



Benefice Newsletter with Thought for Thursday

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

Thursday May 14th

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

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Thursday Ascension Day 14th May	19:30 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
<p>Morning Worship – A simple, informal and joyful service, celebrating faith together across the generations.</p> <p>Sung Communion – A communion service enriched with traditional sung liturgy.</p> <p>Messy Church – Creative, hands-on worship for families of all ages.</p> <p>Celtic Evening Prayer – Peaceful, contemplative worship with Celtic liturgy.</p> <p>Holy Communion – A traditional service celebrating the Eucharist.</p> <p>Joyful Journey – Modern, relaxed, and fun worship for all ages.</p>	<p>Family Praise – Lively, informal worship designed with families in mind.</p> <p>Evensong – A quiet, prayerful evening service with traditional liturgy.</p> <p>Family Communion – An accessible communion service suitable for all ages.</p> <p>Taizé – Meditative worship with simple chants and extended silence.</p> <p>United Benefice Communion – A shared communion service bringing the whole benefice together.</p>

Thought for Thursday

Division and discontentment

I've been reflecting over the last week on blame and change. I'm not sure if it is a phenomenon that has been fueled by our rapid advances in technology and communication, social media and real-time reporting, or is it just an age thing that things seem different now than they use-to and everything seems to move much faster.

It seems that when things are not going so well, or not living up to expectations, or the unexpected happens there seems to be a culture of looking for someone to blame and for a quick fix by changing to something or someone new. We see it in politics, business, sport (I'm sure someone can tell me how many premier league football managers have been changed in one season?) and even the Church.

Now let me be clear, change is inevitable, often desirable even essential and healthy for growth and advancement. Although not always welcome and uncomfortable, it can be very necessary, positive, enhancing and beneficial. What I am considering is the apparent trend of knee jerk reaction, that seems to suggest that if you constantly change a manager or a leader or government that everything will be wonderful, and if it's not we just change it again.

Some changes take time to settle in and may cause concern and disruption and discomfort for a period but if properly implemented, overtime, will prove beneficial and deliver improvements and increased satisfaction and results.

(I hope the football fans out there will correct me but I believe even the great Bill Shankley and Alex Ferguson lost their first few matches?) if that happened now they would probably have been sacked.

Today is Ascension day, representing a major change in the life of the disciples, having already gone through several early crises and wonders. Their leader and inspiration taken away a second time, this time in glorious majesty returning to the Father.

However they had never lost faith that things were under control, and that they were following the right path, then following the events of Pentecost, sharing that truth and direction of the teaching, example, love and saving power and grace of Jesus, in and for every individual in the whole world, then now and for all eternity.

In him is the only real change humankind needs, St Paul's says we may not all sleep but we will be changed. Perhaps. rather than looking for others to blame, or to change, it may be it's us who need to change, and let Christ take over. Somethings remain unchangeable

and the constant love of Christ for each one of us is always available and sustaining in all life's joys and tragedies.

Reader Mark

Benefice Prayers

For Our Community

We lift up in prayer all who live in The Green, Ginton, Woodcroft Road, Ginton, School Lane, Ginton & Pembroke Grove, Ginton. 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 24th May	09:00 Holy Communion – Northborough 10:30 Family Holy Communion - Ginton 18:00 Taizé – Maxey
Sunday 31st May	10:30 United Benefice Holy Communion - Peakirk
Sunday 7th June	09:00 Morning Worship – Ginton 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 - 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 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

New Bishop of Brixworth Announced.

The next Bishop of Brixworth will be The Venerable Dr Alex Hughes, currently Archdeacon of Cambridge in the Diocese of Ely, Downing Street has announced today.

[Alex discussed his appointment with the Revd Becky Dyball, Bishop's Missioner which you can watch here.](#)

Today (Friday 8 May) we welcome Alex to the Diocese starting at Bishop Stopford School in Kettering where students will interview Alex and discuss his hopes and aspirations for his new role. Following this, Alex will meet with clergy from Wellingborough and Kettering deaneries before visiting the Nine Bridges Benefice in Peterborough to hear about community engagement in a rural benefice on the edge of the city. The day will conclude with evensong at Peterborough Cathedral.

Alex brings a wide breadth of experience from across the Church of England, having served in parish ministry, diocesan leadership and episcopal support roles. He was ordained in the Diocese of Oxford in 2000 and served his curacy at Headington Quarry before becoming Chaplain to the Bishop of Portsmouth. From 2008 to 2014 he was parish priest of St Luke's and St Peter's in inner-city Portsmouth and since 2014 has served as Archdeacon of Cambridge.

Speaking about his appointment, Alex said: "I am really drawn to this particular moment in the life of the Diocese of Peterborough. It is a time of change and possibility and I am excited to be part of shaping what comes next. I am convinced that this vital work is deeply spiritual: it is about clearing paths and building channels for the Spirit to move."

