



All Saints, Little Casterton



St Peter & St Paul, Great Casterton

Four Churches



Together

All Saints, Pickworth



St Peter's Tickencote



AUGUST
2025

Calendar for August

Day	Time	Activity	Place
3	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Little Casterton
3	10.30 am	Holy Communion	Great Casterton
3	1 pm	Baptism	Great Casterton
6	10.30 am	Celtic Prayers	Great Casterton
6	11.00 am	Coffee, Cake and Chat	The Crown
7	9.00am	Parish Breakfast	Garden Centre
7	7.00pm	House Group	Harvard
10	10.15 am	Café Church	Church Hall
16	12.00	Saturday Live -Jennifer Addey	Great Casterton
17	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Little Casterton
17	10.30 am	Holy Communion	Great Casterton
17	1.00 pm	Baptism	Great Casterton
20	10.30 am	Celtic Prayers	Great Casterton
20	11.00 am	Coffee, Cakes and Chat	The Crown
21	7.00 pm	House Group	Harvard
24	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Pickworth
24	10.30 am	Morning Praise	Great Casterton
26	7.30 pm	Parsons Pint	The Crown
27	10.30 am	Celtic Prayers	Great Casterton
27	11.00 am	Coffee, Cakes & Chat	The Crown
31	10.30 am	Benefice Holy Communion	Great Casterton
Sept 1	2.00 pm	Book Group Meeting	Mary Sproson's

FOUR CHURCHES NEWS

AUGUST 2025

Hi Everyone,

Another record-breaking month on the weather front with temperatures getting into the mid-thirties Celsius. The word Heatwave has never been used so regularly in our weather forecasts as in this year of 2025. Experts in climate are telling us this could be the new norm.

It's nice having warm weather in this country but, as we have seen on television over the last few weeks, high temperatures can devastate our environment with an increase in wildfire activity, lower reservoir levels and general uncomfortableness. I attended a golden wedding celebration last weekend when three guests collapsed from heat exhaustion. Thankful today as I write this article the biggest thunderstorm of the season has just passed by but it looks very much like a temporary reprieve. So, in these warm and sticky environments it's really important to stay hydrated and to look after our neighbours.

But who are our neighbours. Our gospel reading a few Sundays ago was the parable of the good Samaritan when an expert of the law tests Jesus by asking the most important of all questions. "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life." "What does it say in the law" Jesus responds. "To love the Lord, your God with all you heart, soul and strength and to love your neighbour as yourself". "You have answered well" Jesus tells him "Do this and you will inherit eternal life". But being a persistent young man he questions the teacher "and who is my neighbour" The answer comes back to him in the form of the parable we all love so much.

A man travelled from Jerusalem to Jerico and was set upon by robbers, leaving him half dead. A priest came down the road and when he saw the unfortunate, passed by on the other side. Likewise, a Levite. Then one of the despised Samaritans came along and when he saw the man in trouble, tended to him, bandaged him up, took him to an inn and asked the Landlord to look after him, giving the landlord two silver coins with the promise if you need any more I will pay you the remainder when I come this way again.

Our neighbours on many occasions are the ones we least expect help from, not necessarily those next door but anyone who is prepared to go the extra mile to help us in our time of need. It's a reciprocal instruction as well, we too need to be good neighbours to those who need our help.

There are four qualities in being a good neighbour which we all can follow. Be perceptive to recognise that someone is in difficulty. Be compassionate and look for ways to help. Be selfless and go out of your way to assist. That might mean driving someone to hospital or helping with the shopping. Finally, be prepared to take a risk, especially in this world of scammers, who have not got our best interests at heart.

In our story of the good Samaritan the helper was willing in three key aspects of true neighbourliness. He was willing to be inconvenienced. In today's modern world everything seems to be done at pace. We have plans for the day and they must be adhered to otherwise someone will be upset.

He was willing to invest time on another human being. We can all be so selfish at times in this me, me, me world and finally he was willing to invest his own resources without any guarantees of repayment. In our case we might have to sacrifice being recompensated for petrol money after driving someone to hospital.

That's the way it should be with us if we truly profess the Christian faith. Get involved with others in need and that will on occasions, mean people we don't get along with. Everyone is our neighbour and especially those we have probably never met. When the expert of the law recognised the Samaritan as the neighbour who showed mercy to the man who was robbed. Jesus said to him go and do likewise, and that statement equally applies to us in the 21st.- century.

