



## Benefice Newsletter with Thought for Thursday

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

Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup>

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<https://9bridges.church/>

### EASTER SERVICES THIS WEEK

<b>Maundy Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	<b>19:00 The Lord's Supper – Northborough - with optional foot washing</b>
<b>Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	<b>15:00 Good Friday – Peakirk – preceded by a mini walk of witness to the church</b>
<b>Easter Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>06:00 Dawn Service – Maxey 10:30 Easter Communion - Glington</b>
<p><b>Morning Worship</b> – A simple, reflective service of prayer, praise, and teaching.</p> <p><b>Sung Communion</b> – A communion service enriched with traditional sung liturgy.</p> <p><b>Messy Church</b> – Creative, hands-on worship for families of all ages.</p> <p><b>Celtic Evening Prayer</b> – Peaceful, contemplative worship with Celtic liturgy.</p> <p><b>Holy Communion</b> – A traditional service celebrating the Eucharist.</p> <p><b>Joyful Journey</b> – Modern, relaxed, and fun worship for all ages.</p>	<p><b>Family Praise</b> – Lively, informal worship designed with families in mind.</p> <p><b>Evensong</b> – A quiet, prayerful evening service with traditional liturgy.</p> <p><b>Family Communion</b> – An accessible communion service suitable for all ages.</p> <p><b>Taizé</b> – Meditative worship with simple chants and extended silence.</p> <p><b>United Benefice Communion</b> – A shared communion service bringing the whole benefice together.</p>

## Thought for Thursday in Holy Week

On this day, we find ourselves at the table with Jesus—bread broken, feet washed, love poured out in quiet, costly ways. Maundy Thursday is not loud or triumphant. It is intimate. It is unsettling. It is a moment where God reshapes what power, leadership, and community truly look like.

Jesus does not preserve a static tradition; he reimagines it. He takes what is known and fills it with deeper meaning. “Do this in remembrance of me” is not just about repetition—it is about renewal.

The Church, too, is not called to stand still.

If we are truly resurrection people—those who proclaim life out of death, hope out of despair—then we must also be people willing to see the Church continually renewed. Resurrection is not only something we celebrate; it is something we embody. It calls us to let go of what no longer gives life, to be brave enough to change, and to trust that God is always making all things new.

Perhaps part of our calling is this: not just to believe in resurrection, but to participate in it.

To be a Church that listens again.  
A Church that loves more deeply.  
A Church that is not afraid to die to what it has been, so that it might rise into what God is calling it to become.

Tonight, as we remember the basin and the towel, the bread and the cup, may we also remember this: renewal is at the heart of the Gospel.

And the story is not finished yet.

Rev. Keir Dow

# Benefice Prayers



## **For Our Community**

We lift up in prayer all who live in School Close, Maxey, Clarendon Way, Ginton, Peakirk Road, Peakirk & The Retreat, 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**. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

## Easter Services Next Week

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April**

**09:00 Morning Worship – Peakirk**

**10:30 Holy Communion - Etton**

**18:00 Joyful Journey - Ginton**



## 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



## Nine Bridges Benefice



**Good Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Good Friday to Easter Day**

**Workshop and Worship**

**ALL ages are welcome**

**2.00pm Peakirk Village Hall**

**Mini Walk of Witness to St Pega's  
approx. 3.00**

**Activities Refreshments Worship**

The Good Friday workshop starts at 2.00pm in Peakirk Village Hall. The activities, although with children in mind, are not exclusively for children, and everyone is welcome to come along to make an Easter garden or a Pretzel Crown of thorns among other things.

Just before 3.00pm we will break for refreshments before processing, carrying a cross and singing as we walk, to St. Pega's for a short time of reflection to remember the events of the first Easter. If you prefer not to join the activities, do come along and share refreshments and walk with us or wait for the service to start in the church.

# NEWS

## Holy Week in Nine Bridges Benefice



Holy Week is a time when we draw closer and closer to the cross of Christ, and this year our meditations and prayers were voiced for us by the Benefice Choir in a moving rendition (I hesitate to say performance) of Stainer's Crucifixion. From the moment the Choir's Musical Director, Bradley Smith, introduced the evening as a prayerful meditation on Christ and his passion to the worshipful silence that filled St Peter's Church as the final hymn ended, it was an intense experience of the humility and love of Christ as he endured those agonising hours.

The Choir were outstanding, and special thanks to Bradley, to Derek Harris who magnificently stepped into the breach as Simon Richards was unable to sing, and to the guest organist Ivan Linford.

# REGULAR DATES for your DIARY

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

# This Week's Collects and Readings

## Maundy Thursday

### Collect

God our Father, your Son Jesus Christ was obedient to the end and drank the cup prepared for him: may we who share his table watch with him through the night of suffering and be faithful. **Amen**

### Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

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

### 1 Corinthians 11.23–26

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

## **John 13:1-17, 31b-35**

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

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

Before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' Jesus said to him, 'One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.' For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.' After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

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

# Easter Sunday

## Collect

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

## Acts 10.34–43

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

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

## Colossians 3.1–4

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup>for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

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

## John 20.1-18

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

## **All Glory to you, O Lord.**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." ' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

# And Finally

Solutions to clues from last month

- 1 **PHARISEE** (holy man) Anagram (composed) of **AIR SHEEP**.
- 2 **CREED** (belief) **EED** (Scottish river, Dee, reversed (flowing backwards) to **CR** (credit).
- 3 **ACTS** (follows John) Next book **(F)ACTS** without F the musical sign for loud.
- 4 **LAMENTATIONS** (Old Testament book) Anagram (rewritten) of **MENTAL IS NOT A** .
- 5 **HAM** (Noah's son) a double definition.

*This time's clues*

- 1 Legal, i.e. redrafted for lake. (7)
- 2 Six balls follow test success for Jewish feast. (8)
- 3 Sheila confused prophet. (6)
- 4 Fruit after Greek character for short epistle. (8)
- 5 Portion of carbonara ratatouille found on mountain. (6)

As always, thank you for your contributions and I wish you all a happy Easter.

I've had some feedback that the format of the newsletter, despite being sent out as a PDF, is corrupting. If this has happened to you, please can you let me know and on what device you opened the newsletter? I'd really appreciate that so I can get to the bottom of the problem. Thank you

Simon

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