As Bishop of Brixworth, Alex will hold responsibility for different ministry areas, including education, something that Alex describes as being 'in my DNA'. Both his parents were teachers, and he has held significant governance roles within church schools, including chairing governing bodies at both primary and secondary level and holding the role of Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education in Ely Diocese for 12 years.

Alongside his work in education, Alex has experience of both urban and rural ministry. As Archdeacon of Cambridge he has oversight of a large and diverse area, including the city and its rural surroundings. 'My favourite day of the week is Sunday' he says, 'I love being out among the parishes, whether it's a big service with hundreds of people or just a tiny little village church with 3 or 4 faithful worshippers and a cat.'

Having been born into a Christian household Alex does not have a 'moment' of conversion but remembers feeling a very strong confirmation of his Christian identity during a camp in Peterborough in the summer before he started secondary school;

"I didn't have a dramatic conversion experience," he said, "but at that moment I knew clearly that I was a Christian, and that was the identity I was taking with me into the next stage of my life. It feels quietly significant to be returning to Peterborough many years later in this way."

Throughout his life and ministry Alex has enjoyed the full range of church traditions, including visiting 3 different churches across the week whilst at university, which alongside his varied roles he describes as giving him 'an unusually wide appreciation of the Church of England'.

Welcoming Alex to his new role, Bishop Debbie said; "I am delighted to welcome Alex to the Diocese and look forward to working closely with him. His deep sense of God's call was clear throughout the process, and I am grateful to everyone who prayed for us. It will be a joy to get to know him better and to discern together God's will for our life and mission."

Alex is married to Sarah, a psychotherapist, and they have two sons, Thomas and Joseph. A keen musician, Alex finds joy in listening to live music in all its forms, from rock and roll to classical orchestral pieces. An enthusiastic runner, his other favourite mode of transport is his beloved motorbike.

Alex will be consecrated in July and will take up his role in the Diocese in the autumn.

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

St. Matthew's Church,
Eye

Ascension Day Service

Thursday 14th May

19:30

PETERBOROUGH DEANERY ASCENSION DAY SERVICE



The annual deanery Ascension Day Service will be held this year at

St Matthew's Church, Eye

Thursday 14th May at 7.30pm

The Preacher will be the Revd Andrew Birks,
Bishop's Chaplain

You are warmly invited to come and join us

Light Refreshments served after the service

Church address: High Street, Eye, postcode PE6 7UU.

Parking: There is one accessible parking space (two if cars are small) at the entrance to the church. Eye High Street - there are unrestricted parking places at various points within a short walk of the church, outside Eye Library and Sue Ryder Charity Shop, and on Thorney Road.

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.

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 that, it says 'JOIN US FOR A FUN AFTERNOON OF FAITH & FELLOWSHIP TO EXPLORE WHAT THE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ARE!'. The date and time are 'THURSDAY 28TH MAY 2026 1-4:30PM'. The location is 'Emmanuel Church, Twelvetree Avenue Werrington, PETERBOROUGH PE4 5DT'. At the bottom left is an illustration of a basket of fruit (apples, oranges, grapes). At the bottom right is a QR code.

CRAFTS, GAMES,
WORSHIP & LOTS OF
FUN!

Galatians 5:22-23

RUHA

LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE,
KINDNESS, GOODNESS,
FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, AND
SELF-CONTROL.

for ages 8-14

Scan the QR code to sign up!

JOIN US FOR A FUN AFTERNOON OF FAITH &
FELLOWSHIP TO EXPLORE WHAT THE FRUITS OF
THE HOLY SPIRIT ARE!

THURSDAY 28TH MAY 2026
1-4:30PM

Emmanuel Church, Twelvetree Avenue
Werrington, PETERBOROUGH PE4 5DT



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

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

Acts 1.6-14

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.' Then they

returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

Let God arise and let his enemies be scattered; let those that hate him flee before him. As the smoke vanishes, so may they vanish away; as wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God. But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; let them make merry with gladness. Sing to God, sing praises to his name; exalt him who rides on the clouds. The Lord is his name; rejoice before him. Father of the fatherless, defender of widows, God in his holy habitation! God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners to songs of welcome, but the rebellious inhabit a burning desert. O God, when you went forth before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, The earth shook and the heavens dropped down rain, at the presence of God, the Lord of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel. You sent down a gracious rain, O God; you refreshed your inheritance when it was weary. Your people came to dwell there; in your goodness, O God, you provide for the poor. Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth; make music in praise of the Lord; He rides on the ancient heaven of heavens and sends forth his voice, a mighty voice. Ascribe power to God, whose splendour is over Israel, whose power is above the clouds. How terrible is God in his holy sanctuary, the God of Israel, who gives power and strength to his people! Blessed be God.

1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same

kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power for ever and ever.

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

John 17.1-11

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

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

And Finally

Thank you to everyone who has been in touch and submitted items for the newsletter, they are very much appreciated by me and our community.

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