

**The Benefice of
Holy Innocents, Great Barton & St Peter's, Thurston**
<https://www.greatbartonandthurston.org.uk>



Sunday 21st September 2025
Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist
14th Sunday after Trinity

8.30am: Proverbs 3: 13-18. Matthew 9: 9-13

10.30am: Proverbs 3: 13-18. 2 Corinthians 4: 1-6. Matthew 9: 9-13.

Readings: 8.30am: NRSV. 10.30am MSG version please.

COLLECT

**O Almighty God,
whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax collector
to be an apostle and evangelist:
give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain
and the possessive love of riches
that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen**

Rev'd Ben Edwards

email revdbenjaminedwards@gmail.com or call 07771 925491

Ben's time off is Friday pm and Saturdays.

Churchwardens

Holy Innocents Gt.Barton

Tim Frost 01284 787442 or 07840 249448

Angela Pearce 01359 256213

St Peter's Thurston

Pat Sadler 07552 234443

Margery Ashford 01359 231007 or 07443 414622

Reader: Kathy Drakes. Email kathy@drakesfamily.org. 07966 242616

Services for this week

Sunday 21st September: (Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist Festival)

Holy Communion (BCP) at St Peter's at 8.30am

Benefice All Age Communion (CW) at Holy Innocents, at 10.30am

Wednesday 24th September:

Holy Communion (CW) at St Peter's at 10.30am

Services for next week

Sunday 28th September:

Benefice All Age Communion at St Peter's at 10.30am.

Wednesday 1st October:

Holy Communion (CW) at Montana, Gt Barton at 11.15am



Praying for our Benefice

We pray for;-

Rev'd Steph, Pam Cotton, Steve and Barbara Blanchard, Eileen Rogers, Ian Baxter, Betty & Norman Blades, Alexander, Hayley, Cathy McQueen, Maureen and Peter, Tom, David Sheppard, Roger and Pat Boyes, Silvia, Deidre and Derek Caley, Kathleen Sewter, David and Mary Edwards.

- **We pray for those places where there is war and unrest, where people are persecuted for who they are and where people live daily with fear, starvation and thirst.**
- **We pray for the peacemakers, that their efforts will be rewarded with eternal peace.**
- **We pray for the recently departed, and those who mourn their loss.**
- **At the end of our days on earth be with us and with those we love, and may those who have gone before us rest in your eternal peace.**
- **Comfort and heal those who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit, and give them courage and hope.**
- **We pray for all the people in our parishes of Great Barton and Thurston. May they be aware of neighbours in need.**
- **We pray for ourselves that we may show loving kindness to everyone.**



St Peter's Church Thurston
Flower Festival
13th and 14th September 2025

THANK YOU

A sincere thank you to all of those who helped, in whatever way, to make this event a great success. The church looked amazing, and we have received lots of complimentary comments about the arrangements. The grand sum of £655 was raised for church funds, so THANK YOU, one and all.

Kind Regards Pat & Margery.



Church Cycle Ride

Thank you to the people who registered the cyclists who visited St Peter's, last Sunday.

30 cyclists came, the first at 9.00 the last at 4.30.

Thank you too to the people who very kindly donated money which will be shared between the Suffolk Historic Churches Fund and St Peter's Church.

Mary Fawcett

Fair Trade Fortnight

This year Fair Trade Fortnight will be from September 22nd to October 5th.

I will be bringing a selection of products to sell after the Benefice All Age Communion Service at St Peter's Church on Sunday 28th September.

Do come and see what is available.

Gill Flower



VISION DAY AT ST PETER'S CHURCH THURSTON

Vision Day October 12th, after the St Peter's service. This is an opportunity to come together over lunch and discuss our church and the direction we are travelling in. It gives us all a chance to share our experiences of our church and have our thoughts heard together. Questions to discuss will be: What are our churches good at? What makes your heart sing? What new things might we do in our ministry within our church? How might we reach out to our community in loving service? How might we reach out to our community with the Gospel message?

Bring your own lunch or enough to share. The discussion will begin at 12pm and last for around an hour. Together we can share a vision of what shape our journey with Christ might take as a united Benefice of two distinct churches.

Fr Ben



ENJOY SINGING? JOIN OUR CHURCH CHOIR!

For over 500 years, there has been a robed Church choir singing at the Parish Church in Great Barton. This very friendly group meets every Friday evening at 7.30pm at the Church, and newcomers are made most welcome. We sing a wide range of music.

Singing in a church choir for younger members has been proven to increase intelligence, reading skills, confidence, as well as being great fun. They can also earn medals from the Royal School of Church Music. Older members also gain from proven improvements in Posture, breathing, lower blood pressure, and general well-being. You will also make new friends. It is totally free of charge to join the church choir, and everything is provided. You can just pop along and give it a go without obligation. No previous experience of singing is needed!

For further information on the Church choir give Margaret a ring on 01284 788196, or just come along any Friday evening or chat to any member of the choir after any Church service.



RE Raffle Fundraiser!

£1 a ticket
Handmade
prizes to be
won!

2nd prize – Turtle family



1st prize – Flowery lap blanket



5th prize – Flexagon fidget toy



4th prize – Set of sunflower coasters



3rd prize – Child's handwarmers



Cash payment for raffle tickets to be placed in envelopes with your name clearly on the front FAO Mrs Mizen at Great Barton Primary.

