



Benefice Newsletter with Thought for Thursday

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

Thursday April 9th

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SERVICES THIS WEEK

Sunday 12th April

09:00 Morning Worship – Peakirk

10:30 Holy Communion - Etton

18:00 Joyful Journey - Glington

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 in Holy Week

Easter

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

So here we are in Easter week, and right on cue the weather is spring like, bright days and glorious sunshine.

After the trials of Lent and the dark days of Holy Week the sun has risen and glorious light has been restored.

But, like the first disciples can we quite believe it has really happened? Is it really a new beginning and change of understanding of all that has gone before.

At the time of writing this the world is holding its breath over two contrasting events.

Currently President Trump is threatening the annihilation of a country and its civilisation, in opposition to all codes of international law and decency. When you read this we may or may not be on the verge of a new disastrous chapter of world history, leading to the most frightening developments for humanity. By the time you read this civilisation may or may not be crumbling.

(The morning after this was written, as you will know by now, the immediate threat has been lifted for 14 days, but the situation remains incredibly volatile and unresolved. As always in such situations it is the ordinary people who just want to get on with their lives who must continue to live with a spectre of fear hanging over heads)

In contrast the other major news is the Artemis II mission around the moon, seeing the world from outside, recognising the best of humanity using gifts, intellect, ingenuity, bravery, technology, cooperation and dedication in pursuit of a higher goal.

Belief in the risen Christ is not a promise of a perfect world in our time, but it is a hope for it in Gods time. In the meantime we strive wherever possible within our power to make it a little bit better and spread the message of faith, hope and love in whatever way we can.

We may never be able to stop a war that may hasten the end of humankind, or fly to the stars and change the destiny of the future, but we can speak to someone who is lonely, put a tin of beans into the food bank, smile at a passer by, share Christs risen love with someone, speaking comfort or just prayer for those whose lives are being destroyed for reasons they cannot understand.

Christ is risen, he is risen indeed Alleluia.

Reader Mark

Benefice Prayers

For Our Community

We lift up in prayer all who live in Church Street, Northborough, Deeping Road, Ginton, Deeping St James Road, Northborough & Quarry 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 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, and on her anniversary, Nina Vergette** Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Services Next Week

Sunday 19th April

**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.**

HE DROP-IN DAY HAS CHANGED 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

<p>St. Andrew's Church, Northborough</p> <p>Tea at Three Thursday 16th April</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> 
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NEWS

A Journey from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of the journey the disciples travelled with Jesus from hope to despair and back again to hope.

We too joined the hope-filled choruses of 'Hosanna' at Etton.

On Monday, at Northborough, we also smelt the heady perfume of nard as we contemplated Mary anointing Jesus' feet for burial.

On Tuesday, at Maxey, we were led by John Stainer's music to consider the landscape of crucifixion.

On Wednesday, at Glinton, we witnessed the despair of Peter as, with the other apostles, he realised he had abandoned Jesus.

On Thursday, at Northborough, we contemplated the humility of Jesus who washed his disciples' feet.

On Good Friday, at Peakirk, we considered the events of that day by word and craft, and anticipated Easter.

On Saturday, at Peterborough Cathedral, the Easter Vigil saw 42 people confirmed in their faith by Bishop Debbie.

On Easter Sunday, the Dawn Service at Maxey and Easter Sunday at Glinton both proclaimed the Risen Christ who is indeed the hope of the world!

Alleluia, Christ is Risen. He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

Our Good Friday Workshop in Peakirk

Having finished our activities about the Easter Story, we sang as we walked from the Village Hall to St Pega's for our service. Freda Skillman used the contents of 12 special eggs to tell what happened on the first Easter. It was lovely to have so many children and adults taking part.



Saturday, at Peterborough Cathedral, the Easter Vigil



Easter Sunday Dawn Service at St. Peter's, Maxey

What a joyful dawn service, followed by an excellent breakfast. Thank you to all who made the morning's worship so wonderful. Hallelujah, He is Risen



Easter Sunday Communion Service

Rev. Keir was asked by a number of people to share what he read out at the start of the Easter Sunday service. Here it is:

Welcome.

Whether you arrive today with a sturdy faith, a fragile hope,
or simply a quiet curiosity—
you belong here.

If you're the sort who sings every hymn with gusto,
or the sort who prefers to listen and let the music
wash through the cracks—
you belong here.

If your prayers come easily,
or if you're not entirely sure how to pray at all—
you belong here.

Whether you slip in quietly at the back,
settle somewhere in the middle,
or claim your favourite seat as if it were reserved by divine decree—
you belong here.

If this is your weekly rhythm, a once-in-a-while visit,
or your first brave step through the doors of a church in years—
you belong here.

Come in.

Bring your questions, your doubts, your joys.
Bring the week you've just lived
and the life you're still figuring out.
Bring as much or as little of yourself as you're able.

Here, we try to make room for every story.
Here, we try to lean together toward hope.
Here, we trust that God meets us
not in some imagined perfection
but in the real, complicated beauty of who we are.

So settle in.

Breathe.

Be at home—in whatever way works for you.

You belong here.

And we're glad you came.

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 Reading

Collect

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father. **Amen**

Acts 2.14a, 22–32

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd in Jerusalem: 'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence." 'Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, "He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption." This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.'

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

1 Peter 1.3–9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and

honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

John 20.19-31

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

And Finally

I hope you all had a wonderful Easter.

Thank you for all the positive feedback on the newsletter format and the devices you are successfully reading it on. Sadly, some recipients are still seeing some corruption, with some words overlaying others and formatting being lost.

Given the multitude of devices out there, it is hard to offer any advice on how to change your specific device's settings. That said, if you do want to contact me or attend the next Digital Hub in Glinton, on Thursday 16th April, 10:00 – 12:00 in the village hall, we will do our best to help you.

Simon

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