



Benefice Newsletter with Thought for Thursday

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

Thursday March 19th

Click for Website

<https://9bridges.church/>

SUNDAY 22nd March

09:00 Holy Communion – Northborough

10:30 Family Holy Communion - Glington

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.

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

It does feel, at the moment, as though the world has the volume turned up rather high. Everywhere you look there is noise — energy prices, wars, political upheaval, health scares, alarming headlines of one sort or another. It's a bit like having a radio on in the background that nobody quite knows how to switch off.

And then there's the other sort of noise — the everyday kind.

Choirs to sing in and help to organise (and technology that occasionally has a mind of its own), fundraising ideas, woodwork projects waiting in the workshop, ministry duties, treasurer responsibilities... and the growing realisation that a round of golf takes four hours I just don't seem to have.

It's a full life — which is a blessing — but it can also feel a bit... crowded.

And when things feel crowded, I suspect the issue isn't always how much we have to do, but the order we put it in.

Because actually, the big priorities are not that complicated.

For me, a small granddaughter approaching her first birthday has a wonderful way of putting things back into perspective. When she's around, everything else doesn't vanish — but it does shrink slightly into the background.

Which is probably how it's meant to be. The people we love. The good we can do. The quiet presence of God in the middle of it all. Everything else can wait its turn.

So perhaps today's task is not to silence the noise — that may be beyond us — but simply to nudge a few things back into their proper place.

And maybe, just maybe, find those four hours for a “good walk spoiled”.

Reader Simon

Benefice Prayers



For Our Community

We lift up in prayer all who live in Mill Close, Peakirk, Paradise Lane, Northborough, Church Street, Northborough & Maxham's Green Road, Etton. 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, Deborah Lakey, Robert Layen and Valerie Mourton**. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Services Next Week

SUNDAY 29th March

10:30 United Benefice Service -Etton



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 ❤️

DATES for your DIARY

St. Andrew's Church, Northborough

Tea at Three Thursday 19th March

A series of events with tea and cakes

A book exchange

Toys and squash for children



Tea@Three

St Andrew's
Northborough

3-4pm

Join us for tea and a chat

Every 3rd Thursday

Book Exchange
Toys for the Children

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.

THE NINE BRIDGES BENEFICE CHOIR
presents



JOHN STAINER'S THE CRUCIFIXION

HOLY WEEK - TUESDAY 31ST MARCH, 7PM
ST PETER'S CHURCH, MAXEY

FREE ADMISSION | ALL WELCOME

The Nine Bridges Benefice Choir draws together singers from across all our churches, united by a shared love of worship, music and community.

Featuring Soloists:
BRADLEY SMITH (Tenor)
SIMON RICHARDS (Bass)

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



NEWS

Messy Church in March

At our Messy Church on March 1st we were delighted to welcome Ann and Nick Harris to open our Messy Shed.

Ann and Nick kindly sort out a suitable shed, transported it from Norwich, refurbished it and erected it behind Peakirk Village Hall. Also, thanks to Alistair who fitted the shed out with shelves. It now contains our resources and will last for very many Messy Church services to come. Rev Keir gave a blessing and children led the prayers.

Our theme for the afternoon was Two houses - the importance of good foundations and the afternoon finished by sharing a special shed-shaped cake.

Thanks to everyone who supported our Bottle Bingo evening and Messy Church and helped us to raise a contribution towards the cost of the shed.

Jane

Mothering Sunday at St. Andrew's

It was a joy to welcome the children of the Singing Club to St. Andrew's Northborough for the Family Praise service on Mothering Sunday.

They sang 'SuperMum' as the flowers were distributed to all the women at the service, and each child had a solo part.

They then taught the congregation a new song, 'Your Love' based on St. Paul's beautiful words on love from his first letter to Christians who lived in Corinth.

And perhaps, as we acknowledged all the many emotions Mothering Sunday can stir up in us, God's love in Jesus helped us to begin to make sense of it all.

It was a great morning!

Freda



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>

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!**

This Week's Collect and Readings

Collect

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Ezekiel 37.1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord GOD, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.' So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.'

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

Romans 8.6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to

God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

John 11.1-45

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.' When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes

in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ She said to him, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.’ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, ‘The Teacher is here and is calling for you.’ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, ‘Where have you laid him?’ They said to him, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, ‘See how he loved him!’ But some of them said, ‘Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?’ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, ‘Take away the stone.’ Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, ‘Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, ‘Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.’ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, and let him go.’ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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

And Finally

Thank you for all your prayers and good wishes for our safe return. We are settled back into our normal routine.

Feedback on this newsletter format has been very positive and given it is saving the Benefice money, we will be continuing with this approach. That said, if you have any suggestions or recommendations, please do let me know.

Simon

admin@9bridges.church

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