



Benefice Newsletter with Thought for Thursday

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

Thursday October 22nd

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<https://9bridges.church/>

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Sunday 25th October	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

Journeying towards God's Heart

The other day, I had a look back at some of the Th4th's I have written over the last four and a half years, and I realised that there is a bit of a theme going on. I discovered that quite a few of them talk about different pathways that gently lead us closer to God's heart. Sometimes it is a song that has stirred my imagination, or the beauty of nature, a poem maybe or a psalm.

And as I reflected on all this, I began to wonder if it really all was a bit 'me centred'. Then I pondered a little more. And it came to me that it is only as we draw closer to God that we can really be God's people in the world today. Now what does that really mean?

Part of it may be this – to enable us to develop a very particular lens through which we view the world around us and our place in it. And that lens is seeing things with a Jesus-centric view of the world. In other words, we are to cultivate a way of living that views people as Jesus did, precious to him, created in God's image. As we spend time thinking and praying, reflecting on the world around us, reflecting on Scripture, so we allow God's Holy Spirit not only to refine us so that we become a little bit more like Jesus, but also to more accurately perceive how I am to live in today's world. Doing this will enable us to see more clearly how to navigate the particular political and social landscape of our day as Jesus did in his day.

And so I thank God that there are so many different pathways to his heart and I pray that God will continue to stir us all up as we engage in our daily life. I pray we will be looking out for those pathways that will lead us closer to God so that we can be a more faithful representation of who he is to those we encounter day by day, and more faithfully navigate the world in which we live.

Freda

Upcoming Services

All Saints 1st November	09:00 Morning Worship – Glington 10:30 Sung Communion -Peakirk 18:00 Celtic Evening Prayer – Northborough
Sunday 8th November Remembrance Sunday	09:00 Holy Communion – Etton 10:30 Service of Remembrance - Glington 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

NEWS

Harvest Thank You



A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our Harvest collections this year. Through your generosity, we were able to donate approximately **264kg of food**, providing the equivalent of approximately **599 meals** for people and families in need.

Harvest reminds us not only to give thanks for God's provision, but also to share what we have with others. Your donations are a wonderful expression of God's love in action, offering practical support and hope to those facing difficult times.

Thank you for helping to make such a difference in the lives of others. May God bless all who gave so generously.

All Souls

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

All Souls' 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.



Tea@3 at Northborough Church



It is always a little daunting to start a new initiative – will it work, will it prove to be something people value, would it be missed if it wasn't there?

And all of these questions have gradually been answered.

We discovered back in April that it would be better to host it in the Claypole Chapel rather than at the back of the church. Then in May, we realised that tables with gingham cloths would be more welcoming.

In June, we moved the children's area away from the steps and in July decided that September would provide an excellent opportunity to support Macmillan Nurses.

And all the time, a community of people was growing, people who come for different reasons, but all looking for

conversation, companionship, tea and cake. October brought a deep sense of belonging coupled with a warm welcome to newcomers.

And now.....St Andrew's Church is cold on an autumn afternoon so sadly Tea@3 won't be back until Spring 2027.

However –on Saturday 28th November in Northborough Village hall Tea, Cake and Conversation will be in ample supply at the St Andrew's Christmas Bazaar and so we look forward to welcoming you there.

Music at Evensong and Looking Ahead to Christmas

Our recent Evensong was a wonderful occasion, marked by beautiful music, prayerful worship and a real sense of reflection. The choir sang with great skill and sensitivity, bringing depth and expression to the canticles and anthem, while moments such as the sung *Our Father* provided a particular sense of beauty and stillness.

We would like to congratulate Tom and Kursty on singing their first Evensong with the choir. It was a tremendous achievement, and we look forward to many more services together in the years ahead.

A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone who contributed to the service. David's remarkable versatility saw him ringing bells, accompanying, singing and helping to keep everything running smoothly. His musicianship is a tremendous blessing to our churches. Thanks also to Simon for leading



the service so thoughtfully and to Nic for recording the service for those unable to attend.