Absolutely anyone can enter – parents, grandparents, carers, pupils, staff, friends, the more the merrier!

Prizes will be drawn on 20th October 2025 and winners will be notified asap.

Money raised will go towards the RE budget.

Many thanks for your support!

Mrs Mizen – RE Co-ordinator

If you are able, we would really appreciate your support to boost our RE budget. Please see flyer attached with further details and photos of the prizes.

Tickets can be purchased for £1 each and for each £1 your name will be put into the hat. Boost your chances of winning by buying multiple tickets!

Names will be drawn on 20th October and winners will be notified.

Cash payments to be placed in an envelope with your name clearly on the front FAO Mrs Mizen.

Thank you in advance for your support!

**Mrs Mizen
RE Co-ordinator**



Bereavement Café – Thurston.

Where?

New Green Centre, New Green Avenue, Thurston,

When?

October 2nd 2025, 2.00pm – 4.00pm.

How Much?

Free

A drop-in session for those coping with bereavement, run by St Nicholas Hospice Care, held at the Thurst Café in the New Green Community Centre, in Thurston. This drop-in session will be held every fortnight on a Thursday, between 2-4pm. The Bereavement Café is a space where people can talk about the pain of loss and also find courage and strength in knowing they are not alone. You may be more of a talker or better at quietly listening, but that doesn't matter as the café is intended to be a place where emotions can be expressed freely and stories can be shared.

The St Nicholas Hospice Care Patient and Family Support Team, which leads the project, explains: “Grief can turn your world upside down and make you feel lost. “Talking about how you feel can help. Everyone experiences grief in a unique way. We want the Bereavement Café to be a place where people who have had similar experiences can share their stories.

“The idea behind the Bereavement Café is to make the whole process of grief more natural and by letting it back into society hopefully we will be able to take away some of the stigma that it has to happen behind closed doors.”

The drop-in is not designed to be a counselling session; it is a supportive environment for reflection and conversation, a place where people will be able to find mutual support and encouragement when they need it most.

All sessions will be overseen by trained Hospice volunteers who will be able to offer further advice and guidance.

Please call the Hospice's Patient and Family Support Team (01284 715572) or check the Hospice's website to make sure that the group is going ahead. You can also email patientandfamilysupport@stnh.org.uk.

Upcoming dates include: 2025:

2 October, 16 October, 30 October, 13 November, 27

November and 11 December.

2026: 8 January, 22 January, 5 February, 19 February, 5 March, 19 March, 2 April and 30 April.

<https://stnicholashospice.org.uk/news-community/events-listing/bereavement-cafe-thurston/>

**Great Barton and Thurston Benefice Services
October 2025**

Wednesday 1st October:

Holy Communion (CW) at Montana, Gt Barton at 11.15am

Sunday 5th October:

Benefice Sung Eucharist, at Holy Innocents at 10.30am

Choral Evensong at St Peter's at 6.30pm

Wednesday 8th October:

Holy Communion (CW) at Holy Innocents at 10.30am

Sunday 12th October:

Benefice Service, Sung Eucharist at St Peter's at 10.30am

Evensong at Holy Innocents at 6.30pm

Wednesday 15th October:

Holy Communion (CW) at St Peter's at 10.30am

Sunday 19th October:

Holy Communion (BCP) at St Peter's at 8.30am

All Age Communion Service (CW), at Holy Innocents at 10.30am

Wednesday 22nd October:

No Service

Sunday 26th October: Bible Sunday.

Holy Communion Service (CW) at St Peter's at 10.30am

Wednesday 29th October:

Holy Communion (CW) at St Peter's at 10.30am

(CW Common Worship, BCP Book of Common Prayer)

Benefice of Holy Innocents Great Barton & St Peter's Thurston.

"Our vision is to create a safe and nurturing environment for all, reflecting God's love and justice. We are committed to excellent safeguarding practices, ensuring our church is a place where everyone, especially the most vulnerable, feels protected and valued. This commitment is integral to our Christian mission and ministry, enabling us to live out the Gospel message of love, compassion, and wholeness."
To see our Safeguarding documents please follow the link to our website:

<https://www.greatbartonandthurston.org.uk/>

St Peter's

Jigsaws are again available, to be bought or swapped, from the porch, at a suggested donation of £2.

There is also a big selection inside the church for you to browse.

Thank you

Churchwardens Pat & Margery

STOREHOUSE, PLEASE give generously at this time when so many families are relying on food banks. Thank you

Goods and donations for Thurston can be left at No 31, School Rd, Thurston, donations for Great Barton can be left at Holy Innocents church or with Tim Frost at 2, Diomed Drive, Great Barton.

Visit the following to get the latest information :-

Website: <https://www.greatbartonandthurston.org.uk>

Facebook pages:

Holy Innocents: <https://www.facebook.com/Holy-Innocents-Church-Great-Barton-685807921585678/>

St Peter's: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Peters-Church-Thurston-1790473917903849/>

**Please email any notices to Peter Robinson beneficepr@gmail.com
or tel: 07814 946841 by **Thursday 25th September 2025.****

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