



Benefice Newsletter with Thought for Thursday

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

Thursday April 30th

Click for Website

<https://9bridges.church/>

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Sunday 3rd May

09:00 Morning Worship – Glington
10:30 Sung Communion – Peakirk
15:00 Messy Church – Peakirk Village Hall
18:00 Celtic Evening Prayer – Northborough

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

Friendship

Over the past week or so I have been reflecting on friendship, and these thoughts of course have been occasioned by the passing of my dear friend Polly.

I have thought about the many friends who have been part of my life over the decades, and about what it was that made an acquaintanceship move into a loose friendship. Why was it some of these loose friendships developed and grew into deep and lasting friendships?

I thought about the acquaintances I had at school, at work, and then at the school gate that moved into lasting friendship. What was it about Angela, about Elizabeth, that means I am still in touch with them after more than 50...60... years.

And then, when church became part of my life 50 or so years ago, why are Viv and Elaine still so important in my life?

And since moving to Northborough 16 years ago, I have had the privilege of growing friendships with so many, including of course Polly.

And it seems to me that somehow trust and vulnerability are at the heart of true friendship. As exchanging platitudes moves into sharing our thoughts and opinions, to revealing what lies at the heart of our beings, we gradually realise we can express our deepest fears and wildest dreams without fear of rejection. This, I believe, is how true reciprocal friendship is built.

And trust and vulnerability, expressing our deepest fears and our wildest dreams, is at the heart of the deepest friendship one can ever have – and that is friendship with Jesus. I thoroughly recommend it!

Freda Skillman

Benefice Prayers



For Our Community

We lift up in prayer all who live in Cromwell Close, Northborough, Sutton's Lane, Deeping Gate, Woodcroft Road, Etton & 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, 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 10th May	09:00 Morning Worship – Peakirk 10:30 Holy Communion - Etton 18:00 Joyful Journey - Glington
Thursday Ascension Day 14th May	19:00 Deanery Ascension Day Service- St Matthew's Church, Eye
unday 17th May	09:00 Holy Communion – Maxey 10:30 Family Praise – Northborough 18:00 BCP Evensong - Peakirk
Sunday 24th May	09:00 Holy Communion – Northborough 10:30 Family Holy Communion - Glington 18:00 Taizé – Maxey
Sunday 31st May	10:30 United Benefice Holy Communion - Peakirk
Sunday 7th June	09:00 Morning Worship – Glington 10:30 Sung Communion -Peakirk 15:00 Messy Church – Peakirk Village Hall 18:00 Celtic Evening Prayer – Northborough








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.

Archbishop of Canterbury to visit the Diocese of Peterborough

We are pleased to announce that Dame Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury, will be visiting the Diocese of Peterborough in May, her first diocesan visit since her installation. This is a wonderful opportunity to welcome Archbishop Sarah and to celebrate the life and witness of our diocesan family.

During her time with us, Archbishop Sarah will be spending time listening and encouraging; focusing on where God is already at work in our parishes and communities. Her visit will highlight the vital role of our parish churches, our partnerships with organisations supporting vulnerable people, worshipping communities in later life, and the ministry of hospital chaplaincy.

Bishop Debbie said; 'I am really delighted that Archbishop Sarah will be spending time with us in the Diocese. Archbishop Sarah has a heart for the local church and local contexts and we look forward to sharing with her some of the ways in which we are seeing God at work amongst us. It is a privilege that this is her first diocesan visit and we hope it will inspire her.'

Archbishop Sarah will be preaching at evensong at Peterborough Cathedral on Sunday 17 May at 3.30pm, you are most welcome to join us. No booking is necessary.

We look forward to welcoming Archbishop Sarah and sharing this joyful occasion together.

https://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/aboutus/news/archbishop-of-canterbury-to-visit-the-diocese-of-peterborough.php?fbclid=IwY2xjawRe4YBleHRuA2FlbQlxMQBicmlkETBIWmNXSmk1SVloQ2h5ckExc3J0YwZhchBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDg5MgABHkQO0yAvingWx4BJcillHEY_GdZ3M1wgc_AyXRT-N4vAYfgTEEnHEH8svB5O_aem_ul8taXNw7aLXDcRC68LWA

Crossing Patrol

A big thank you to those members of 'Crossing Patrol' who stand in the middle of High Street and help the children cross from the school to St Benedict's Church on Wednesday afternoons for Collective Worship. If you would like to be part of this group, please let me know (Jane@9bridges.church). The dates for this term are below. Hi-Viz jackets are provided and, as an occasional volunteer, a DBS check is not a requirement.

