



Benefice Newsletter with Thought for Thursday

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

Thursday July 23rd

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<https://9bridges.church/>

SERVICES THIS WEEK

**Sunday
26th July**

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

What a summer of sport: cricket matches, men's and women's tests, one day, T20 against a variety of countries and more still to come. Wimbledon and other tennis tournaments. Rugby Nations Championships. Golf, The Open this last week and the Ladies Open this week. Football - World Cup which seems to have been going on for ever finally reached its climax last Sunday. Grand Prix various, and of course the Commonwealth games starting shortly in Glasgow.

Some are sports fanatics, either watching or playing, either way it can be costly in both time and money. There were a large amount of supporters at the World Cup who had used their life savings to be there and support their team, many others who probably had run up hefty debts to be there. Thousands of people pay large sums for season tickets to regularly watch their favourite team at a weekend. I like many others play a lot of sport, there is a cost of equipment, kit, membership, match fees etc. This is to say nothing of the time commitment that all this involves.

Perhaps sport isn't your thing, perhaps your passion is gardening, baking, going on holidays, hiking etc. whatever it may be there is a commitment of time, effort and usually some expense. Whatever it may be we put in the time and effort because it gives us pleasure, often a somewhat masochistic pleasure, if you are a supporter, there is always that hope of victory and reflected glory.

If the ultimate prize isn't a trophy or a medal or praise of peers, but a promise of a life free from guilt, unconditional love, and eternal life in abundance, what would you be prepared to sacrifice to get your ticket?

Mark 10 v17-22

Benefice Prayers



For Our Community

We lift up in prayer all who live in Rippons Drove, Northborough, Clare Road, Northborough, St Benedicts Close, Ginton & Clare Road, Northborough. 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.** 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, **Julie Parker.** Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Upcoming Services

Sunday 2nd August	09:00 Morning Worship – Ginton 10:30 Sung Communion – Peakirk 18:00 Celtic Evening Prayer – Northborough
Sunday 9th August	09:00 Morning Worship – Peakirk 10:30 Holy Communion - Etton 18:00 Joyful Journey - Ginton
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 - Ginton 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 💖

Benefice Council Meeting Summary – 13 July

The Benefice Council met at Northborough Church and began with prayer, giving thanks for God's faithfulness across the benefice and warmly welcoming new members. The council reviewed the previous minutes and noted the positive progress that has been made on actions agreed at earlier meetings. Discussions regarding land at Peakirk and Foxcovert Road will be revisited at an appropriate time once diocesan changes become clearer.

Safeguarding remained a key priority and was approached in a positive and constructive spirit. The council reviewed current safeguarding arrangements, discussed ways of strengthening a culture of safeguarding across the benefice, and considered how best to support groups such as Messy Church, choirs, singing clubs and bellringers. Members agreed to arrange in-person safeguarding training and welcomed the opportunity to reflect on the Safer Church Action Plan over the coming month before bringing it back for approval in September.

The council spent time reflecting on mission and the Church of England's Five Marks of Mission: proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom, teaching and nurturing new believers, responding to human need through loving service, transforming unjust structures of society, and safeguarding the integrity of creation. Members reflected that these marks are not simply tasks to be completed but express the very heart of why the Church exists—to join in God's mission and help people encounter the love and hope of Christ. There was a strong sense of encouragement as the council recognised the huge range of missional activity already taking place across the benefice through worship, pastoral ministry, children's and family work, community events, outreach initiatives, acts of service and care for creation. Rather than focusing on doing more, the discussion centred on how we can continue to inhabit these marks of mission with creativity, faithfulness and confidence. Members were encouraged to keep exploring new opportunities, learning from experience, and supporting one another in finding fresh ways to share God's love within our communities.

The council also considered a number of fabric matters, including proposals relating to a burial plot in Maxey, work on the west wall at Northborough and improvements at Glinton Church. These conversations reflected a shared commitment to caring well for our church buildings so that they can continue to serve both worshipping communities and the wider public for generations to come.

