



All Saints, Little Casterton



St Peter & St Paul, Great Casterton

Four Churches



Together

All Saints, Pickworth



St Peter's Tickencote



OCTOBER
2025

Calendar for October

Day	Time	Activity	Place
1	10.00pm	Celtic Prayers	Church Hall
1	10.30am	Coffee, Cake and Chat	Church Hall
2	9.00am	Parish Breakfast	Garden Centre
2	7.00pm	House Group	Harvard
3	10.00am	Toddler Group	Church Hall
3	2.30pm	Warm Spaces	Church Hall
5	9.00am	Holy Communion	Little Casterton
5	10.30am	Holy Communion	Great Casterton
5	3.00pm	Harvest Festival	Pickworth
7	9.30am	Open the Book	Primary School
8	10.00am	Celtic Prayers	Church Hall
8	10.30	Coffee, Cakes & Chat	Church Hall
8	10.30am	Toddler Group	Church Hall
12	10.15am	Café Church	Church Hall
15	10.00am	Celtic Prayers	Church Hall
15	10.15 am	Coffee, Cakes & Chat	Church Hall
15	7.0 pm	House Group	Harvard
17	10.00am	Toddler Group	Church Hall
17	2.30pm	Warm Spaces	Church Hall
17	5.00pm	Wedding Rehearsal Clare and Matt	Great Casterton
18	12.00am	Saturday Live Ukelele 2020	Great Casterton
18	2.00pm	Wedding of Clare and Matt	Great Casterton
19	9.00am	Holy Communion	Little Casterton
19	10.30am	Holy Communion	Great Casterton
22	10.00am	Celtic Prayers	Church Hall
22	10.30am	Coffee, Cakes & Chat	Church Hall
23	7.30pm	Parson's Pint	The Crown
26	9.00am	Holy Communion	Pickworth
26	10.30am	Morning Praise	Great Casterton
27	2.00pm	Book Group	Mary's House
29	10.00am	Celtic Prayers	Church Hall
29	10.30am	Coffee, Cakes & Chat	Church Hall
31	7.00pm	Barn Dance	Church Hall

FOUR CHURCHES NEWS

OCTOBER 2025

By the time you receive this newsletter we will be well into the autumn season with harvest festivals a thing of the past and the night's drawing in as winter approaches. I love our different seasons and especially winter which I appreciate is not everyone's cup of tea. But those fresh evenings and crispy mornings are only a few weeks away so until then, some hopefully autumnal sun to enjoy.

In our Celtic Prayers last week we were discussing God incidences which occur out of the blue and which surprise us. We just seem to be in the right place at the right time to help another human being and are unsure of the processes which brought us there.

While on holiday in Ireland we had the opportunity to travel down a very remote road with great Atlantic views. It's a road we have travelled before. I suddenly had the urge to go "off piste" and travel on an old forest track which ends at the top of a 1500 foot mountain. The road was rough and port holed and when we got to the end we found four Americans in a hired car with all of their luggage sitting on the ground behind the vehicle. They had picked up a puncture while travelling the dirt track and were having difficulty changing the wheel. Thankfully they had a spare wheel, for most cars these days have not.

When we rolled up at the scene, the car jack had just collapsed on them for the third time and they were in some distress. Needless to say I got stuck in, took charge of the situation and within five minutes they were road worthy once again. I got to thinking about the incident afterwards and wondered why we had been prompted to take this forest road. The location of the distressed Americans was one of the most remotest locations in Ireland. Emergency services would never have found them and we just happened to arrive at a very convenient time.

I am sure this happens to many of us now and again and if something similar has happened write it down and post it off to our editor who is always on the look-out for fresh copy. One such article I believe is also included at the end of this letter on page 4

But don't dismiss these events as mere coincidences, God is at work all the time pushing and prompting us to do things which seem strange at the time. But which at the conclusion usual result in helping someone who is in need of help.

