Benefice Newsletter
with Thought for Thursday

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

Thursday November 5th

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SERVICES THIS WEEK	
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**
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

Today is 5th November, we always call it bonfire night, some call it Guy Fawkes night some fireworks night. Either on the day itself, or the nearest Friday/Saturday/Sunday (or now it seems any day within a two week margin) there are fireworks going off either in large organised events or privately in people's gardens, at various times of day and night.

Growing up, it was always the highlight of this time of year, when Halloween was just given a cursory thought, and just a bit spooky, bonfire night was much more important. Whether it was building a bonfire, which started weeks before, making a guy out of old cloths stuffed with straw or leaves, or collecting a 'penny for the guy' from neighbours or friends to buy fireworks.

Falling as it does right in middle of a season of remembrance, earlier in the week, as mentioned, Halloween (all hallows eve), 31st, all Saints Day 1st, All Sauls day 2nd. Remembrance Sunday 8th and actual Remembrance Day 11th. Coincidentally this year we are also thinking about and remembering this week the horrors of the European slave trade and Britain involvement.

But what are we celebrating or remembering and how deeply are we effected by it?

We may be aware that Guy Fawkes had something to do with gunpowder and possibly he was involved in some sort of plot to blow up Parliament. If asked most would imagine that probably had to do with the bonfire and fireworks.

Few recall, what we should recall, is the period of incredible and terrible religious persecution of Christians by fellow Christians, perpetrated on denominations by another for the previous 70 odd years, with the most horrendous extremes to prevent those of conviction expressing and practicing their faith. (As throughout history religious persecution is never without a political motive or influence and acts in the name of religion generally are perpetrated for nefarious reasons) And would continue for centuries to come.

In fact Fawkes was a hired mercenary sympathetic to the catholic cause who managed to become the historic symbol of the ill fated attempt to kill the Protestant King James1. The horrendous (and to us barbaric end for traitors was to be publicly hung drawn and quartered. Bonfires were lit across London in celebration of the escape of the King from danger following the failed plot. Lesser known is the 1606 Thanksgiving Act making November the 5th an annual day of thanksgiving with mandatory church services (attendance compulsory) and bonfires. This did not officially end until 1859 when it was repealed.

However the bigotry and nationalism in the name of religion still lurks close to the surface.
Our various acts of remembrance, during this time, for more recent historic events should not become a habit, or just an opportunity to dress up, dust off the poppy wreaths, say some familiar words or parade National pride, important though these things are, but to recall the terrible cost to all humanity of persecution, warfare, strife, greed, bigotry and hatred.

Every Sunday is a Remembrance Day of one who opposed all these things, it cost him his life, but he had the power to conquer death and prove that love is greater than hatred and even death.
Let's truly remember, and in doing so strive in what even small way we are able to 'live in peace with all'

Reader Mark

Upcoming Services

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

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.

Dominus Illuminatio Mea

Get ready for an Advent afternoon bursting with Christmas joy! The Deanery Youth Events programme is returning with *Dominus Illuminatio Mea* ("The Lord is my light"), a special Christmas event inspired by Psalm 27:1 for children and young people across our area. Helping to bring it all to life is Roisin Kuruvilla, whom many of you will remember warmly from her time as our intern last year. What a joy to see her continuing to encourage young people in their faith!

Join the fun on **Saturday 5th December, 1.00pm to 4.00pm, at St Jude's Church, Peterborough**. Open to **young people aged 8–14**, the afternoon promises friendship, activities and a chance to explore the Christmas story together, discovering how each of us can shine God's light in the world. Have a child, grandchild or young friend who might enjoy it? Give them a nudge, invite a friend and help spread the excitement! We would love to see young people from across the benefice joining in, making connections and growing in faith. **Take a look at the event poster for details and booking information**—and help us share the invitation far and wide. Let's make this a joyful start to Advent!



Mission 2027

As we continue to seek ways of growing in faith and sharing the good news of Jesus, we are delighted that an **Alpha Course** will be starting in the New Year, offering a relaxed and welcoming space to explore faith and life's big questions.