Have a great summer break and do be aware of your neighbour who may need help.

Every Blessing

Rev. Don

SEEING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

August is a month that brings us 'the summer'... Now I don't know about you but I often find myself wondering what that will mean, will it be full on heat of summer, torrential rain, cloudy cool days or all of the above! We will simply have to wait and see and whatever faces us we will no doubt adapt whatever we are doing to fit the situation as best we can. This sense of the need to adapt and see things differently brings to mind Bartholomew, one of Jesus 12 disciples, mentioned in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. John's gospel never mentions Bartholomew but does mention Nathanael (the others don't) so many think that Bartholomew and Nathanael are the same person. I love Nathanael's first encounter with Jesus. Philip comes and tells him about Jesus of Nazareth to which Nathanael replies 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' It's a slightly grumpy response, maybe like those hoping for lovely summer holiday weather in August, he's been let down a few times before. Still, what happens next is a story of being completely turned around. Jesus tells Nathanael that he saw him under the fig tree before Philip called him. Nathanael is so surprised by this he changes from sceptic to believer, and even more than Philip had said. Nathanael says to Jesus "you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel." There are many times when we are sceptical or doubt but when we meet Jesus for ourselves our outlook can be transformed, when we realise, we are known and loved by Jesus it changes everything. Come rain or shine this August, I pray you find some time to meet Jesus in the pages of the Bible, in the family of the church, in a quiet place (like Nathanael's fig tree) where you are seen and loved.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Alison Booker', enclosed within a thin black rectangular frame.

The Venerable Alison Booker Archdeacon of Oakham

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Produced by the Diocesan Office, The Palace, Peterborough, PE1 1YB Tel:

01733 887000 Email: [communications@peterborough-](mailto:communications@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)

[diocese.org.uk](mailto:communications@peterborough-diocese.org.uk) www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk

FORTHCOMING SATURDAY LIVE EVENTS IN 2025

August 16th Jennifer Addey

September 20th: 'Tolethorpe Behind the Scenes' - talk by Mike Harrison

October 18th Ukulele 2020

FORTHCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS FOR 2025:

September 13th - RHCPT Ride and Stride 10.00am - 6.00pm.

September 20th - Open Coffee Morning - in Church Hall
10.00-11.45 am before talk about Tolethorpe.

September 28th - Harvest Lunch - after church service.

October 31st - Barn Dance led by Don's Band with bar and supper.

November 22nd - Quiz

Please put the dates in your diary.



SUMMER FUN DAY UPDATE

A beautiful hot summer's day welcomed lots of people to the church hall on Saturday 26th June 2025. Children enjoyed playing the games outside and there was plenty to do indoors. We had stalls for children's toys and books, and a children's tombola which went down very well. For the adults we had a tombola with 130 different bottles ranging from whiskey and gin to bottled water and shampoo and a white elephant stall with lots of lovely gifts and books.

The refreshments of tea or coffee and cake indoors or soft drinks outside were very popular.

Prizes were awarded for the games with India winning the marble game which was more difficult than it looked, two bean bag games won by Joseph, and hoops and table tennis by Seb. Smarties in a jar were won by Pam with a guess of 760, there being 804 melting smarties in the jar. The teddy bear's birthday was won by Jay Mainstone with a guess of May 12th.

We didn't charge for entry but there was an incentive to donate £2 per adult to win 33% of the bucket total at the end of the afternoon. £40 was won by James Dalton.

The social committee would like to thank everyone who donated prizes, helped on the day, and came to enjoy our fabulous Summer Fun Day. You all helped us raise a massive £850 plus with more donations to come.

Ann Archer

SATURDAY LIVE MUSIC UPDATE JULY 2025

Cottesmore Handbell Ringers joined us for our live music event led by their conductor Tony Tollett. The hand bells were made by either Whitechapel or John Taylor and belonged to Tony who brought along a selection of the 3 and a half octave set of his handbells.

A small audience enjoyed music from Mozart, Holst from the planet suite, Elgar Pomp and Circumstance March, Pachelbel's Canon and Handel's Firework suite. These classics pieces were intermingled with music from the American Civil War (John Brown's Body), Oklahoma (Oh What a Beautiful Morning), An English Country Garden (Percy Grainger) and a piece composed by Felicity Salmon which she entitled 'Tintinnabulation' a musical extravaganza of tinkling bells.