Lets keep on responding to God prompting you never know what good deed he has in store for you or the people we help. Maybe even today!

God Bless

Revd. Don

She hurried to the pharmacy to get medication, got back to her car and found that she had locked her keys inside.

The woman found an old rusty coat hanger left on the ground. She looked at it and said, ' I don't know how to use this.'

She bowed her head and asked God to send her some help. Within five minutes a beaten-up old motorcycle pulled up, driven by a bearded man who was wearing an old biker skull rag

He got off his cycle and asked if he could help.

She said, ' Yes, my daughter is sick I've locked my keys in my car I must get home. Please can you use this hangar to unlock my car?'

He said, 'sure.'

He walked over to the car and in less than a minute the car was open. She hugged the man and through tears said, 'Thank you so much. You are a very nice man.'

The man replied, 'Lady, I am not a nice man. I just got out of prison yesterday. I was in prison for car theft.'

The woman hugged the man again sobbing, 'Oh thank you God. You even sent me a professional.'

So he does exist and is watching

Farewell in Christ

As fourteen years of ministry in the Diocese draw to a close, our overwhelming sense is of thankfulness. Elizabeth and I are so grateful to God for the privilege of my being called here to serve as one of your Bishops, the warmth of your welcome and the kindness of your support.



We have been upheld by your prayers, humbled by your appreciation and thrilled by your willingness to serve Christ. It has been deeply moving to see God at work in our communities, churches and ministries. Thank you all so much.

Throughout my Christian life, I have been sustained by the bible verse printed on a bookmark that I attached to my bedside cupboard whilst growing up. It had God's words of reassurance to Joshua as he took over leadership from Moses and read *"Be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed, for I, the Lord thy God, will be with thee whithersoever thou goest"* (Joshua 1.9).

I love the beautifully challenging prayer attributed to Sir Francis Drake; *Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves, When our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little, When we arrived safely because we sailed too close to the shore. Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly, To venture on wider seas where storms will show your mastery; Where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars. We ask You to push back the horizons of our hopes; And to push into the future in strength, courage, hope, and love.*

Please continue to pray for us as we will continue to pray for you, as the Diocese grows under Bishop Debbie's inspiring leadership.



The Rt Revd John Holbrook Bishop of Brixworth

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1YB Tel: 01733 887000 Email: communications@peterborough-diocese.org.uk www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk*



SAFEGUARDING

Our parish of St Peter and St Paul, Great Casterton is committed to safeguarding children, young people and adults from harm.

We aim to promote a safe environment and culture by safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults and promptly responding to every safeguarding concern or allegation.

We aim to care pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse or other affected persons and also those who are the subject of concerns/allegations of abuse.

We aim to appropriately respond to those that may pose a present risk.

We follow the House of Bishops' guidance and policies and have our own Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO). Our Diocese of Peterborough's safeguarding pages contain vital links and information including contacts for the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor who advises our PSO. Link here ...
<https://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/safeguarding>.

If you are concerned that a child or adult has been harmed or may be at risk of harm please contact the PSO (Carol Maynard 01780 755687 maynard.harvard@gmail.com) or the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (Victoria Kellett 01733 887040 safeguarding@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)

If you have immediate concerns about the safety of someone, please contact the police and your local authority's children or adult social care services.

Local Authority Social Services

Stamford 01780 751821
Rutland 01572 758341

RIDE AND STRIDE UPDATE



We had 18 enthusiastic cyclists visiting our church on Saturday 13th September, the majority being between 10.00 and 11.00am.

As agreed, I escorted Geoff and Ann to all the churches in Oakham.

However, we walked past one church that they didn't see so missed visiting that one!

By this time it was lunchtime so I took them to the Rutland Nursery for food and then we went to Manton Church and afterwards to the church at Preston.

We then went to Uppingham, but I was too tired to walk into any more churches so I stayed with Dad while Mum visited seven more churches on the way home. I fell asleep.