An update on finances highlighted the importance of good stewardship and provided reassurance that careful planning is in place for the remainder of the year. Members discussed the budget, shared purchasing arrangements and ways of strengthening benefice-wide financial processes to support ministry and mission across all our parishes.

The Parish Giving Scheme was reviewed positively, with encouraging progress being made. Members welcomed growing awareness of regular giving and the practical steps being taken through services, communications and future promotional materials to help support the long-term ministry of the benefice.

The meeting concluded with consideration of future agenda items, including churchyard maintenance and risk assessments, before closing in prayer. Members left encouraged by the breadth of ministry taking place across the benefice and hopeful about the opportunities that lie ahead. The next meeting will be held on 14 September.

NEWS

Tea@3 at St. Andrew's Church, Northborough

Early in 2026, a few of us at St. Andrew's were considering the wonderful efforts of so many people in Northborough, who had helped to raise money towards the repair of the chancel roof. And at that point, we decided that St Andrew's would like to give something back to the community.

And so was born Tea@3, a monthly gathering at 3:00pm in St Andrew's Church where there is tea, cake, toys, books and the opportunity to make new friends or catch up with old ones. We have been thrilled at the response, with some who come every month and others who come when they can.

We started in March and will continue until October this year (but not August) and then will see what the weather is like in November, as St Andrew's Church is notoriously cold once the weather turns.

On Thursday 17th September, Tea@3 will be promoting the work of Macmillan Nurses, which will give us an opportunity to be generous to this organisation, which offers help and support to so many when life is at its hardest.

So, St Andrew's looks forward to welcoming you again on 17th September, and in the meantime, we hope you have a good summer.



PRAYER NEWSLETTER

PETERBOROUGH DEANERY



Issue 21
July 2026

It's the end of the 2025-2026 MES year! Read on for news about how the last few weeks have gone for Liv and Roisin; mostly in their own words.

King's School Peterborough

On the 5th of July, we were invited to lead the King's School Alternative worship by Rev Lex. We led an interactive, collective time of worship focusing on Psalm 139:14 and the theme of being unique. We had approximately 35 children attend, mostly from Years 7 and 9. Roisin particularly enjoyed this as it was a chance for her to return and lead something at her old school.

Please pray for: the students at The King's School, many of whom come from churches across our deanery and for Rev Lex Bradley-Stow, the chaplain.



MES Celebration



On the 6th July, Liv and Roisin gathered with all the other interns and supervisors in the Diocese at The Boathouse, Rushden Lakes to celebrate the amazing year that we've all had. It was good to hear everybody's highlights and progress and pray for each other. Liv and Roisin focused their highlights on how much they had gone outside their comfort zone, how much they had grown in confidence and how much fun they had enjoyed together over the past year.

Please pray for Liv and Roisin's supervisors: Keir Dow in the 9 bridges benefice and Michael Moore at St Mary's Peterborough. They have guided, encouraged and facilitated the interns' ministry throughout this year. Give thanks for their generosity of time and for all the ministry that has thrived during this past year.

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The third deanery youth event sadly had to be postponed due to lack of sign-ups, however Liv-Astrid and Roisin rechannelled their energies to the Bishop's garden party on July 4th ➡

01/02

Bishop's garden party

On the 4th of July, Liv and Roisin were at the bishop's garden party for clergy and family. We had a really fun time with the children, going on a trail in the bishop's wild garden, just chatting and playing. The most heartwarming thing was that at the end of the day, one of the children told us that 'the thing that they enjoyed most was sitting and playing and talking to us.' This made us realise the impact we can have on others even if we only spent a short time with them.

Please give thanks for all the joy, energy and enthusiasm that Liv-Astrid and Roisin have brought to the many community events they have run this past year.