Finishing with a rendition of the 'Grandfather Clock' and then the piece always played by the team at the end of every practice session 'The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended'.

A very professional and enjoyable concert helped us raise over £80 for our church funds.



COFFEE MORNINGS

Throughout August we will be meeting every Wednesday at 11.00 at The Crown for coffee, biscuits and company. Do join us if you have a free Wednesday morning. From September 3rd, we will return to weekly coffee mornings at the hall, which start at 10.30 am.

CELTIC PRAYERS

Throughout August we are meeting for Celtic Prayers in the church at 10.30 am on Wednesdays each week. From September 3rd, however, we will revert to meeting in the hall at 10.00 am.

HAVE YOU EVER VISITED... EASTON WALLED GARDENS?

Down the lane, through the gate, beyond the wall. And breathe. Nestled in a secluded Lincolnshire valley, Easton Walled Gardens offer a pause from the pace of life, where renewal comes naturally

Just up the A1 and turn off for the B6403 for Easton. The Easton Estate's story begins in 1561 when the Cholmeley family took up residence here. Life as a rural estate in the 16th Century meant a whole community working and growing together. Fast forward nearly 500 years and two world wars later, it stood untended and impenetrable. And while most saw a sprawling knot of branches and thorns too unwieldy to do battle with. Ursula Cholmeley saw an invitation. The gardens are slowly being renovated and re-planted into their original splendour. From sweet peas to the meadow retreat, the long walk gardens and the stream fed by fresh springs, to the garden maze and the kitchen garden "pic store". There is a shop in the courtyard selling beautiful mementos, the Applestore for coffee or tea, the coffee room inside something approaching a library, and a warm welcome from all the staff.

Look out for their special days - snowdrop days, sweet pea week, pizza and prosecco on the last evening of July, dog days on every Sunday in August, and yoga in the white garden.

It costs £12 for adults and £5 for children.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

People born in August are said to be lucky and confident with a strong sense of loyalty.

Barack Obama, American politician. 4th August 1961

Alexander Fleming, Scottish physician and microbiologist who discovered penicillin. 6th August 1881

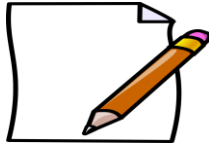
Halle Berry, American actress. 14th August 1966

Anne, Princess Royal. 15th August 1950

Madonna, American singer songwriter and actress. 16th August 1958

Maureen O'Hara, most famous for Gone With The Wind. 17th August 1920

Bill Clinton, American politician and lawyer. 19th August 1946



MONTHLY LETTER CHALLENGE

Allow yourself 10 minutes to complete the whole challenge. You don't have to finish one list before beginning the next list. Work on all three lists at once if you can. Just finish within the time.

This month's challenge is:

To find 6 boys' names, 8 girls' names and 4 animals beginning with **N**

ALL SAINTS CHURCH PICKWORTH

The current church opened in October 1821 but was only consecrated in 1824. The church was built by the Reverend Richard Lucas who was rector of Great Casterton with Pickworth and also Edith Weston. The church consists of a south porch, nave, chancel and a western turret containing a bell. The chancel has a tablet to Joseph Armitage of Wakefield; a bequest to Lucas, his brother-in-law, helped fund the building and endowment. The simplified Norman style was influenced by the 1792 rebuilding of St Peter's Church, Tickencote.

The remains of the medieval village lie mainly to the west of the current church. The only visible remains, other than earthworks, are a stone arch, standing to the west of the current church. This is assumed to be the outer arch of the porch of the medieval church. The church and most of the village are thought to have disappeared after the Battle of Losecoat Field 1470 in . In 1728 and 1731, the steeple was removed and the stone used for the bridges at Great Casterton and Wakerley.

Stamford Mercury 26 October 1821, page 3. "On Sunday last, the handsome new church lately erected at Pickworth, in the county of Rutland, by the Rev. Richard Lucas, Rector of Great Casterton, was opened for the first time (it being feast Sunday at Pickworth). Divine service was performed by the Rev. Edw. Brown, before a very numerous congregation."

