



Benefice Newsletter with Thought for Thursday

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

Thursday March 26th

Click for Website

<https://9bridges.church/>

EASTER SERVICES THIS WEEK

| | |
|---|---|
| Palm Sunday 29th March | 10:30 United Benefice Service - Etton |
| Monday 30th March | 19:00 Holy Week Reflection – Northborough |
| Wednesday 1st April | 19:00 Holy Week Reflection – Glington |
| Maundy Thursday 2nd April | 19:00 The Lord’s Supper – Northborough - with optional foot washing |
| <p>Morning Worship – A simple, reflective service of prayer, praise, and teaching.</p> <p>Sung Communion – A communion service enriched with traditional sung liturgy.</p> <p>Messy Church – Creative, hands-on worship for families of all ages.</p> <p>Celtic Evening Prayer – Peaceful, contemplative worship with Celtic liturgy.</p> <p>Holy Communion – A traditional service celebrating the Eucharist.</p> <p>Joyful Journey – Modern, relaxed, and fun worship for all ages.</p> | <p>Family Praise – Lively, informal worship designed with families in mind.</p> <p>Evensong – A quiet, prayerful evening service with traditional liturgy.</p> <p>Family Communion – An accessible communion service suitable for all ages.</p> <p>Taizé – Meditative worship with simple chants and extended silence.</p> <p>United Benefice Communion – A shared communion service bringing the whole benefice together.</p> |

Thought for Thursday

Lenten Thoughts

I wonder, if like me, you have been enjoying these Lenten days of sunshine and relative warmth. And as I have been doing so, I have noticed the proliferation of spring flowers, daffodils, hyacinths and tulips. I have admired the beauty of tulip flowers with their softly muted colours gently blending from pale orange to a rosy pink. And I have pondered Jesus' words – consider the lilies of the field who neither toil nor spin and yet even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed as one of these.

I have allowed the iridescence on the neck of a mallard to remind me of the birds of the air that neither sow nor reap and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

I have wondered at the brush strokes of colour on the trees as they await the coming of their leaves, at the cascade of white in the hedgerows as the blackthorn blooms. And I have allowed the gentle rainbow of colours in a sunset sky to bring calm and peace at the end of another busy day.

And now, this last weekend, as we enter the season of Passiontide, I watched the tiniest sliver of a moon gradually drop towards the horizon, and I turned my thoughts once again to Jesus. Jesus, seeing that same sliver of a moon as he travelled towards Jerusalem. And Jesus knew that as that sliver gradually waxed towards fulness so Passover was coming, so the Paschal moon would bring the culmination of his life of worship and service. I pray that as we too watch that sliver of a moon gradually grow to fulness, so we will travel with Jesus towards Jerusalem and pause and reflect on our own lives of worship and service in his name.

Freda Skillman

Benefice Prayers



For Our Community

We lift up in prayer all who live in Helpston Road, Etton, Church Street, Northborough, Claypole Drive, Northborough & Werrington Parkway, Glington. 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 and David Cupit**. 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, **Deborah Lakey, Valerie Mourton, Christopher Bodenham and Vijay Menon**. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Easter Services Next Week

| | |
|---|--|
| Maundy Thursday 2nd April | 19:00 The Lord's Supper – Northborough - with optional foot washing |
| Good Friday 3rd April | 15:00 Good Friday – Peakirk |
| Easter Sunday 5th April | 06:00 Dawn Service – Maxey 10:30 Easter Communion - Glington |



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.**

AFTER EASTER THE DROP-IN DAY WILL CHANGE TO WEDNESDAY 2-4PM

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

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.

www.9bridges.church

poster design by digitalbeginnings.co.uk

ST. PEGA'S CHURCH LENT LUNCH



**To be held on Tuesday
31st March 2026
From 12 noon to
2.00pm
in Peakirk Village Hall**

Come along and enjoy a bowl of delicious homemade soup (selection available) with fresh bread followed by cheese, grapes, cake and a hot drink - with lots of conversation and fellowship. Suggested donation of £10.00.

There will also be a Raffle and a Spring Stall.

To help with catering, please confirm your attendance by telephoning:

**Sheila on 01733 252416 or Pauline 01733 253116
or by email: sheila.lever@btinternet.com**

NEWS

Messy Church in March

Our apologies, last week we weren't able to publish the pictures from the opening of the Messy Shed (technical gremlins).

They are here now for you to enjoy!



Lent Lunch at Ginton Village Hall

A very successful Lent lunch was held on Wednesday 18th March, where attendees enjoyed homemade soup, crusty bread, cake and drink



Tea@Three

The first of the 'Tea@Three' afternoons took place at St Andrew's last Thursday. We did not know what to expect, how many would come along, but the teapot had to be refilled, the cakes went down considerably, and it was lovely to sit and chat with folk from the age of 8 or so months to.....well, that would be disclosing secrets!

The warm weather was an added bonus, and we look forward to welcoming people again on Thursday 16th April.



REGULAR DATES for your DIARY

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Every Wednesday</p> <p>St Benedict's Glinton</p> <p>Singing Club for Children</p> <p>https://9bridges.church/singing-club/</p> |  <p>The 9 Bridges Benefice is delighted to launch a Singing Club for children!</p> |
| <p>St. Andrew's Church, Northborough</p> <p>Tea at Three Every 3rd Thursday</p> <p>A series of events with tea and cakes</p> <p>A book exchange Toys and squash for children</p> |  <p>Tea@Three St Andrew's Northborough 3-4pm</p> <p>Join us for tea and a chat</p> <p>Every 3rd Thursday</p> <p>Book Exchange Toys for the Children</p> |

This Week's Collect and Readings

Collect

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory. **Amen**

Psalm 118.1-2, 19-end

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever.

Let Israel now proclaim, 'His mercy endures for ever.'

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Come, O Lord, and save us we pray. Come, Lord, send us now prosperity.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; we bless you from the house of the Lord.

The Lord is God; he has given us light; link the pilgrims with cords right to the horns of the altar.

You are my God and I will thank you; you are my God and I will exalt you.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever.

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

Matthew 21.1-11

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.' The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!' When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

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

And Finally

Well, things are really picking up as we approach Easter. Thank you for your news items and upcoming events. Please keep them coming.

Simon

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