



Benefice Newsletter with Thought for Thursday

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

Thursday May 21st

Click for Website
<https://9bridges.church/>

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Sunday 24th May

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

Choral Evensong, Peterborough Cathedral

Last weekend, the Diocese of Peterborough welcomed the Most Revd Dame Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury, on a visit which took her across many different corners of diocesan life — schools, parish churches, city-centre ministries and places of refuge and support. She stayed with Bishop Debbie at the Bishop's Palace, and throughout the weekend encountered the living, working, worshipping Church in all its variety.

The culmination of the visit was Choral Evensong at Peterborough Cathedral, open to all across the Diocese. Rev Keir and I arrived early enough to find ourselves in the second row from the front — although I suspect few people were likely to dispute Keir's claim to his seat!

For me, Cathedral Choral Evensong is one of life's great gifts: that moment when music, prayer, beauty and stillness somehow come together and lift the soul almost without trying. The Cathedral Choir filled that magnificent space with glorious sound, singing music by June Nixon, Stanford and Finzi, while the congregation joined lustily in three well-loved hymns accompanied by the full thunder of the organ.

The lessons were read by the Archdeacons of Oakham and Northampton, and the Archbishop preached on words from Ephesians: *"I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you."* Her sermon was warm, generous and deeply encouraging — a heartfelt thank you to all those whose quiet faithfulness, welcome, service and love continue to reveal Christ's presence across this Diocese.

As we left the Cathedral, I was fortunate enough to shake hands briefly with the Archbishop and exchange a few words. I suspect I shall not have that opportunity again, and I came away profoundly glad that I had been there.

There are some services which leave one uplifted but tired. This one somehow left me peaceful, thankful and quietly joyful — which, perhaps, is exactly what Evensong is meant to do.

Reader Simon

If you would like to watch and listen to the Evensong service, click the link below

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpTf_rpvUu

Benefice Prayers



For Our Community

We lift up in prayer all who live in Thorney Road, Peakirk, Maxey Road, Deeping Gate, Helpston Road, Etton & 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, 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, **Sylvia Dolby**. We also gather into our prayers those whose passing is not recent, yet who are brought into our remembrance before God at this time of year, **Stephen Gibbons** and **David Perkins**. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Upcoming Services

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
Sunday 14th June	09:00 Morning Worship – Peakirk 10:30 Holy Communion - Etton 18:00 Joyful Journey - Glington
Sunday 21st June	09:00 Holy Communion – Maxey 10:30 Family Praise – Northborough 18:00 BCP Evensong - Peakirk
Sunday 28th June	09:00 Holy Communion – Northborough 10:30 Family Holy Communion - Glington 18:00 Taizé – Maxey

Becoming Friends, Belonging as Family

Church is not simply something we attend—it is something we grow into together. A place where familiar faces become friends, and friends, in time, feel a little like family. Belonging often begins not with a big commitment, but with a small step—sharing a task, a conversation, a cup of tea.

As our church family continues to take shape, there are simple ways you might like to be part of that shared life. These are not “jobs” so much as gentle invitations into friendship and community.

You are warmly invited to offer as much or as little as feels right for you—once in a while or more regularly, quietly or visibly. All offerings matter.

Here are some of the ways you might find your place among us:

- **Unlocking and/or Locking the Church**
Helping to open and close our shared home, making space ready for prayer, welcome, and gathering.
- **Mowers of Churchyards**
Caring for the land that holds our memories and our hope—a practical way of tending what we share.
- **Serving Tea & Coffee After Services**
Creating space to linger, to talk, and to grow friendships—often where church really happens.
- **Bible Readers in Services**
Sharing the gift of scripture aloud, helping the Word to be heard among friends.
- **Bereavement Visitors (Training Provided)**
Offering gentle presence to those walking through grief—being a church friend when it matters most.
- **Youth Ministry Helpers & Leaders**
(Messy Church and potentially Bubble Church)
Joining the joyful, creative work of welcoming children and young people into the life of the church family.

None of these roles require you to have all the answers, special skills, or lots of time. They are simply ways of saying, “I’m here. I’m part of this.” Often, it’s in offering something small that we discover we belong more deeply than we expected.

If something here quietly resonates, or if you’d like a gentle conversation about what might suit you, please get in touch at welcome@9bridges.church

There is space for you here—to help, to make friends, and to belong.

Every blessing,
Keir








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



The recent visit of the Bishop of Peterborough, Bishop Debbie, to St Benedict's in Ginton was a really special and memorable occasion for us. One of the main reasons for her visit was to share in the announcement of the new Bishop of Brixworth, giving the day a sense that something important was happening not just here, but across the wider church.