Northampton Mercury 24 July 1824. "On the 15th instant the Lord Bishop of Peterborough, accompanied by the Most Honorable the Marquis of Exeter, and several of the neighbouring clergy and gentry, consecrated the new church and church yard of Pickworth, in the county of Rutland, and his Lordship's diocese, which has recently been erected and endowed at the sole expense of the Rev. Richard Lucas, the venerable rector of Great Casterton (to which rectory Pickworth is annexed), upon a very eligible spot of ground, the donation of the Marquis, who is patron of the said rectory, ..."

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Priest in Charge	Rev Don McGarrigle	01572 812804
Great Casterton Hall Bookings	Steve Cunningham	01572 510043
Benefice Safeguarding Officer	Carol Maynard	01780 755687.
Newsletter Distribution	Mary Sproson	01780 762933

Churchwardens:

Great Casterton	Geoffrey Arche	07803 423010
	Peter Bryan	07507 299436
Little Casterton	Tony Dolby	01780 766897
Pickworth	Charles Gilman	01780 411017
	Goldie Bardwell	01780 410272

PRAYER BOARD IN CHURCH

Did you know that every week the names placed on the prayer board in Great Casterton church are prayed aloud on Wednesday mornings? Please date each prayer that you put on the board, to help the team keep up with how recently they were placed there.

Thank you

FOR HIRE

Great Casterton Church Hall is available for hire for children's parties and/or other events. For more details contact Steve Cunningham
Email: stephenmichaelcunningham@gmail.com
Phone: 01572 510043 or Mobile: 07810 404748

Continued from July ...

The Lord's Prayer

Give us today our daily bread has two meanings. The obvious is that we should be able to sustain our bodies with nourishment. Starvation is not pleasant. Jesus cares about us. Do you remember his concern with the crowd who had been listening to him till after all the shops were shut? He used a boy's fish and chip supper to feed five thousand and even then there was lots left over. In another place Jesus says, "My bread is to do the will of him that sent me". Jesus reminds us that he is the bread of life when he says, "this is my body". Poor old Ezekiel was told to eat this scroll – and that scroll of course would have been the start of the Old Testament. Ezekiel says he looked at it and it was full of mournings, lamentations and woe. Then he "caused my mouth to eat it" and found "it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness". So here we are asking Jesus to help us to understand, enjoy and learn, even digest his word, when some of it may be difficult at first.

Forgive us our debts for we also have forgiven our debtors as written in Matthew's gospel is conditional. Jesus clearly says in the following verses, that if we "do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive you". God forgives and forgets. The old word was justified. We used to be taught it is "just as if I'd never sinned". Jesus can do this because he died and rose again to, in the old words, paid the penalty for us. Do we have memories we would rather others did not know about that need forgiveness? Sin is defined in the Bible as "He that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin". Commission and omission.

And lead us not into temptation. Jesus does not tempt us. We can be tempted by ourselves, by others or the devil. Right through the bible the devil has been brilliant at making people think they are doing the right thing when really it was not. The church leaders who demanded and shouted for Jesus' crucifixion. Judas himself. Hitler clearing the world of Jews. There is nothing wrong in being tempted. The fault is giving in. Jesus "was tempted in all points like as we are yet without sin". First story in the bible, Eve is tempted. First story about Jesus' teaching times on that mountain top. Same three temptations. Each one was it looks nice, it will be good for you and it will give you everything you want. Jesus will let us go into situations where we can be tempted. He says, "but with the temptation I will make a way to escape". Discipline is not temptation as we read "what son is not disciplined by his father"?

But deliver us from the evil one it says in Matthew's version. The word used for "evil" is masculine not neuter in the Greek, so it demands a living being. This is a difficult one. That evil one may be ourselves or even a close friend as well as demonic confusion. We are specifically praying here to have the strength to repel temptations which look nice, taste nice and will be good for us. The bible is full of examples of demonic influences, usually associated with idols. Idols can be habits, rituals, people or things (*dictionary*). "Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil" (*Message*).

We are really asking Jesus to wake us up to influences or attitudes.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. This clause is actually saying thank you to Jesus for all the things we have asked him for and recognising that he is able. We are saying like the teenage David in front of the gigantic Goliath, "My God is bigger than you". Jesus is permanent. We read "He is more ready to give than receive". "Ask and it shall be given unto you". "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst". It demands faith.

