



Benefice Newsletter with Thought for Thursday

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

Thursday April 23rd

Click for Website

<https://9bridges.church/>

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Sunday 26th April

09:00 Holy Communion –Northborough
10:30 Family Holy Communion - Glington
18:00 Taizé – Maxey

Morning Worship – A simple, informal and joyful service, celebrating faith together across the generations.

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

I'm writing this on a Tuesday, in the middle of one of life's great privileges: looking after our one-year-old granddaughter. It is pure joy—though I'm bound to say that getting down to floor level is no longer quite as effortless as it once was... and getting back up again requires something approaching strategic planning.

Moments like these have a way of sharpening our sense of what really matters. We're deeply blessed with three daughters and the rich, life-giving relationships we share with them. Add into the mix choir (a labour of love), a bit of woodwork (ditto), some enthusiastic but not especially skilful golf, and just enough gardening to keep the wisteria in check—and life feels full. Very full.

And then there's church life, which seems to have a habit of expanding to fill whatever space is available.

If I'm honest, my priorities can get rather tangled. I'm not very good at saying no. I'm not great at delegating—largely because by the time I've explained how I'd like something done, I could probably have done it myself. And I do like things to be done properly. The result? A life that can feel busy, worthwhile... and occasionally a little overcrowded.

Which brings me to the uncomfortable truth.

At the centre of it all—peace, love, grace—should sit Jesus. Not squeezed in at the edges, not pencilled into the diary when everything else is done, but quietly and firmly at the heart. And yet, all too easily, he gets crowded out by the very good things that fill our days.

Perhaps “priorities” isn't about doing more, or even doing less—but about putting first things first again. About making space. About noticing where the centre has shifted.

Because when the centre holds, everything else, somehow, finds its proper place.

Reader Simon

Benefice Prayers



For Our Community

We lift up in prayer all who live in Sutton's Lane, Deeping Gate, Peakirk Road, Peakirk, East Road, Northborough & Perkins 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 Malcolm Lowe-Lauri**. 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 and Polly Beasley**. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Upcoming Services

| | |
|---|---|
| Sunday 3rd May | 09:00 Morning Worship – Ginton 10:30 Sung Communion – Peakirk 15:00 Messy Church – Peakirk Village Hall 18:00 Celtic Evening Prayer – Northborough |
| Sunday 10th May | 09:00 Morning Worship – Peakirk 10:30 Holy Communion - Etton 18:00 Joyful Journey - Ginton |
| Thursday Ascension Day 14th May | 19:00 Deanery Ascension Day Service- St Matthew's Church, Eye |
| Sunday 17th May | 09:00 Holy Communion – Maxey 10:30 Family Praise – Northborough 18:00 BCP Evensong - Peakirk |








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 Wednesday, 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 

NEWS

Tribute to Pauline Beasley, 1943 - 2026



St Andrew's Flower Ladies would like as many people as possible to be involved in providing flower displays for Polly's funeral which is on Friday 1st May at 11.00am.

If you would like to bring a Posie for Polly along, please can you bring it to St Andrew's on Thursday 30th April, preferably during the morning. Many thanks.

9 Bridges Benefice Council Meeting

Held at Maxey Village Hall – 13th April 2026

The Benefice Council met to review progress across our parishes and to make several important decisions as we continue to grow together as the 9 Bridges Benefice.

Governance and Next Steps

The Council confirmed continued progress towards becoming a fully established and legally compliant Benefice Council, with full diocesan support during this transition period. The **Benefice APCM will take place on Sunday 31 May 2026**, following the Benefice service in Peakirk.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding remains a high priority. The Benefice has reached **Level 3 compliance (93%)** with Church of England safeguarding requirements, thanks to significant collective effort.

- Safeguarding **training will be offered to all parishioners** who wish to take part.
- **DBS checks** will be available to anyone wanting to support mission, outreach or work with children and vulnerable adults.
- Each parish will have named local safeguarding contacts, supported by clear information displayed in churches and online.

Communications, GDPR, and Data Care

To protect people's data and ensure good governance, the Council agreed that **official business will use 9bridges.church email accounts** and approved systems only. Training will be offered to support this. WhatsApp remains welcome for informal conversation but not for decision-making.