'Base' churches

Liv-Astrid and St Mary's church, Peterborough

This year, I am very grateful to have been based at St Mary's. My time there has been very fruitful and rewarding as I have had the chance to be involved in various things. I have especially enjoyed getting to know all the young people and regularly being a part of their youth group and other activities such as the Light Party held in October. It was a real joy to host the first Deanery Youth Event at St Mary's and see how much the young people of St Mary's got involved and carry that forwards to the other youth events as well.

Roisin and Nine Bridges

Being placed at the Nine Bridges Benefice has been a real joy. I have enjoyed the warmth and welcome everyone gave me. The opportunity to explore a different tradition and to be constantly encouraged out of my comfort zone has been a blessing.

We are both very grateful for the opportunities this year has given us; the chance to work together, to gather young people across the deanery through Deanery Youth Events, extra opportunities like Spring Harvest have all been appreciated. The year has grown us, challenged us and shaped us both into more of who God has called us each to be.

And finally ...

We are delighted to announce that Liv and Roisin will be staying with the Peterborough deanery for another year!

In the last few months, the diocese took the decision to pause the Ministry Experience Scheme for the coming academic year with the aim of reviewing, planning and relaunching the scheme in a robust, flourishing and sustainable way for the future. However, the diocese also noted and applauded the Peterborough deanery's approach to sharing interns across parish boundaries; so much so, they agreed to allow us to continue with second year MES interns. Not only will we be welcoming back Roisin and Liv, but also another intern from another part of the diocese will be joining our deanery!

More news to follow!

Do keep praying for the MES Peterborough task group and for those in the diocese who support and shape the MES programme for God's glory

For those who would like to financially support the Internship scheme within the deanery:

Account name: Peterborough Deanery
Ministry Experience Scheme
Sort Code: 23-05-80
Account number: 56120203

02/02

Social Media



DATES for your DIARY

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

The Paddling Peasnells Rowathon (from Crowland to Peakirk and back - many times) Sponsors and support rowers welcome

Crafts - Dancing Skeletons and Pea-ga

Key rings

Raffle

Refreshments



SUPPORT ST PEGA'S CHURCH

KNITTED BIBLE STORIES & DANCING SKELETONS CRAFT!

SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST
12PM - 4PM
AT ST PEGA'S CHURCH

Discover wonderful Bible stories brought to life in knitted form!

Make your own DANCING SKELETON!
A fun craft for children of all ages!

- See amazing knitted Bible stories
- Get creative with our dancing skeletons
- Fun for all the family
- Refreshments available

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Come along, be inspired, get crafty and support St Pega's Church!

COMING UP IN PEAKIRK !

Sunday August 16th - Hymns and Pimms 18.00

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

Jane@9bridges.church

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.

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

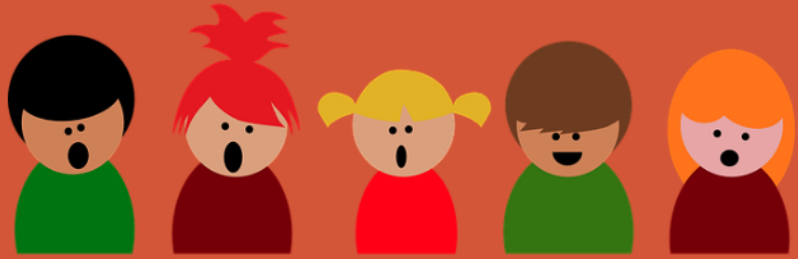
REGULAR DATES for your DIARY

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
September**



This Week's Collect and Reading

Collect Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Genesis 29.15-28

Then Laban said to Jacob, 'Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?' Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, 'I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.' Laban said, 'It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.' So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, 'Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.' So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to

her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, 'What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?' Laban said, 'This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me for another seven years.' Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

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

Romans 8.26-39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord

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

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.' 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.

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

And Finally

Despite us entering a traditionally quite time of the year, as many take their annual holiday, I'm overjoyed to see that Peakirk have been planning ahead and have FOUR events coming up (more details and visuals coming soon)

Have a wonderful week.

Simon

admin@9bridges.church

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