Amen. It means simply that we agree. Modern versions just say "Yes". In formal circles we might say "I second all that". These notes are in anticipation that we may all think about what we are repeating and as a stimulus to further consideration. Prayers can be as short as Hezekiah's "God, help" when in front of the Emperor who had the authority for immediate beheading. His short prayer gave him far more than he ever expected. Remember the thief on the cross – that was a short prayer too. Jesus offers the same today if we ask. Jeremiah says, "I do not know how to speak, I am only a child". If we say amen, do we agree with all in this prayer?

This "prayer" is perhaps more a series of instructions to us than it is a list of requests to God. The disciples had asked to be taught. They got a wide lesson ranging from the intimacy of addressing God as our father to recognising that he deserves the glory. How did we regard our "lessons" at school?

***If you have any comments or questions,
please direct them to Bob Salmon***

How church works *number 2*

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

The first in this series dealt with money and our need for funds to maintain our Church and Hall. This episode looks at the PCC.

The PCC is the main decision maker of the Parish and helps to keep it running through various committee and roles.

The Incumbent (Vicar), Churchwardens and Deanery Synod members are “ex-officio” which means they are members because of their roles. The other members are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). The Treasurer, Secretary and Safeguarding Officer are elected from within the PCC.

PCCs are governed by the Church of England's Church Representation Rules and the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. The set out how the business of the PCC should be conducted. These rules set out how many members the PCC is allowed and for a parish of our size it is 9. Photographs of the PCC are now in Church.

All PCCs in England are Charities and so must follow charity law. Legally, the PCC is responsible for the finances of the Church and Hall. It has ultimate responsibility for the care and maintenance of all church buildings, grounds and their contents. Although these responsibilities are executed by the Churchwardens, all PCC member share in the oversight.

There are several other committees eg Social and Environmental which carry out activities on behalf of the PCC.

The PCC and Incumbent have a duty of care to ensure the protection of the vulnerable in their church community. In relation to Safeguarding, all PCC members must have a DBS check and undertake formal training. They have a duty to:

- **Promote:** a safer church for all in the church community and ensure that there is a plan in place.
- **Adopt:** The Church of England's *Promoting a Safer Church* policies and practice guidance.

The PCC have adopted the Safer Church Policies and work closely with the Diocesan Safeguarding staff to ensure we meet the required standard.

This is a very brief look at the executive committee of the Church and some elements and roles will be looked at in further instalments.

CHURCHYARD MEMORIALS

St Peter and St Paul Church in Great Casterton has two graveyards, the ones immediately around the church and one off Casterton Hill. The PCC are responsible for their upkeep, and we manage both our graveyards to encourage biodiversity. This was the subject of a previous article.

The ones around the Church are open for the burial of cremated remains and the detached graveyard for full burials.

Burial Law is a mixture of statutes and common law, with some regulations dating back to the 1850s. It covers various aspects, including where burials can take place, who can authorize the and the re-use of graves. Local authorities, religious institutions and private landowners all have different rules and responsibilities related to burial.

The Church of England is no exception and has a detailed set of Churchyard Regulations which apply to the memorials allowed. Churchyards fall under the jurisdiction of the Bishop, exercised by the Chancellor of the Diocese. If you wish to erect a memorial over a grave in a churchyard you must obtain permission. It is the Chancellor who has the legal authority to grant this, but this has been delegated to the incumbent **provided** the memorial falls within the Regulations. If the design does not, then it must be referred to the Chancellor for permission.

The Regulations are very detailed (9 pages long) and set out size of headstones, material to be used, the type of wording allowed, flower containers etc. for both full graves and commemoration after cremation. Selecting a memorial for a loved one is a difficult process and being sure of the rules can save difficulties later if permission is not granted. The Regulations give details on flower receptacles and what other items may be placed on graves and other memorials.

Looking at the Regulations, available on the Church of England web site, and having a full discussion with the incumbent is essential.



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CHURCH PROJECTS

Moving on from a heating project, we are now fund- raising to renew the kitchen in the church hall, which is in dire need of being updated to meet current standards. You can help by coming along to and supporting our social events where all monies raised will go towards church projects, or you can make a one off or regular donation by using our QR code. We are very grateful for any support you can give us.



Four Churches Together

**We would love to receive contributions for the newsletter from
all four churches in the benefice.**

**Please send these to Mary Sproson - masproson@btinternet.com
by the 18th of the month**



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