Family & Friends of the Church

The Council agreed to develop a **Benefice-wide "Family & Friends" framework**—a welcoming way for people to belong, help, and support church life spiritually and practically, without pressure. This will help us better connect with our wider communities using clear, friendly language and good data care.

Finances

- Parish funds remain **held locally**, while Benefice-level funds will be placed in a **separate benefice account**, allowing better oversight and the opportunity to earn interest.
- Funding for Royal School of Church Music membership will be covered from **youth grant funds**, supporting the development of our junior choir.
- Work continues on creating a clearer benefice-wide financial picture to help future planning.

Looking Ahead

Fundraising, generosity, and mission will be discussed further at the next meeting. The Council also affirmed the valuable contribution of our Benefice Administrator and agreed to continue paying the **Living Wage**.

The meeting closed with prayer and gratitude for the shared commitment across our parishes as we continue to build trust, clarity, and hope together.

Tea@3

The second 'Tea@3' was held last Thursday at St Andrew's, and it was great to see a dozen or so people chatting away happily in the Claypole Chapel.

The cake was good too, and many thanks to all those who helped in any way.

We look forward to welcoming people again on Thursday, 21st May.

Freda Skillman

Our Churches

Spring is here and it feels like the right time to remind everyone that our beautiful Churches are open during the day to everyone. Whether you are seeking a quiet place of reflection or shelter from an April shower, all are welcome. We often have walkers visit our Churches, for a brief rest or to take in their beauty and wonder, and those seeking information about their ancestors or remembering significant occasions.

Feel free to sign the visitor books too!



DATES for your DIARY

Out and about on Saturday morning?
Walking your dog
or out for a bike ride ?

B@TB

invites you for a coffee or tea,
a bacon sandwich
and a friendly chat
at St Benedict's Church Ginton on
Saturday 9 May

between 9.30am and 11.00am

No charge – donations welcome - and dogs!

See you there?

Out and about on Saturday morning?
Walking your dog
or out for a bike ride ?

Benefice@TheBoozer

Regular Pop-Up cafe

Saturday 9th May

St. Pega's Church,
Peakirk

Tabletop Sale
Saturday 9th May



ST PEGA'S CHURCH



SPRING TABLE TOP SALE

Saturday 9th May
Peakirk Village Hall
1pm – 3 pm



Come and showcase your craft skills
Or
Declutter your loft!

Come and bag a bargain!

£10 per Table

(Limited availability)

Refreshments available
Tea/Coffee/Bacon Rolls

To book a table please contact:

Jane Peasnell:

jayne.peasnell@talktalk.net

or Scan QR code

Funds in aid of St Pega's Church



SCAN ME



Springtide Voices

Saturday 9th May, 7.30pm
St Andrew's Church, Northborough



Adult £12 / Children (U16) Free
Light refreshments available

Tickets available from:-

Church: 01778 345101 / jane.knott101@btinternet.com

Choir members

On the door

**Concert in aid of St Andrew's Church
and Glebe Singers**



www.glebesingers.org



St. Andrew's Church,
Northborough

Glebe Singers

Saturday 9th May

St. Andrew's Church,
Northborough

Tea at Three

Every 3rd Thursday

A series of events with tea
and cakes

A book exchange

Toys and squash for
children



Tea@Three



**St Andrew's
Northborough**



3-4pm



21st May

18th June



Join us for tea and a chat

Every 3rd Thursday



Book Exchange

Toys for the Children



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 Reading

Collect

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

Acts 2.42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

1 Peter 2.19-25

For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going

astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls

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

John 10.1–10

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

‘Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

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

And Finally

Thank you again, for your contributions and suggestions for content. They are all very welcome!

Don't forget the Digital Hub in Glington Village Hall, on Thursday 23rd April, 10:00 – 12:00, where you can get support on accessing online services, using your phone, laptop or tablet and all things digital.

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



Safe Spaces 

is an **independent** and **confidential** support service for adults who have been abused by someone in the Church.

If you have been affected, however long ago, Safe Spaces can support you.

Call our free helpline

 **0300 303 1056**

 safespaces@firstlight.org.uk

Opening hours
Mon- Fri- 9am-9pm
Sat- 9am-1pm
Sun- 1pm-5pm



WWW.SAFESPACESENGLANDANDWALES.ORG.UK