



Benefice Newsletter with Thought for Thursday

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

Thursday July 30th

Click for Website

<https://9bridges.church/>

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Sunday
2nd August

09:00 Morning Worship – Glington

10:30 Sung Communion – Peakirk

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

Mark's Th4Th last week about sport got me thinking. Although I enjoy watching sport of most kinds on television, I have never been a keen participant. In games lessons at school I was always the last one to be picked for a team. In fact, I spent most of my time trying to get out of PE and Games lessons!

I was far more interested in drama and singing, being selected for leading rôles in a number of school productions. These included Rev Samuel Parris in Arthur Miller's "The Crucible". Was this a foreshadowing of my future ministry as a reader? I was also a member of the school choir and was often asked to sing solos.

Since leaving school I have joined various drama groups and concert parties. I have also sung – and continue to sing – with choirs and singing groups including concerts with The Six, often acting as compère – as well as performing my one man shows about this country's canals.

Part of the art of the compère and for the solo performer is the ability to hold the attention of an audience. Over the years I have managed to learn how to do this to a standard sufficient for what I do.

It was not wholly, but certainly in part, this ability that I have gained that led to my calling as a reader. Holding the attention of a congregation is a vitally important aspect of preaching a sermon. I felt that if I could use such skills as I have to "work the room" in the furtherance of my faith and sharing it with others then that was exactly what Jesus was calling me to do.

I may be rubbish at football, rugby, cricket, tennis or, indeed, any other sport, but I can sing a bit, act a bit and preach a bit.

Jesus instructed us never to hide our light under a bushel and I think, in my small way, I have obeyed him.

One of my fellow readers, Mark Hotchkin, is starting a Benefice Drama Group. He is holding an informal meeting at St Andrew's, Northborough on Monday 3 August at 6.00pm. Unfortunately, my personal circumstances prevent me from taking an active part at present, but as soon as I am able I shall be getting involved.

So, why not get in touch with your inner thespian and go along to the meeting? Even if being on stage is not your thing, there are many skills, other than acting, involved in a drama group. Perhaps you have other abilities that you could use to further the work of Jesus through the use of drama in our Benefice.

Returning to Mark's last week's theme of sport, it is heartwarming to see how many sportsmen and women are now acknowledging publicly that they are people of faith.

Can you find an opportunity in your life – in the drama group or elsewhere – to, in the words of the famous hymn, “Stand up, stand up for Jesus”?

Reader Derek

Benefice Prayers



For Our Community

We lift up in prayer all who live in Helpston Road, Etton, The Willows, Glington, Cromwell Close, Northborough & North Fen Road, 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, Helena Richards, Nancy Holborrow, Mark Malcolm and Ann Harris.** May they find strength, comfort, and restoration.



For Those We Hold in Our Heart

We remember with love those who have gone before us: especially, **Charles Malbon.** Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Upcoming Services

Sunday 9th August	09:00 Morning Worship – Peakirk 10:30 Holy Communion - Etton 18:00 Joyful Journey - Glington
Sunday 16th August	09:00 Holy Communion – Maxey 10:30 Family Praise – Northborough 18:00 BCP Evensong - Peakirk
Sunday 23rd August	09:00 Holy Communion – Northborough 10:30 Family Holy Communion - Glington 18:00 Taizé – Maxey
Sunday 30th August	10:30 United Benefice Service - Maxey



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

Fundraising for Maxey bells

Bringing the bells to the people



M Mandy Loveder

 Donation protected

St. Peters church, Maxey, Cambs has a ring of 6 bells that have been in place for over 400 years. The merry band of ringers that currently ring for weddings, funerals and services are no longer of an age where they are able to ascend/descend the 26 uneven, spiral stone steps and four wooden ones without an oxygen mask and steroids! We desperately need to bring the ringing circle back downstairs from the ringing chamber that has served us well over the last 40 plus years. Lets be honest, the bells were originally installed to ring upstairs in 1600's, came down in 1940, taken back up in 1970's and now we need them down again. Not only are our creaky old joints struggling but it would be lovely to be included in the services and not be up in the lofty reaches, taking a while to get down in time for Communion. So we are asking for help from anyone with a bellringing, church, or inclusivity interest to help us raise the money for bell guide and all associated costs to achieve this. Every penny will go to ensuring that we ring for the foreseeable future in a safe and easy manner, feeling part of church life and not squirreled out of sight. Please donate, anything will be truly appreciated, Thank you and God Bless.

