9 Bridges Benefice Weekly Newsletter
Thursday October 22nd

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

SERVICES THIS WEEK	
All Saints **1st November**	**09:00 Morning Worship – Glinton** **10:30 Sung Communion -Peakirk** **18:00 Celtic Evening Prayer – Northborough**

Thought for Thursday

All Saints' Sunday: Remembering with Hope

This Sunday we celebrate All Saints', one of the Church's great festivals. It is a joyful day when we give thanks for the countless saints who have gone before us: not just the famous names of Christian history, but all those faithful people whose lives have reflected the love of Jesus in big and small ways. Parents, grandparents, friends, neighbours, teachers, clergy, and ordinary disciples whose faith has helped shape our own.

As part of our All Saints' celebration, we will also remember by name those we love who have died. In some churches this act of remembrance is known as All Souls', which historically became associated with prayers for the departed and ideas about purgatory. While that forms part of the tradition's history, our focus is on giving thanks for those we have loved, acknowledging our loss, and entrusting them into the endless love and mercy of God.

The wonderful truth at the heart of All Saints' is that the saints are not a special group of spiritual superstars. In the New Testament, all God's people are called saints. Through Christ we are brought into God's family, and we trust that those who have died in him remain part of that great communion of saints which stretches across heaven and earth.

All Saints' therefore holds together remembrance and celebration, grief and hope. We remember those we miss, we give thanks for all they have meant to us, and we rejoice in the promise that nothing can separate us from the love of God. It is a service filled not with sadness alone, but with gratitude, hope and the joy of knowing that we belong to a story much bigger than ourselves.

Whether you are remembering someone who died recently or someone who remains dear to you after many years, you are warmly invited to join us as we celebrate the saints, remember our loved ones, and give thanks for the hope we share in Christ.

Rev Keir

NEWS

All Saints

As All Saints Day falls on Sunday this year, our annual Commemoration of the Faithful Departed will take place within the 10.30am Holy Communion service at Peakirk.

All Saints is a special occasion in the Church's year when we remember before God those whom we have loved and lost. It is a gentle and hopeful service, acknowledging both the sadness of loss and the Christian hope that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ.

During the service, names of those who have died will be read aloud, and there will be an opportunity for quiet reflection and prayer. Whether your bereavement is recent or many years ago, you are warmly invited to join us as we give thanks for their lives and commend them to God's eternal care.

If you would like a loved one to be remembered by name during the service, please either email Rev Keir at vicar@9bridges.church or add their name to the sheet available in Peakirk Church. All are welcome as we gather in remembrance, thanksgiving and hope.

A Heartfelt Thank You to Veronica Smith

After many years of faithful service, Veronica Smith is stepping down from her role as Churchwarden for Glinton Church. We would like to express our deepest thanks for her unwavering commitment, generous hard work, and dedicated support of the church over so many years. Veronica has given countless hours in service to the church family and wider community, often working quietly behind the scenes to ensure that church life flourishes. We are profoundly grateful for all she has done and are praying God's blessing upon her as she steps into this next chapter.

New Curate for the 9 Bridges Benefice

We are delighted to share the exciting news that, God willing, **Fiona Yardley** will be joining the 9 Bridges Benefice as our Curate next June.

A Curate is someone who has recently been ordained and is serving their first years of ministry in a benefice. During this time, they continue their training while gaining practical experience of leading worship, preaching, pastoral care, community outreach, and the many other aspects of parish life. Curacies are an important part of forming and equipping future priests, providing opportunities to learn, grow, and develop ministry within the life of the local church.

We are thrilled that Fiona will be joining us for this next stage of her journey. Her arrival will bring new gifts, insights, and energy to our churches, and we look forward to walking alongside her as she develops her ministry among us. Just as a Curate learns from the people and communities they serve, we also have much to gain from the fresh perspectives and enthusiasm she will bring.

Over the coming months there will be opportunities to get to know Fiona and to pray for her as she prepares for ordination and her move to Peterborough. Please hold her in your prayers as she begins this exciting new chapter, and pray too for our churches as we prepare to welcome her into the life of our benefice family. We look forward with great anticipation to welcoming Fiona next summer and to discovering together all that God has in store for us in the years ahead.

A Message From Fiona

Hello! I am very excited to be joining you as a curate. I'm a Peterborough girl born and bred currently living in exile in Kettering - I can't wait to be back in my city. Before beginning my training, I was a university lecturer specialising in secondary mathematics education. My husband, Huw, is just finishing his curacy. We have three wonderful children who have grown up and moved away, so now we just live with our beautiful greyhound Arlo and evil cat Cookie. My parents still live where I grew up in in Netherton, and our middle child has just bought a house in Woodston. The things that fill me with joy are God, my family, knitting, reading, jigsaws and good food. The answer to the most important question is decaf coffee (black, no sugar), water, herbal tea, wine, gin and IPA (depending on the time of day).