As we move from the richness of autumn into the excitement of Advent and Christmas, the choir is already hard at work preparing seasonal music. There is much to learn, from traditional carols to festive favourites, but enthusiasm is high and preparations are well underway.

Please make a note in your diaries of our **Christmas Concert on Saturday 5th December**, which promises to be a joyful celebration of the season with music old and new. Further details will be available soon, and we hope many from across the benefice will come along to enjoy an evening of festive cheer.

Thank you to all our musicians and choir members for the dedication, time and talent they give so generously to enrich our worship throughout the year. Their ministry helps us all encounter something of God's beauty through music.

ST. PEGA'S CLEAN UP AND CLEAR UP.

A total of 25 people including 4 enthusiastic and energetic young people helped with this event. The majority met at the church on Saturday 17th October on a chilly but dry and bright morning.

Inside, the helpers swept, removed cobwebs, polished brass and silver, cleaned kneelers and treated all the woodwork with a special "brew" which cleans and nourishes the wood. The result was lots of shining surfaces and a beautiful smell!

Outside the tasks included checking/ clearing guttering, stimming the edges of paths, pruning back bushes and overhanging branches, removing slippery moss from the path, weeding specific areas and planting some bulbs.

Mid morning hot drinks and biscuits were served by two very efficient and charming young helpers and the morning ended at 12.30 with hot drinks and hot dogs.

This was a very friendly and sociable event and we were delighted to welcome many people who are not regular members of our congregation but who value the role played by the church and are happy to lend their support. Huge thanks go to everyone who gave of their time and energy to take part.

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?

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.

Bringing the Bells Back Within Reach

For more than 400 years, the six bells of **St Peter's Church, Maxey** have been at the heart of village life. They have rung out in celebration at weddings, marked moments of farewell at funerals, and called generations to worship. Today, however, the future of that tradition depends on us.

Our dedicated band of bellringers is still as enthusiastic as ever, but the journey to the ringing chamber is becoming increasingly challenging. Climbing 26 uneven spiral stone steps, followed by four wooden ones, is not quite as easy as it once was. Some of our ringers joke that an oxygen mask and a course of steroids might soon be essential equipment!

The solution is simple: bring the ringing circle back downstairs.

The bells themselves have had quite a journey over the centuries. Originally rung from the upper chamber in the 1600s, they were moved downstairs in the 1940s, returned upstairs in the 1970s, and now the time has come to bring them back down once more. Doing so will make ringing safer, more accessible, and more sustainable for current and future ringers.



Just as importantly, it will allow our ringers to be part of the life of the church rather than tucked away high above it. We would love to share more fully in worship, be present with the congregation, and not have to race down the tower in time for Communion.

We are therefore seeking support from anyone with an interest in bellringing, church heritage, local history, accessibility, or community life. Funds raised will go towards the installation of a bell guide system and the associated works required to make this project a reality.

Every gift, whether large or small, will help ensure that the bells of St Peter's continue to ring out across Maxey for many years to come, preserving an important part of our heritage while making it accessible for future generations.

Please consider supporting this project. Your generosity will help keep the bells ringing, keep our ringers involved, and keep this wonderful tradition alive. **Thank you for your support, 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>



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AND A BRIGHTER FUTURE TOMORROW.



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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.*



DATES for your DIARY

Poppy Making Workshop

**St. Pega's church
Peakirk**

10:00 – 12:00

Thursday 29th October

**Materials provided
(except wool and needles)**

POPPY MAKING

WORKSHOP

Help to create a display
for Peakirk's war memorial
and the Village monument

ST PEGA'S CHURCH

Thursday October 29th

10.00am – 12.00noon

Materials provided (except wool and
needles.)

Patterns available in the church if you want to knit or
crochet poppies in advance.