We are also looking ahead to our **Benefice Mission Day** around the beginning of Lent, an opportunity to reflect together on God's call to serve our communities, deepen our discipleship, and grow in confidence as witnesses to Christ. Further details about both events will be shared in the coming weeks.

Anna Chaplains

Anna Chaplains offer spiritual care and companionship to older people in churches, homes and care settings, and for their families and carers. Named after the widow Anna, who appears alongside Simeon in Luke's Gospel, the ministry draws on their examples of faithfulness in later life.

Bringing together Christians from different denominations, Anna Chaplaincy is a person-centred ministry of accompanying older people of all faiths, cultures, spiritualities and contexts, helping them know they are valued, remembered and loved by God.

On 9 October, Anna Chaplains from across the Diocese gathered at the Bishop's Palace for a Quiet Day, an opportunity to step back from the busyness of ministry, spend time in God's presence and encourage one another in their shared calling.



Led by Liz Kelly, Anna Chaplain Lead for the Diocese, the day explored the theme 'God Cares for Us' through worship, reflection and creativity, with Scripture readings including Psalm 71 and Isaiah 49:13–16.

Bishop Debbie joined the chaplains and shared a reflection, inviting them to rest in the assurance of God's faithful love and care.

Alongside prayer and personal reflection, hot drinks, soup and lunch offered time to share experiences, encourage one another and enjoy conversation and laughter.

That fellowship is particularly valuable for a ministry rooted in being alongside others. Through listening, prayer and companionship, Anna Chaplains affirm that growing older does not diminish a person's place in the Church or their value in God's sight.

We are deeply grateful for the compassion, time and faithfulness of our Anna Chaplains and for the hope and presence of Christ they share with older people and those who care for them.

We would love to see Anna Chaplaincy grow across the Diocese. If you have a heart for older people, we encourage you to explore what this ministry could look like in your parish, benefice or local community. It could begin with a conversation, taking time to listen or helping someone know they are never forgotten by God.

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.

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

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Your gift is received safely and on time, every time.

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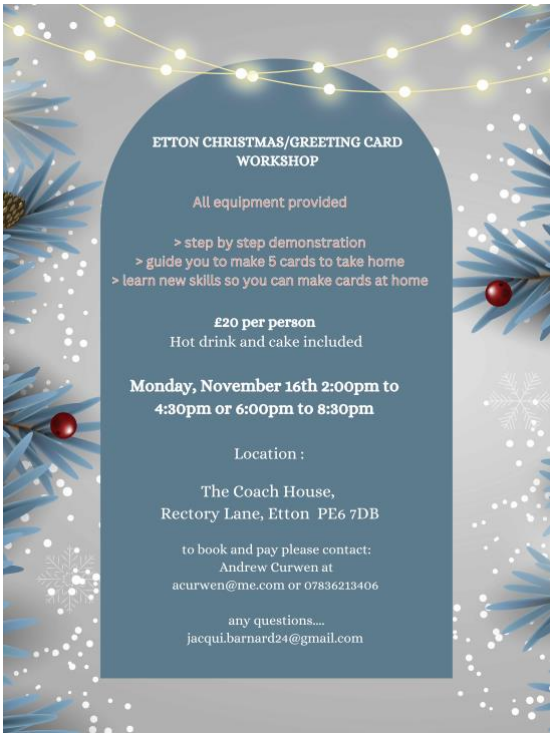
Where does your gift go?