Fundraising and grants are the only way we are going to raise the £4.5k needed to get the bells of Maxey able to be rung safely downstairs. The current Benefice ringers want to be downstairs but cannot fund it alone.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/bringing-the-bells-to-the-people>

Posies for Patty

In July the Posies for Patty, Northborough group joined with the John Clare Festival at Helpston to remember the “Northamptonshire peasant poet”, John Clare and his wife, Martha. 10th-12th July.

The poet’s wife, known as Patty, was a resident of Northborough for nearly 40 years. To celebrate the family’s time spent in the village a poetry trail and treasure hunt was set around the village, with snippets from John Clare’s “Northborough Sonnets”.

St Andrew’s church was hung with pictures and poetry from Northborough Primary school, with posies from the children placed on Patty’s grave. More posies and flower decorations were added by volunteers to the church and with a lovely flower net gracing the porch we were ready!



On Sunday morning there was a “Flitting” from John Clare Cottage, Helpston, to Clare Cottage, Church Street, Northborough following in the footsteps of the Clare family as they walked from their old home to start afresh here. With many of the walkers finishing at Packhorse pub, to enjoy a Poet’s lunch and a pint.

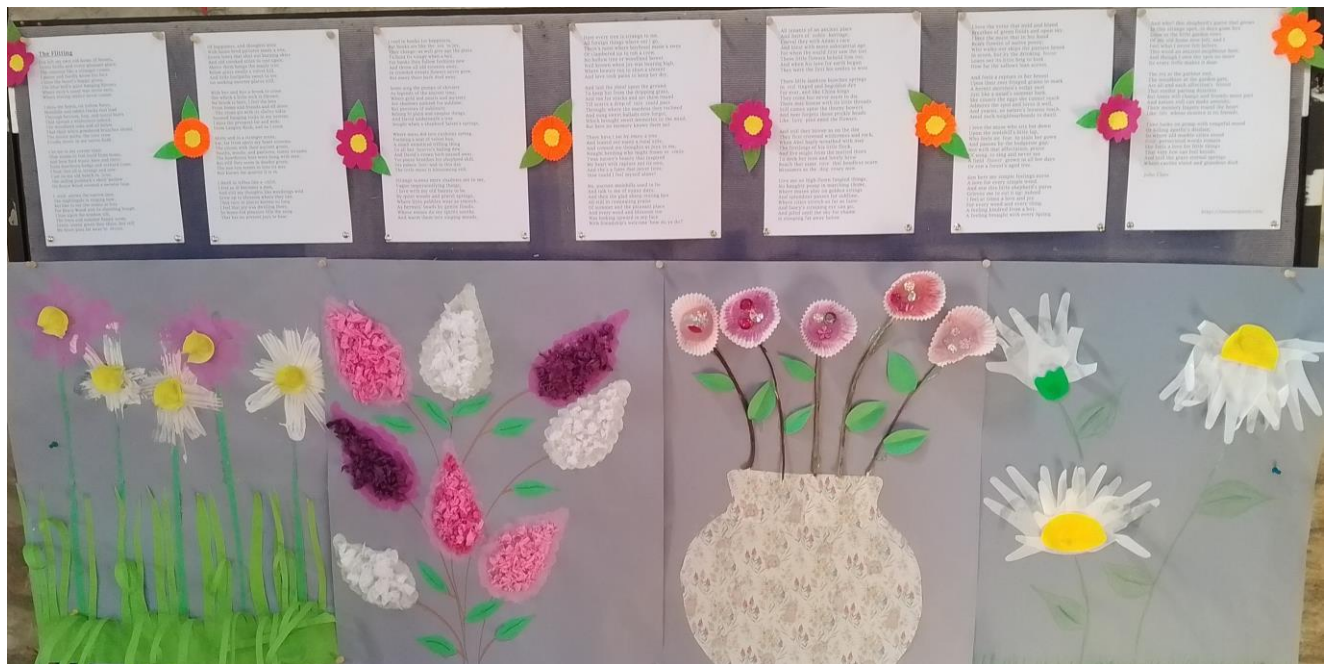


In

the afternoon at St Andrew's Church there two well attended talks about "Martha Clare's Northborough" and the "Northborough's Overseer of the Poor book" enjoyed with tea and lots of lovely cakes and concluded with a generous raffle.

Thank you to all who came and supported us and to all our helpers, all profits made were donated to St Andrew's church. (£571.43)