Refreshments All are welcome.

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



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

A flyer for a Christmas Wreath making workshop. The flyer is framed by a decorative border of holly leaves, red berries, and pine branches. At the top center, the text "Etton Christmas Wreath making workshop" is written in red. Below this, it says "Full demonstration so you can make your own wreath to take home". A list of provided items follows: "everything provided to make and decorate your wreath" and "extra decorations available to buy". It then asks participants to bring their own: "Gardening gloves", "secateurs or garden scissors", and "wire cutters for thin wire". The cost is listed as "£35 per person/wreath" and "Hot drink and cake included". The dates and times are "Monday 30th November 2:00-4.30 or 6:00-8:30pm". The location is "The Golden Pheasant Pub, Etton". Contact information for booking is "Andrew Curwen - acurwen@me.com or 07836213406". A final line says "Any questions: jacqui.barnard24@gmail.com".

Etton
Christmas Wreath making workshop

Full demonstration so you can make your own wreath to take home

- everything provided to make and decorate your wreath
- extra decorations available to buy

Please bring your own:

- Gardening gloves
- secateurs or garden scissors
- wire cutters for thin wire

£35 per person/wreath
Hot drink and cake included

**Monday 30th November 2:00-4.30
or 6:00-8:30pm**

Location:
The Golden Pheasant Pub, Etton

To book and pay please contact:
Andrew Curwen - acurwen@me.com or
07836213406

Any questions: jacqui.barnard24@gmail.com

A poster for the Ginton Christmas Tree Switch On event. The background is dark blue with out-of-focus white and yellow lights. A large yellow star is on the right. The text "Ginton Christmas Tree Switch On" is in white, with "Switch On" in a larger, cursive font. Below this, the date and time are "Thursday 3rd December 2025 at 6.45pm" and the location is "St. Benedict's Churchyard Ginton". A list of activities follows: "All welcome to our annual Christmas Tree Lights Switch On", "Sing festive songs & carols", "Countdown to the grand illumination", "The church bells ring as the lights are switched on", and "Refreshments including mulled wine & mince pies, served inside St. Benedict's Church". At the bottom, it says "Funded by Ginton Parish Council".

**Ginton Christmas Tree
Switch On**

**Thursday 3rd December 2025 at 6.45pm
St. Benedict's Churchyard Ginton**

All welcome to our annual Christmas Tree Lights Switch On
Sing festive songs & carols
Countdown to the grand illumination
The church bells ring as the lights are switched on
Refreshments including mulled wine & mince pies,
served inside St. Benedict's Church

Funded by Ginton Parish Council

**Nine Bridges
Christmas Concert**

**Sissons Barn
Peakirk**

**Saturday 5th December
19:00**



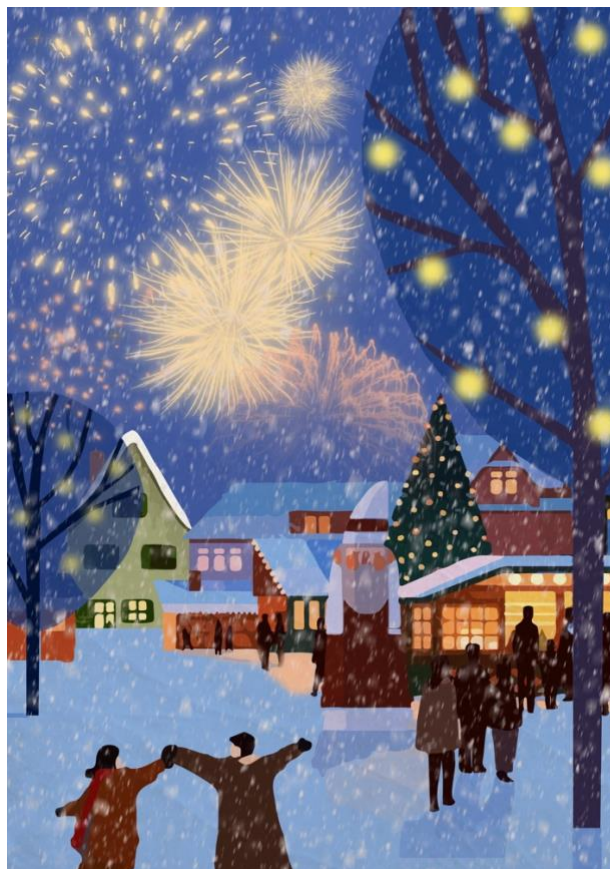
**Peakirk Christmas Tree Lighting
and Festivities**