- 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

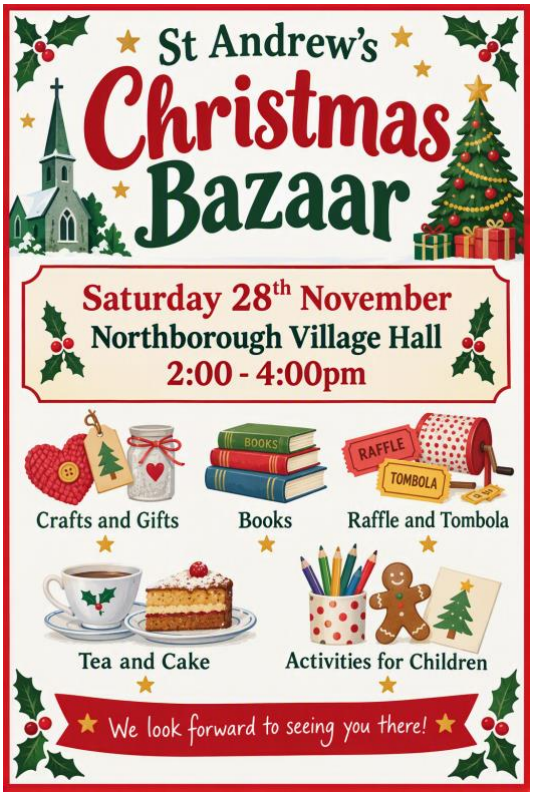
Sing Along Night **of Remembrance** **St. Peter's church** **Maxey** **Saturday 14th November** **19:00**	
Christmas/Greeting Card **Workshop** **The Coach House** **Rectory Lane, Etton PE6 7DB** **Monday 16th November** **14:00 – 16:30** **Or** **18:00 – 20:30** **All equipment provided**	

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





Nine Bridges

Christmas Concert

Sissons Barn

Peakirk

Saturday 5th December

19:00

Tickets available form Simon Richards (simon.richards@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*

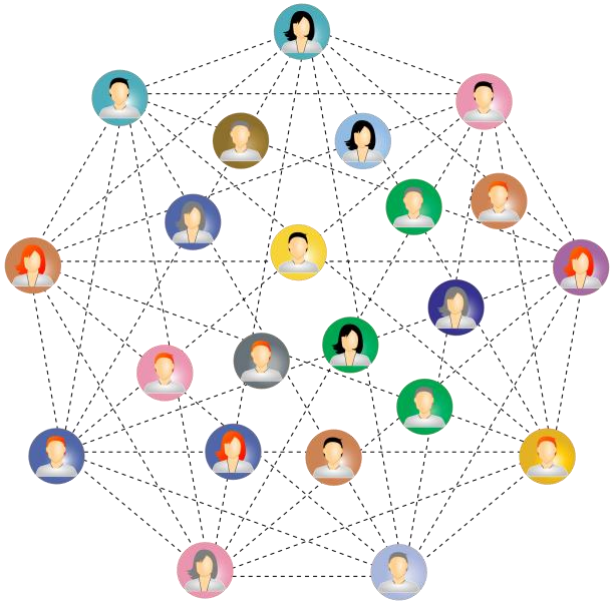
Join us at **Peakirk Church** for a special Christmas service exploring the wonder of God's love revealed in the birth of Jesus Christ. Through familiar carols, readings, reflection, and opportunities for congregational participation, we will celebrate the hope, peace, joy, and love that Christmas brings.

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/	

Benefice Prayers

For Our Community

We lift up in prayer all who live, work or visit the benefice and this week we especially pray for all who live in Websters Close, Glinton, Oak Road, Glinton, Church Street, Northborough & Church Street, 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, Jacqui Barnard** and **Derek Harris.** May they find strength, comfort, and restoration.

For Those We Hold in Our Hearts

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

For the Growth of Our Church

Lord, as we remember those who have gone before us, unite our church in love and hope. Help us welcome all, serve our neighbours and work for peace. Amen.

Contact Simon C (administrator) Tel: 01733 372726 admin@9bridges.church Works Monday PM & Tuesday PM	Contact for Rev Keir: Tel: **01733 372725** Mob: 079804 12345 vicar@9bridges.church Rest day usually Friday

This Week's Collect and Readings

Collect

God, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

A reading from the book of the prophet Amos.

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Amos 5:18-24

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4.13–18

Gospel Reading

Jesus said to his disciples, 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'

Matthew 25.1–13

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

Rev Keir

admin@9bridges.church

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