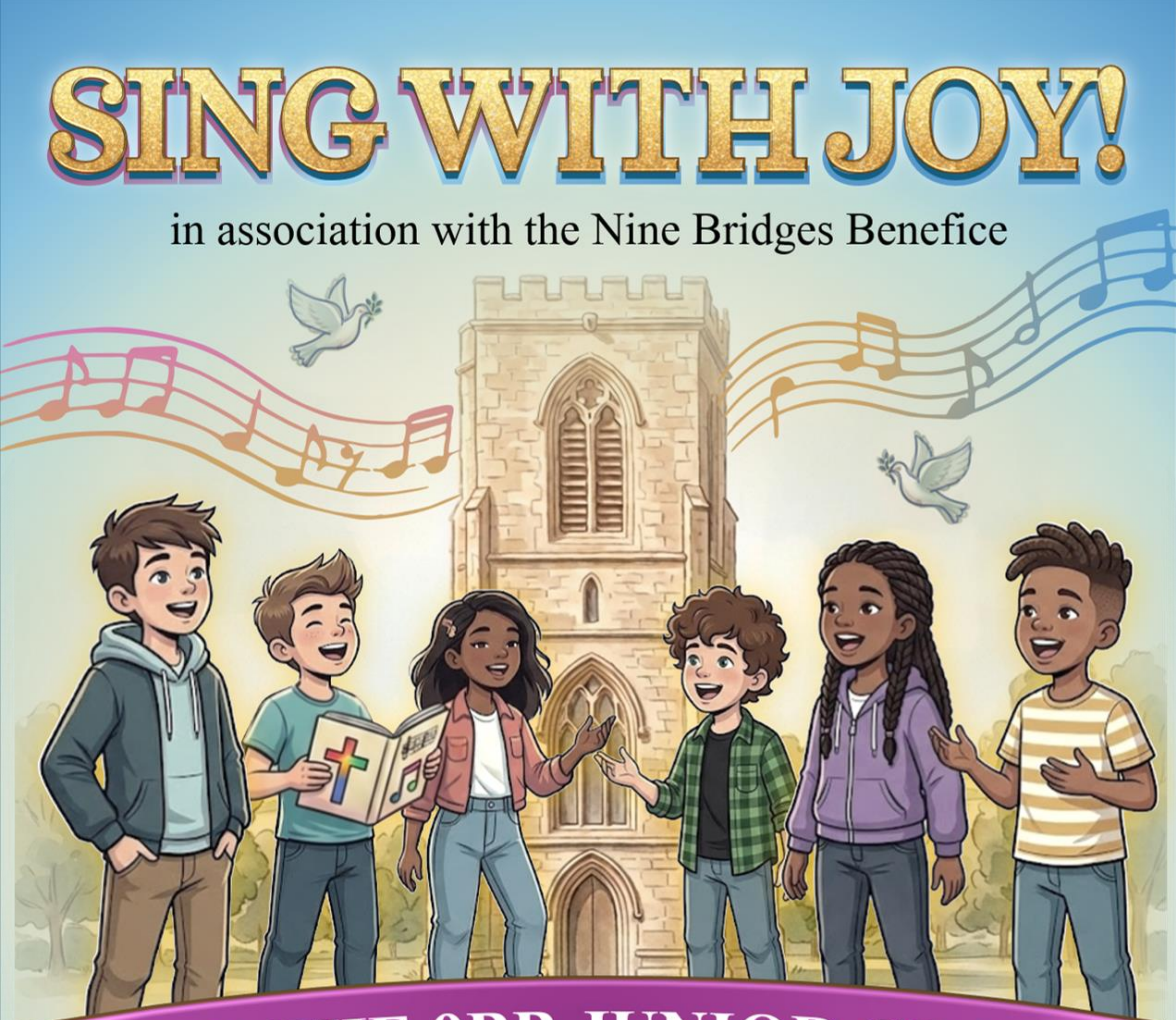
Teresa Scott



9BB Junior Choir

After very successful start, earlier this year, the singing club will be recommencing in September.

We'd love to see you there!



SING WITH JOY!

in association with the Nine Bridges Benefice

JOIN THE 9BB JUNIOR CHOIR!

Starts 16th September
Wednesdays 4:15pm to 5:00pm

At St Benedict's Church, Ginton
All children (year 3+) and parents welcome.

A **FREE** singing club (term time).
No Auditions. Refreshments provided. For details
or to book: **please contact Ruth@9bridges.church**



www.9bridges.church

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DATES for your DIARY

B@TB

20:00

Friday 31st July

The Blue Bell, Glington



**The Nine Bridges
Benefice**

Benefice@TheBoozer

A friendly drink and a chat



This Friday, 31 July at The Bluebell, Glington.
8.00pm onwards

All Welcome! See you there!

St. Andrew's, Northborough

18:00

Monday 3rd August



**Invitation
to a
Meeting**

Are you interested in
helping to form a
Church Drama Group?

We invite anyone who would like to be involved in a
Benefice drama group to come to St Andrew's Church
to attend an informal meeting on:

 Date: Monday 3rd August	 Time: 6.00 pm	 Venue: St Andrew's Church, Northborough
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 Whether you have acting experience, enjoy directing, writing,
stage management, or simply wish to support church
productions, you are warmly welcome.

 We look forward to meeting you and discussing how a church
drama group could enrich our worship, fellowship,
and community outreach.

 For further information, please contact the Benefice
administration or speak to Mark Hotchkin
(hotchkin13@gmail. Com).

*Come along, share your ideas, and help
bring faith stories to life through drama,
and have some fun.*

**Saturday August 15th - St Pega Day
Celebrations 12.00 - 16.00**

Display of Knitted Bible Stories

Crafts - Dancing Skeletons and Pea-ga

Key rings

Raffle

Refreshments



**Saturday August 15th - St Pega Day
Celebrations 12.00 - 16.00**

The Paddling Peasnells Rowathon

(from Crowland to Peakirk and back -
many times)

