evensong at Peakirk**



Everyone is Welcome!

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



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.

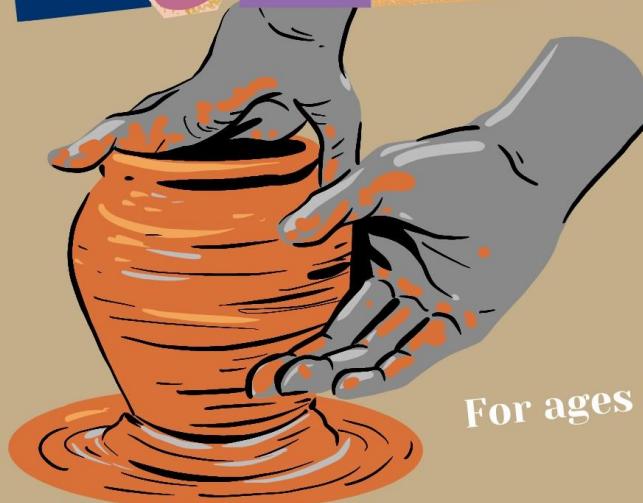
TICKETS AVAILABLE IN ADVANCE FROM

**JACKIE LAST 07532 457007 jackie@aspleyway.co.uk
OR YVETTE MAGRI 07858 529203 yvette_magri@hotmail.com**

God's Masterpiece *PoiemA*

Ephesians 2:10

Scan the QR
Code to
register!



For ages 8-14

Join us for our second Deanery Youth event! A morning to explore how we walk with Jesus & become His masterpiece

SATURDAY, 14TH MARCH 2026 | 9:30AM- 12:30PM

St Matthew's Church, Eye,
Peterborough, PE6 7UU



across **Peterborough**

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>

Wednesday 18th February

Collect

Holy God, our lives are laid open before you: rescue us from the chaos of sin and through
the death of your Son bring us healing and make us whole
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Joel 2.1-2, 12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of
the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—a day of darkness and
gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a
great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again

after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain-offering and a drink-offering for the Lord, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, ‘Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, “Where is their God?”.

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

2 Corinthians 5.20b – 6.10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, ‘At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.’ See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

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

Matthew 6.1–6, 16–21

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ‘And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret

will reward you. ‘And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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

Sunday 22nd February

Collect

Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Exodus 24.12-18

The Lord said to Moses, ‘Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.’ So, Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, ‘Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.’ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

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

Psalm 99

The Lord is king: let the people tremble; he is enthroned above the cherubim: let the earth shake. The Lord is great in Zion and high above all peoples. Let them praise your name, which is great and awesome; the Lord our God is holy. Mighty king, who loves justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. Exalt the Lord our God; bow down before his footstool, for he is holy. Moses and Aaron among his priests and Samuel among those who call upon his name; they called upon the Lord and he answered them. He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; they kept his testimonies and the law that he gave them. You answered them, O Lord our God; you were a God who forgave them and pardoned them for their offences. Exalt the Lord our God and worship him upon his holy hill, for the Lord our God is holy.

2 Peter 1.16–21

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, ‘This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. So, we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

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

Matthew 17.1-9

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, ‘Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!’ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, ‘Get up and do not be afraid.’ And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, ‘Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.’

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

Thank you for your continued support, providing me with all your news and events. Have a wonderful week and enjoy your pancakes!

Simon

admin@9bridges.church



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