Benefice Leadership and Service

9 Bridges Benefice Council

Revd. Keir Dow	Simon Richards Reader, Treasurer, Churchwarden Glinton	Derek Harris Reader and Parish Rep Glinton	Freda Skillman Reader and Parish Rep Northborough	Anne Curwen Churchwarden Etton	Jane Harris Churchwarden Peakirk
vicar@ 9bridges.church	simon.richards@ 9bridges.church	derek@ 9bridges.church	freda@ 9bridges.church	anne@ 9bridges.church	jane@ 9bridges.church
Mark Hotchkin Reader	Lucy Malcolm Churchwarden Northborough	Angela Hankins Churchwarden Maxey	Maggie Warren Parish Rep Etton	Christine Dearman Parish Rep Peakirk	Sheila Merrill Parish Rep Maxey
mark@ 9bridges.church	lucy@ 9bridges.church	angela@ 9bridges.church	maggie@ 9bridges.church	christine@ 9bridges.church	sheila.merril@ 9bridges.church

The 9 Bridges Benefice is overseen by the **Benefice Council**, which carries responsibility for the governance, vision and strategic life of our churches. Working alongside the clergy and parishes, the Council helps ensure that we are stewarding our resources well, meeting our legal responsibilities, and seeking God's direction as we share the good news of Jesus across our communities.

The Council's work is supported by many others whose ministry often takes place behind the scenes. Our **Churchwardens**, including those who do not serve on the Council, play a vital role in the life of our churches, offering leadership, wisdom and practical support within their parishes. Our **Sextons** also provide an invaluable service, caring for churchyards and buildings with dedication and sensitivity. Together, they help ensure that our churches are well cared for and that worship, ministry and mission can flourish in every parish.

The photographs above introduce members of the Benefice Council and our governance Churchwardens. We are deeply grateful for all who give their time, gifts and energy in service of the Benefice. **Next week's newsletter will feature our Sextons, recognising their important contribution to the life and ministry of our churches.**

Christmas Chocolates for HMP Peterborough

Christmas can be a particularly difficult time for those who are far from family and loved ones. Each year, the chaplaincy team at HMP Peterborough invites local churches and communities to share a simple act of kindness by helping provide Christmas chocolates for prisoners and staff who will be spending the festive season within the prison walls.

Last year, thanks to the generosity of local people, every resident received a gift bag containing a diary, calendar, Christmas card and more than 20 chocolates. For many prisoners, this may be the only Christmas gift they receive, and the knowledge that someone is thinking of them can make a real difference.

This year we are again inviting members of our benefice to donate tubs of chocolates such as **Heroes, Quality Street, Celebrations, Roses**, or supermarket own-brand equivalents. The prison chaplaincy team will share these amongst the prison population as part of their Christmas gift packs.

Please bring donations to the Benefice Office at Glinton Church by Sunday 6 December. We will then deliver them to the prison in time for the chaplaincy team to prepare the Christmas gifts. As we celebrate the coming of Christ, who came with good news for all people and special concern for those who are forgotten or on the margins, this is a wonderful opportunity to share a small sign of God's love and care. Thank you for any contribution you are able to make. Every tub helps bring a little Christmas joy to those who might otherwise receive very little.

Could You Become an Anna Chaplain?

Anna Chaplaincy for older people

As our communities grow older, many people face loneliness, bereavement, ill health, or major life changes. Anna Chaplaincy offers a simple but powerful ministry of presence: walking alongside older people, listening to their stories, offering friendship, prayer, and sharing God's love.

You do not need to be ordained to become an Anna Chaplain. What matters most is a caring heart, a willingness to listen, and a desire to support older people in their faith and wellbeing. Whether in care homes, churches, community settings, or people's homes, Anna Chaplains help ensure that older people know they are valued, remembered, and loved.

If this ministry speaks to you, why not explore it further? We are offering a **free six-week training course** for those who would like to learn more about Anna Chaplaincy and discern whether this could be part of God's calling in their lives. The course will provide practical skills, encouragement, and a deeper understanding of ministry among older people.

This is a wonderful opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of others while growing in your own faith and confidence.

Could God be calling you to this ministry of compassion, companionship, and hope? We'd love to help you find out. Please contact Rev Keir if you want to find out more.