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. 🎄 ✨



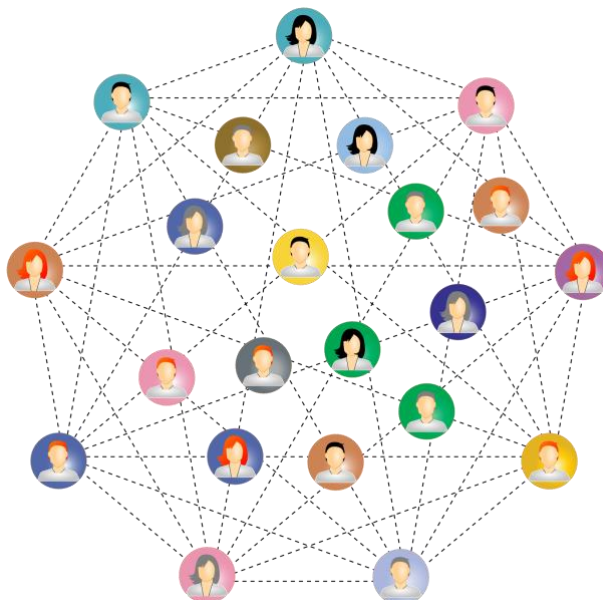
REGULAR DATES for your DIARY

**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**

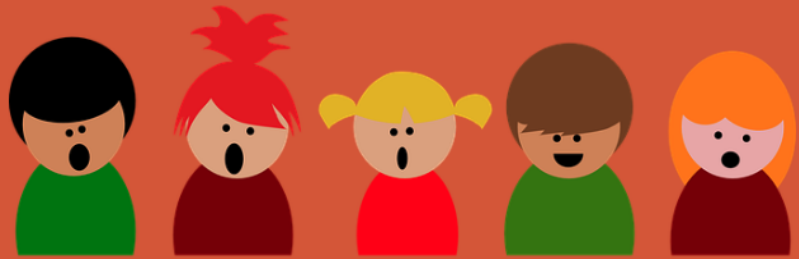


Every Wednesday

St Benedict's Ginton

Singing Club for Children

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



The 9 Bridges Benefice is delighted to launch a **Singing Club** for children!

This Week's Collect and Readings

Collect

Merciful God, teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty, that trusting in your word and obeying your will we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Old Testament Reading

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. The LORD said to him, ‘This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, “I will give it to your descendants”; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.’ Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the LORD’s command. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigour had not abated. The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab for thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended. Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses. Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

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

New Testament Reading

A Reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully maltreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

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 the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, '“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.' Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: 'What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?' They said to him, 'The son of David.' He said to them, 'How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet’ ”? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?' No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Matthew 22:34-46

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

Post Communion Prayer

God of all grace, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And Finally

Don't forget I'll be going on leave for an extended period, later this week, so if you have any items for the newsletter send them to me and Rev Keir will pick up from my account. The newsletter will be in the safe hands of Rev Keir, during my absence and I trust you to keep him busy with news items and upcoming events

Simon

P.S. This is Rev Keir and I have done the final edit and send for this week as I wanted to ensure I could do it before Simon goes away. Please let me know of any errors or even things you like!!

Rev Keir

admin@9bridges.church

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