We would like to thank everyone who sponsored me (Sarge) and the adults of course. You helped me to raise £200 for RHCPT which will send money to Great Casterton Church for me.

Woof, woof (which means thank you very much) 🐶

COFFEE MORNINGS

10.30 on Wednesdays, in the hall on Main Street. Everyone welcome

CELTIC PRAYERS

Celtic Prayers 10.00 each week - again on Wednesday mornings in the hall.

HAVE YOU EVER VISITED? SPALDING - THE GENTLEMAN'S SOCIETY.

Founded in 1710, the Spalding Gentlemen's Society is Britain's oldest surviving provincial learned society. Since 1955, its charitable purpose has been: 'To promote and foster among the public knowledge, appreciation and the study of ...' what we now call the Arts, Sciences and Humanities.

It is a membership society that welcomes women, notwithstanding its history and name. Membership is open to anyone aged eighteen or over.

There is a wonderful museum collection which, with the exception of the Ashmolean, is the oldest in the United Kingdom. The museum contains, among other things, a rare specimen of James Christopher le Blon's tapestry A head of Christ, presented by Sir Richard Manningham in 1732, and a fine astrolabe dated 1565 of Flemish workmanship, formerly in the possession of Sir Christopher Hatton (1540-1591), Lord Chancellor of Queen Elizabeth.

There is also an amazing library and archive - holding approximately 30,000 printed books, periodicals, maps and prints. The collection is made up of the Society's 18th century museum library, the Parish Library of St Mary and St Nicholas, the 18th century Spalding Grammar School library, and a modern research collection. The Local Studies Collection houses the region's premier collection of printed materials related to South Lincolnshire and the Fens.

Whilst, unfortunately, the Spalding Gentleman's Society is closed at present, for refurbishment - I for one, can't wait to visit once it's re-opened. With thanks to a well-known daytime TV Show (Bargain Hunt) for the article that alerted me to the existence of such a place.

Sue Cliffe

THE OCTOBER NIGHT SKY.

The constellations Pegasus and Cassiopeia are prominent in the October night sky. Jupiter and Saturn will be visible in the Southern Sky.

The Orionids Meteor shower that originates from Halley's Comet, peaks on or around 21st October.

And, there will be a Harvest Moon at around the time of the Autumn Equinox.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

October birthdays are associated with several traits, including a strong sense of leadership, justice and diplomacy and a calm, collected demeanour. Additionally, people born in October have a higher chance of living to 100, may be more athletic, and have lower risks of certain allergies due to seasonal factors during pregnancy.

Some notable October birthdays include

Mahatma Gandhi, Indian Lawyer and political activist. 2nd Oct. 1869
Eleanor Roosevelt, longest serving first lady of the USA. 11th Oct. 1884

Pablo Picasso, Spanish painter, sculptor and ceramicist. 25th Oct. 1881

Bill Gates, co-founder of Microsoft, businessman & philanthropist. 28th Oct. 1955

and

Margaret Thatcher, UK politician and Prime Minister. 13th Oct. 1935.

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 7 boys' names, 7 girls' names and 9 animals beginning with the letter D.

Sue Cliffe

LADYBIRDS: TINY HEROES IN POLKA DOT ARMOUR

The Ladybird, with its stylish and cheerful polka dot outfit, holds a special place in our hearts. Few other insects, apart from the butterfly, evoke as many positive emotions and superstitions as the ladybird. Many cultures believe that ladybirds are a symbol of good luck and new beginnings. In fact, the belief that ladybirds are associated with positive qualities is nearly universal – from Slavic, European, and Asian cultures to Native Americans.

There are 46 different species of ladybird in the UK and about 5,000 species worldwide. While some sport the classic red with black spots look, others come in shades of yellow, orange or even black with red spots. All ladybirds are beetles and have a larval form with the classic round and colourful ladybird being the adult whilst the larvae tend to be thin and black.