Join St Benedict's 100 Club for 2026-27

We are now inviting new members to join **St Benedict's 100 Club** for the 2026-27 year.
For just **£25 per year**, membership offers a simple way to support the life of our church while also giving you the chance to win a prize. Half of each membership fee goes directly towards the upkeep and maintenance of our beautiful historic church building, helping to ensure that it continues to serve both our worshipping community and the many visitors who come through its doors. The remaining half forms the prize fund for our monthly draws.
The 100 Club is a fun and enjoyable way to contribute to the church's ministry and heritage while having the opportunity to share in the monthly prizes.
If you would like to join, or would like more information, please contact **Veronica Smith** on **07729 058363** by **15 November 2026**. Thank you for helping us care for our church building and support its future.

Safeguarding in the 9 Bridges Benefice

The safety and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults is a priority for all our churches. Our Benefice Safeguarding Officer is **Simon Clayton**, supported by a dedicated safeguarding representative in each parish. Together they help ensure that our churches remain safe, welcoming places where everyone can grow in faith and feel valued.

Safeguarding is not just the responsibility of a few people. It is everyone's responsibility. As Christians, we are called to love our neighbours, protect the vulnerable, and create communities that reflect the welcome, care and compassion of Jesus. If you ever have a safeguarding concern, please speak to Simon or your local parish safeguarding representative.

By working together, we can help ensure that our churches are places where all people are respected, supported and able to flourish.

Meet Your Safeguarding Team

The photographs below show our Benefice Safeguarding Officer, **Simon Clayton**, along with the safeguarding representatives from each of our parishes. They are here to help, support and advise if you have any safeguarding concerns or questions. Please do take a moment to familiarise yourself with who they are. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, but these are the people you can contact if you need guidance or wish to raise a concern.

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<td>Simon Clayton
Administrator and Benefice Safeguarding Officer</td>
<td>Chris Hibbins
Safeguarding Rep
Northborough</td>
<td>Simon Richards
Safeguarding Rep
Glinton</td>
<td>Allison Long
Safeguarding Rep
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<td>Deborah Weston-Fisher
Safeguarding Rep
Maxey</td>
<td>Jayne Peasnell
Safeguarding Rep
Peakirk</td>
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<td>allison@
9bridges.church</td>
<td>debbie@
9bridges.church</td>
<td>jayne.peasnell@
9bridges.church</td>
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PARISHGIVINGSCHEME

Your GIVING MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Faith. Worship. Community. Hope.

Your regular gift through the **Parish Giving Scheme** helps us to share God's love and support our church and our community – today and tomorrow.

BENEFITS OF GIVING THROUGH PGS

REGULAR & RELIABLE
Your gift is received safely and on time, every time.

EASY & CONVENIENT
Set up online, by phone or by post – and manage your gift when you need to.

SAFE & SECURE
Your details are protected and your gift is transferred securely.

FLEXIBLE
You're in control – change or pause your gift at any time.

MORE IMPACT
Lower costs for the church mean more of your gift goes to mission and ministry.

Give TODAY

FOR A STRONGER CHURCH TODAY AND A BRIGHTER FUTURE TOMORROW.

Give online
parishgiving.org.uk

Or call us
0333 002 1260

Where does your gift go?

- Your donation **stays with the Parish** you choose, supporting its ministry and mission.
- Click the link above to **choose** the Parish you would like to support.
- **Want to give to the whole Benefice?** Please contact **admin@9bridges.church** for advice on how to do this.

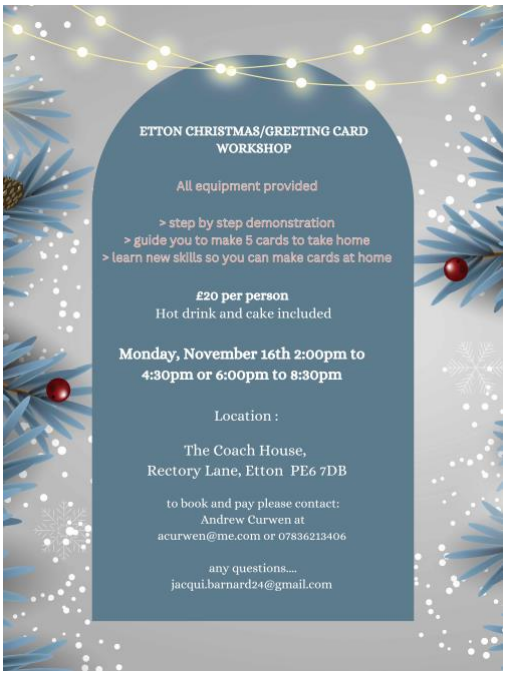
Thank you for your generosity and support.

Every gift, every week, changes lives.