Wednesday May 13th 2.15 to 3.00 (4 volunteers please)

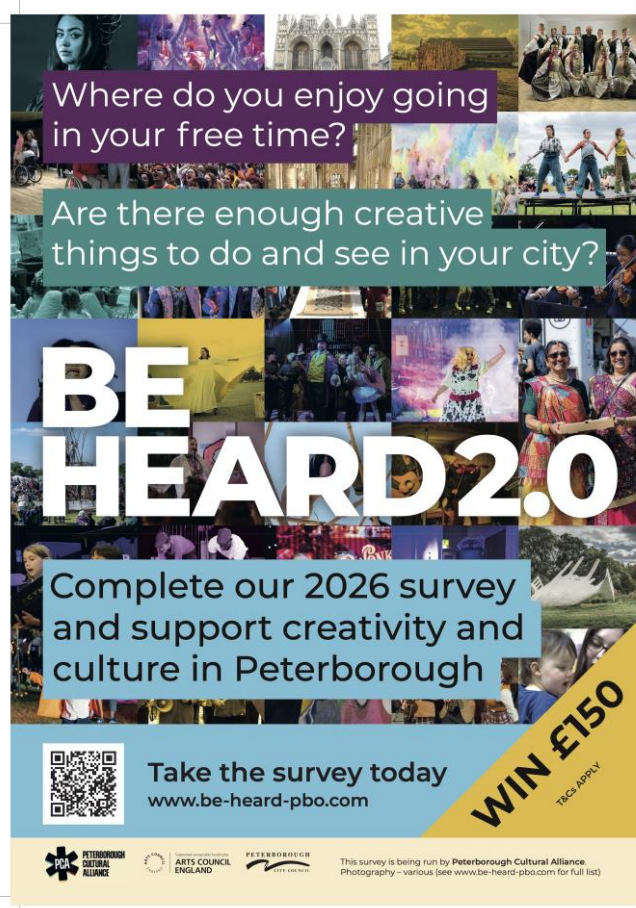
Wednesday June 17th 2.15 to 3.00 (4 volunteers please)

Wednesday July 1st 2.15 to 3.00 (2 volunteers please)

Wednesday July 8th 1.45 to 2.30 (4 volunteers please)

It is a great joy to welcome the children to the church but they are unable to come without support to cross the road! Thank you.

The Be Heard survey is back!



Where do you enjoy going in your free time?




Are there enough creative things to do and see in your city?

BE HEARD 2.0

Complete our 2026 survey and support creativity and culture in Peterborough

Take the survey today
www.be-heard-pbo.com

WIN £150
T&Cs apply

   This survey is being run by Peterborough Cultural Alliance Photography – various (see www.be-heard-pbo.com for full list)

Peterborough residents are invited once again to share their views on creativity, arts and heritage in the city. Your response can help shape how creative and cultural activity is planned across Peterborough.

Whether you regularly attend events, visit heritage sites, take part in creative activity, or don't currently feel connected to these opportunities, we want to hear from you.

The 2024 survey showed that culture helps people feel happier, more connected to others, and gave us an insight into what people want to see in the city. This year, help us build a strong picture of what matters to residents and where more meaningful opportunities can grow.

Survey Open April–May 2026 For Peterborough residents aged 16+

Take part at <https://peterboroughculturalstrategy.org.uk/be-heard-survey/>

Help shape what comes next. Be heard.

#BeHeard2.0 #Peterborough #Peterboroughculturalalliance

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

Peterborough Cathedral

Sunday 17th May

15:30

Archbishop of Canterbury to visit the Diocese of Peterborough



Archbishop Sarah will be preaching at evensong at Peterborough Cathedral on Sunday 17 May at 3.30pm, you are most welcome to join us. No booking is necessary.

<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</p> <p>Toys and squash for children</p>	 <p>Tea@Three</p> <p>St Andrew's Northborough</p> <p>3-4pm</p> <p>21st May 18th June</p> <p>Join us for tea and a chat Every 3rd Thursday</p> <p>Book Exchange Toys for the Children</p>
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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>
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This Week's Collect and Reading

Collect

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

Acts 7.55-60

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

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

1 Peter 2.2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: 'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner', and 'A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are

God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

John 14.1–14

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.' Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'

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

And Finally

Solutions to clues from last month

- 1 **GALILEE** ((lake) Anagram (redrafted) of **LEGAL I E**).
- 2 **PASSOVER** (Jewish feast) **PASS** (test success) **OVER** (Six balls).
- 3 **ELISHA** (prophet) Anagram (confused) of **SHEILA**.
- 4 **PHILEMON** (short epistle) **PHI** (Greek character) **LEMON** (Fruit).
- 5 **ARARAT** (mountain) Lurker on carbon **ARA RAT** atouille.

This time's clues

- 1 Ten poets rewritten around a hundred for festival. (9)
- 2 In part of comic, a hero is a prophet. (5)
- 3 Governor is 3.14 overdue. (6)
- 4 Prophet Leo just, initially, reversed. (4)
- 5 Cliches Ron revised for two Old Testament books. (10)

Please keep your news, events and thoughts coming, they are very much appreciated by me and our community.

Simon

admin@9bridges.church

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