Bishop Debbie brought a warm and open presence with her, taking time to chat, listen, and get a feel for the life of the village and the church. She met with churchwardens and others involved in the parish, and there was real interest in what's been happening here. In particular, she heard about the work we've been doing to simplify the way the church is organised and run. It might sound a bit technical, but the idea is simple: making things clearer and more straightforward so that we can spend less time on paperwork and more time on people.

Encouragingly, she highlighted the Nine Bridges Benefice as an example of how rural churches can think ahead and try new approaches, while still holding on to what matters most. It was good to feel that what we're doing here is part of a bigger picture, and that smaller communities can still play a part in shaping the future.

As part of the day, we also heard about the Revd Dr Alex Hughes, who has been announced as the new Bishop of Brixworth. He brings a mix of experience—both thoughtful and practical—and seems someone who values connecting faith with everyday life. There's a sense of hope that he'll help support churches like ours as we continue to explore new ways of serving our communities.

Of course, no parish gathering would be complete without refreshments, and the visit ended in the best possible way—with plenty of cake, tea, and coffee. People lingered, talking and catching up, enjoying the chance to be together. It was one of those simple but meaningful moments that remind us what church is really about: community, welcome, and sharing life together.

All in all, it was a really positive and encouraging day—one that left us feeling connected, hopeful, and glad to be part of something both local and wider.

Benefice Service

Sunday 31st May

St Pega's will be holding the Benefice service on Sunday 31st May.

Please note, that as parking space at the church is so limited, we have arranged to use the car park at the village hall.

Are you able to help with Crossing Patrol on these dates during the next half term?

Where?

High Street Glinton between the Primary School and St Benedict's Church

Why?

So that the children can visit the church for Collective Worship

What time?

2.15 to 3.00

What do I need? Just yourself and a mac if it rains. A HiViz jacket is provided and DBS is not required.

When ?

Wednesday June 17th

Wednesday July 1st

Wednesday July 8th (earlier time 1.45 to 2.30)

If you can help, please let me know : Jane@9bridges.church

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.

Cambridgeshire Historical Churches Trust have made St Peter's, Project of the Month on their webpage. The article features all the work and the application submitted to obtain the funds



No more rain now coming through the South Aisle Roof at St Peter's
Our next round of grants will be decided on 21st May 2026.

For more information click below

<https://camhct.uk/>

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

 **PETERBOROUGH CULTURAL ALLIANCE**  **ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**  **PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL**

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.

Survey Open April–May 2026

For Peterborough residents aged 16+

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

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

Peterborough Deanery
Interns

Thursday 28th May
13:00 - 16:30

A poster for a 'RUHA' event. At the top left, it says 'CRAFTS, GAMES, WORSHIP & LOTS OF FUN!'. Below that is the Bible reference 'Galatians 5:22-23'. The word 'RUHA' is written in large, bold, blue letters. Underneath, it lists the 'FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT': 'LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, AND SELF-CONTROL.' To the right of the dove, it says 'for ages 8-14' and 'Scan the QR code to sign up!'. Below the dove, it says 'JOIN US FOR A FUN AFTERNOON OF FAITH & FELLOWSHIP TO EXPLORE WHAT THE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ARE!'. At the bottom left, it says 'THURSDAY 28TH MAY 2026' and '1-4:30PM'. At the bottom right, it says 'Emmanuel Church, Twelvetree Avenue Werrington, PETERBOROUGH PE4 5DT'. At the bottom left, there is an illustration of a basket of fruit including apples, oranges, and grapes. At the bottom right, there is a QR code.

SISSONS BARN
 27th June 11-4pm
GARDEN OPEN DAY

Sissons Barn and House gardens will once again open its gates this summer in support of The National Garden Scheme.
 Join us for a wonderful day of fund raising.
 Visit www.sissonsbarnco.uk for more details

This is our second year opening the garden at our house and the Barn to the public for the Nation Garden scheme which you may know. It raises lots of money from garden openings all over the UK to support funding for charities. These are: The Queen’s Institute of Community Nursing (which (as the Queens Nursing Institute) founded the Scheme), Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Carers Trust and Parkinson’s UK.

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!**

Peakirk Village Hall

**Every Second Tuesday
of the month**



The Nine Bridges Benefice

Tuesday@10

Second Tuesday of the month

10.00am to 12.00noon

PEAKIRK VILLAGE HALL



Meet friends – make new friends

Coffee, scones and conversation

All are welcome

Jane Harris : communications@9bridges.church

 The Nine Bridges Benefice

This Week's Collect and Reading

Collect

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Acts 2.1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.' But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

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

1 Corinthians 12.3b-13

No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

John 20.19-23

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.'

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

And Finally

Thank you for your patience as we explore different formats and distribution services for this Newsletter. Please keep your contributions coming !

Simon

admin@9bridges.church

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