Upcoming Services

Sunday **8th November** **Remembrance Sunday**	**09:00 Holy Communion – Etton** **10:30 Service of Remembrance - Glinton** **10:45 Act of Remembrance – Etton** **10:45 Act of Remembrance – Peakirk** **10:45 Act of Remembrance – Northborough** **10:45 Act of Remembrance - Maxey**
2nd Sunday before Advent **15th November**	**09:00 Holy Communion – Maxey** **10:30 Family Praise – Northborough** **18:00 BCP Evensong - Peakirk**
Christ The King **22nd November**	**09:00 Holy Communion – Northborough** **10:30 Family Holy Communion - Glinton** **18:00 Taizé – Maxey**

DATES for your DIARY

Sing Along Night **of Remembrance** **St. Peter's church** **Maxey** **Saturday 14th November** **19:00**	
Christmas/Greeting Card **Workshop** **The Coach House** **Rectory Lane, Etton PE6 7DB** **Monday 16th November** **14:00 – 16:30** **Or** **18:00 – 20:30** **All equipment provided**	

Ukelele Night **St Benedict's Church, Glinton** **21st November** **Tickets available from** **Julie 01733 252712**	
Christmas Bazaar **Northborough Village Hall** **Saturday 28th November** **14:00 – 16:00**	

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

The Golden Pheasant pub

Etton

Monday 30th November

14:00 – 16:30

Or

18:00 – 20:30

All equipment provided

Nine Bridges

Christmas Concert

Sissons Barn

Peakirk

Saturday 5th December

19:00

Tickets available from Simon@9bridges.church

Peakirk Christmas Tree Lighting and Festivities
Sunday 6 December at 3.00pm

Join us in **Peakirk Church** for the lighting of our Christmas tree, accompanied by carols as we begin the Christmas season together.

Afterwards, everyone is warmly invited to **Messy Church** and a **Bring-and-Share Christmas Tea** in the Village Hall. Whether you're a regular churchgoer or simply looking to enjoy some festive community spirit, we'd love to welcome you.

All are welcome. Come and celebrate the joy of Christmas with us! 🎄✨

Sunday 13 December at Peakirk Church
9:00 Morning Worship: *Love Came Down at Christmas*

Join us at **Peakirk Church** for a special Christmas service exploring the wonder of God's love revealed in the birth of Jesus Christ. Through familiar carols, readings, reflection, and opportunities for congregational participation, we will celebrate the hope, peace, joy, and love that Christmas brings.

Come and share in this uplifting and festive act of worship as we prepare our hearts for Christmas.

Everyone is warmly welcome.

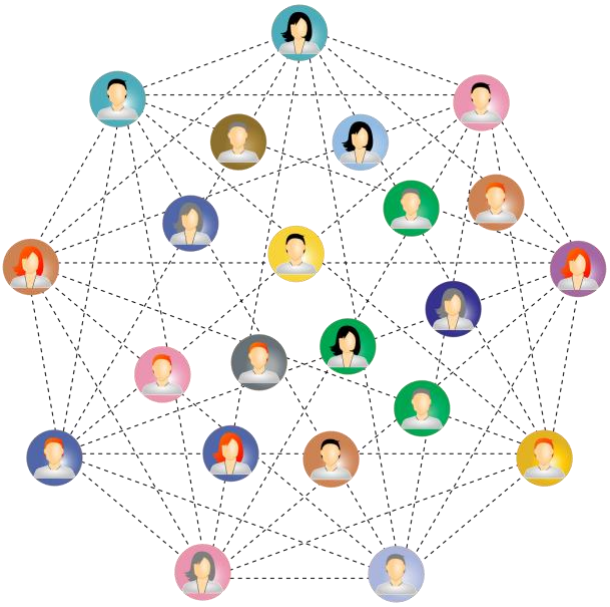
REGULAR DATES for your DIARY

Community Drop-In
Every Wednesday
2.00 - 4.00pm

St Benedict's Church

Free and informal support for anyone who needs it

Open to everyone
Just drop in



Every Wednesday

St Benedict's Glinton

Singing Club for Children

https://9bridges.church/singing-club/

This Week's Collect and Readings

Collect

God of holiness, your glory is proclaimed in every age: as we rejoice in the faith of your saints, inspire us to follow their example with boldness and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

First Reading

A reading from the book of Revelation

I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.' Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

Revelation 7:9-17

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

Second Reading

A Reading from the first letter of John

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

1 John 3:1-3

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

Gospel Reading

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

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.'

Matthew 5:1-12

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

Post Communion Prayer

God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things: may we who have shared at this table as strangers and pilgrims here on earth be welcomed with all your saints to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

And Finally

Please keep all information about upcoming events and reports on past events coming in. Please still email Admin@9bridges.church and I will do my best to get everything in the right place. All feedback is welcome. I am becoming more and more appreciative as to all that Simon does on a weekly basis. Just formatting this newsletter has taken ages. I am sure I will get quicker and more skilful in the weeks ahead. Rev Keir admin@9bridges.church
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