



Benefice Newsletter with Thought for Thursday

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

Thursday August 20th

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<https://9bridges.church/>

SERVICES THIS WEEK

**Sunday
23rd August**

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

Resting in Holy Ground

August is a month when many people step away from the familiar rhythms of work, school, and responsibility. Holidays take us out of our usual routines and place us somewhere different. Sometimes it is a seaside town, a quiet countryside retreat, or simply a slower pace at home. Whatever form it takes, a holiday reminds us that we are more than the sum of our tasks and responsibilities.

There is something deeply spiritual about that.

Prayer, like a holiday, invites us to step away from the relentless demands of life and enter a different space. It is not an escape from reality so much as a return to it. In prayer, we leave behind the noise, the deadlines, and the constant pressure to achieve. We become still enough to remember who we are: beloved children of God.

Both holidays and prayer change our perspective. When we climb a hill, gaze across the sea, or sit quietly beneath a summer sky, life's worries can seem smaller and God's world larger. Prayer does something similar. It lifts our eyes from what is urgent to what is eternal. It helps us see our lives not only through the lens of our concerns, but through the wider horizon of God's love.

Perhaps that is why God commands rest. Rest is not a luxury for the fortunate few. It is part of God's gift to humanity. We were not created to run endlessly, but to pause, breathe, wonder, and receive.

As summer unfolds, whether you are travelling far or staying close to home, may you find moments that feel like a holiday for the soul: moments of stillness, gratitude, and prayer. For in those quiet spaces, we often discover that God has been waiting for us all along.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

Rev Keir

Benefice Prayers



For Our Community

We lift up in prayer all who live in Rectory Lane, Peakirk, Main Road, Etton, Main Road, Etton & Rectory Lane, Glinton. 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, Mark Malcolm, Ann Harris, Susan Briggs and Jacqui Barnard.** 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, **Brenda Hirst.** Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Upcoming Services

Sunday 30th August	10:30 United Benefice Service - Maxey
Sunday 6th September	09:00 Morning Worship – Glinton 10:30 Harvest & Sung Communion -Peakirk 18:00 Celtic Evening Prayer – Northborough
Sunday 13th September	09:00 Morning Worship – Peakirk 10:30 Holy Communion - Etton 18:00 Joyful Journey - Glinton
Sunday 20th September	09:00 Harvest Communion – Maxey 10:30 Harvest Festival – Northborough 18:00 BCP Evensong - Peakirk



Dear friends,

This summer I will be undertaking my Ministerial Development Review (MDR), which is a regular opportunity for clergy to reflect on their ministry, identify areas of growth, and consider how God may be calling them forward in their vocation.

As part of that process, I would like to invite you, if you wish, to offer some honest feedback on my ministry. Participation is entirely voluntary, and there is absolutely no expectation that you do so.

[Ministerial Development Review Feedback Request form – Fill out form](#)

The feedback process is **anonymous**, and I will not know who has submitted individual responses. I hope this will encourage people to speak openly and honestly. I will, however, read the responses myself, and I am genuinely interested in receiving thoughtful feedback—both positive and critical.

This is not an exercise in collecting compliments, nor is it intended as a platform for pursuing personal agendas. Rather, I hope it can be an opportunity for honest reflection on the strengths and weaknesses of my ministry as you have experienced it. Please feel free to be candid, charitable, and constructive. Specific examples are often more helpful than general observations.

Thank you for considering this request. Whatever feedback you may choose to offer will help me reflect prayerfully on my ministry and how I might serve Christ and his Church more faithfully in the years ahead.

With gratitude and 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

Support Your Church While You Shop

Did you know that you can raise money for your local every time you shop online, at no extra cost to yourself?

We are registered with easyfundraising, a simple scheme that turns everyday online shopping into donations for the church. Thousands of retailers, including supermarkets, travel companies, insurance providers, and major online stores, will make a donation when you shop through easyfundraising.

The best part is that it doesn't cost you a penny more. The donation comes from the retailer, not from you.

To start supporting your church , simply visit:

<https://9bridges.church/glinton-easyfundraising/>

Once you've chosen which church to support and signed up, you can download the easyfundraising app or browser extension, and it will remind you whenever a donation is available as you shop online.

Those small donations soon add up. Whether you're booking a holiday, arranging insurance, buying gifts, or simply doing your regular shopping, you can help support the ministry and mission of our church community without spending anything extra.

Thank you for helping us make the most of this simple and effective way of raising funds for the life and work of our church. Every contribution, however small, makes a difference.