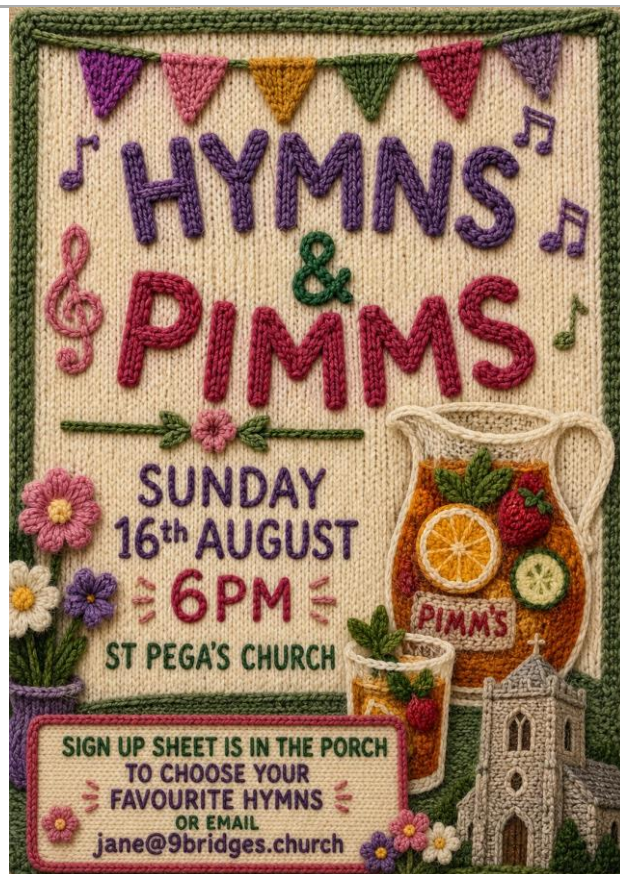
Sponsors and support rowers welcome



**Sunday August 16th - Hymns and Pimms
18.00**

Sign up for your favourite hymn -
notice in the church porch or email

[Jane@9bridges.church](mailto:jane@9bridges.church)



COMING UP IN PEAKIRK !

Sunday September 6th – Messy Church 10.30

Harvest Service and Holy Communion with Messy Church

Sunday September 20th 15.00 - 16.30 in Peakirk Village Hall

Messy Church family Quiz and Bring and Share Harvest Tea.

More information and visuals to come !

Maxey, Village Hall

19:30

Friday 25th September

£12.50

ticket includes light refreshments

Peakirk and Newborough Dramatic Society

Presents

A Murder Mystery evening...



by
Ian McCutcheson

Maxey Village Hall

Friday 25th September 7:30pm - £12.50

(ticket includes light refreshments)

Tickets available from:

Sheila - 07740983217

sheila.merrill@9bridges.church

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**

**EXCEPT AUGUST
WHEN WE TAKE A BREAK**

**Returning on Tuesday 8th
Septmber**



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

St. Andrew's, Northborough

**Every Third Thursday
of the month**

**EXCEPT AUGUST
WHEN WE TAKE A BREAK**

**Returning on Thursday 17th
Septmber**



Tea@Three

St Andrew's

Northborough

3-4pm



Join us for tea and a chat



Every 3rd Thursday



Book Exchange

Toys for the Children



This Week's Collect and Reading

Collect

Gracious Father, revive your Church in our day, and make her holy, strong and faithful, for your glory's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Genesis 32.22-31

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, 'Let me go, for the day is breaking.' But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go, unless you bless me.' So he said to him, 'What is your name?' And he said, 'Jacob.' Then the man said, 'You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.' Then Jacob asked him, 'Please tell me your name.' But he said, 'Why is it that you ask my name?' And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.' The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

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

Romans 9.1-5

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

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

Matthew 14.13-21

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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

And Finally

Derek's Cryptic Clues

Solutions to clues from last month

1 **ACTS** (New Testament book) Anagram (recast) of **CATS**

2 **JUDE** (Epistle) Hey Jude (Beatles song)

3 **DEUTERONOMY** (Old Testament book) Anagram (around) of **YOU MENTOR ED**

4 **EZRA** (Jewish scribe) Ezra Pound (1885-1972) American poet

5 **TIMOTHY** A lurker in an **TI MOTH** Yarrow

This time's clues

1 Rats reverse into light of Bethlehem. (4)

2 Esther, away not home, rescheduled for festival. (6)

3 Claim he recycled for an angel. (7)

4 Part of animal – a chimp for a prophet. (7)

5 Serial revised for a nation. (6)

I'm loving these 'knitted posters' that have sprung up from Peakirk! Aren't they wonderful. Keep those visuals and events coming, for our great community.

Have a wonderful week.

Simon

admin@9bridges.church

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