Every blessing,
Keir

Benefice Drama Group



The newly formed Benefice drama group met for the second time this Monday.

Please come and join us, even if you only have a passing interest in drama or how we could share the gospel in an alternative way.

Come along or drop me a line to find out what it is all about.

The group will take part in the morning services scheduled for 13th September. Another opportunity to see what sort of thing you could be doing.

We will be meeting again on Monday 31st August 7.00pm at Peakirk Church and then on 7th September 7.00pm at Northborough Church. All welcome

Mark@9bridges.church





[Your help is needed to improve the Church of England website](#)

The national Church of England website is being relaunched and they are searching for testers to give feedback on the prototype new website.

They are keen to hear from people who never go to church; people who go to church; and people who work or volunteer with a parish, diocese or cathedral, or serve the Church of England in another way.

Testing will take place in person at Peterborough Diocesan Office on **Wednesday 16 September**. It involves a 45-minute 1-2-1 session with the website developers, to look at our designs and give feedback.

If you are interested in taking part, please complete the form below.

[Complete the form here](#)

FoodCycle brings food, friendship and hope to Peterborough



Bishop Debbie visited FoodCycle Peterborough at Park Road Baptist Church on Sunday 6 July, meeting volunteers and experiencing firsthand a community initiative that provides free meals, friendship and practical support to local people.

The visit highlighted the impact of FoodCycle's weekly project, which brings together surplus food and dedicated volunteers to create nutritious three-course meals. Hosted every Monday at Park Road Baptist Church, the project welcomes up to 56 guests, offering not only food but also companionship and a warm, welcome to anyone, whatever their background, faith or identity.

Bishop Debbie was invited to FoodCycle by long-serving volunteers Annie and Rex Birchenough, who have been instrumental in running the Peterborough project. Both now in their mid-eighties, they are due to retire later this year after helping provide food and fellowship to thousands of people over the course of a decade of service.

As part of the visit Bishop Debbie joined volunteers in preparing and serving meals while learning more about the charity's work tackling food waste, hunger and social isolation.

FoodCycle's efforts begin early each week, with volunteers collecting donated food much of which comes from local supermarkets. The ingredients are then brought to the church, where a team of volunteers transform the donations into a three-course meal.

The project's commitment to reducing waste and supporting local communities extends beyond the dining table. Any surplus food not used in the meals is made available for guests to take home, while remaining items are distributed to other charitable organisations, including animal sanctuaries, ensuring that nothing goes to waste.

Although FoodCycle and Park Road Baptist Church operate as separate organisations, their partnership demonstrates the valuable role churches can play in supporting community initiatives. By opening its doors each week, the church provides a space where people can gather, share a meal and experience a sense of belonging.



Bishop Debbie's visit celebrated the dedication of volunteers whose generosity makes the project possible and highlighted the positive difference that can be achieved when churches, charities and local communities work together. The project offers a practical expression of care, bringing hope, hospitality and fellowship to people from all walks of life.

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>

DATES for your DIARY

9BB Junior Choir

After very successful start, earlier this year, the singing club will be recommencing on

Wednesday 16th September

16:15 – 17:00

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, Glington
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](mailto:Ruth@9bridges.church)

www.9bridges.church poster design by digitalbeginnings.co.uk

St. Andrew's, Northborough

**Every Third Thursday
of the month**

**And when it returns in September after
a break**

**We will be supporting the valuable work
of**

MacMillan Cancer Support



Tea @ Three
at Northborough Church
Thursday 17th September,
this month supporting:
**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**
A registered charity

Come and join us for tea and a chat

3pm - 4pm
*Toys for the Children
& Book Exchange*

All Welcome!

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 !

The Golden Pheasant
Etton

Friday 25th September

16:00 – close

Live music

Saturday 26th September

12:00 – close

Afternoon quiz

Live music



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
September**



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**



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 Readings

Collect

God of constant mercy, who sent your Son to save us: remind us of your goodness, increase your grace within us, that our thankfulness may grow, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, 'Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.' Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them. The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, 'When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.' But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, 'Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?' The midwives said to Pharaoh, 'Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.' So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, 'Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.' Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying,

and she took pity on him. ‘This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,’ she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, ‘Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?’ Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, ‘Yes.’ So the girl went and called the child’s mother. Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, ‘Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.’ So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, ‘because’, she said, ‘I drew him out of the water.’

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

Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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

Matthew 16: 13-20

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on

earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

And Finally

Not to bang on about easyfundraising....this week I switched energy provider and as a result £21 was donated to our Benefice. It's really easy to use and a huge benefit to all of us. Please give it a go!

Simon

admin@9bridges.church

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