Many species of ladybird hatch from pupae in August and September so look out for a new generation of adults feeding up ready to overwinter. Ladybirds are voracious predators of aphids and other garden pests, serving as natural pest control agents and helping to keep plants healthy. In fact, a single ladybird can devour up to 5,000 aphids and other plant eating pests in its lifetime, making the invaluable to gardeners and farmers alike.

Despite their diminutive size, ladybirds are not without their challenges. Predators, parasites, and even rival ladybirds pose threats to their survival. Birds, spiders and other insects prey on them. They do have defences against predators however, their bright red colour is a warning that they don't taste very nice and when attacked they give off a yellow liquid which is rich in toxic alkaloids.

Churchyards and cemeteries can be great for ladybirds as they tend to be free of insecticides and full of food. There are lots of places where ladybirds can find a safe place to spend the winter, often in large clusters where they remain inactive until about March when they emerge to feed and breed. We find clusters of varying size in the entrance area to the Vestry; the heat pump is also a popular place for them and other nooks and crannies in church. Monuments including chest tombs, gaps made by tree roots, wood piles, spaces beneath flaking bark, leaf litter, tussocky grass, and drystone walls are full of potential places to overwinter.

With their rounded bodies and distinctive markings, ladybirds are easily recognisable. If you see a ladybird, take a photo or count its spots and make a note of both spot and background colours. The spot number indicates which species it is, not as some people believe, how old it is.

PRAYER BOARD IN CHURCH

Did you know that every week the names that have been placed on our prayer board in church are prayed out loud on Wednesday mornings? Please date each prayer that is placed on the board, to help the team keep up with how recently they were placed there.

Thank you

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

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

Church Projects

Moving on from our 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.



ABIGAIL, THE DIPLOMAT

Abigail, the brave lady?

According to the Talmud, Abigail was one of the three most beautiful women in ancient times. The other two were both winners of national and internationally organised beauty competitions as recorded in the Bible. Esther of course was one. The other was Abishag who we may think about next year. Abigail was the wife of a very rich farmer when Saul was king over Israel in name but not in control. So much out of control that most Israeli farmers lost much of their stock and harvests to raiders. Saul seems to have spent more time chasing David than protecting the country borders and applying law and order. Some years before this incident, the young David had tricked Goliath into losing his head. This gave rise to a popular song *"Saul has killed his thousands, but David his tens of thousands"*. The song went viral and was very popular. This made Saul really jealous, and he set himself out to kill David especially as David had been secretly anointed by Samuel to be the next king. Hence, Saul's jealousy and his desire to get rid of David permanently without recognising the good David was doing for the country. The population was divided. We read that David went into hiding in the desert and his brothers joined him together with any who were "in distress or in debt or discontented" and together they made up a band of outlaws about four hundred strong. They lived off the land and protected Israeli farmers from attacks by neighbouring tribes and kingdoms whenever they could. They were outlaws in effect.

First confrontation: Now there was an Israeli farmer called Nabal who was doing very well. Not only did he have a thousand goats but three thousand sheep. It was springtime so shearing had been done, and all the stock would have been brought in. It was the time for feasting and celebrations. David's men had survived the winter on short rations, so he sent a message to Nabal suggesting that, in return for protecting Nabal's staff and the flocks all winter, he might spare some food for him and his Merry Men. Protection money in other words. Nabal, whose name means "fool", gave a very curt reply to the messengers, showing pride and ignorance. David is incensed so much that he musters his four hundred outlaws to go and teach Nabal a lesson. That lesson would be severe as David says he will not leave even "one male alive of Nabal's family and staff by morning". This is a crisis as Nabal and all his staff are too busy with their party to celebrate the shearing being done, money in the bank and seem not to be aware of the very painful threat approaching.

Second confrontation: Nabal's pretty wife, Abigail, recognises the foolishness of her husband and goes into logical overdrive. Abigail was also a wise lady. She accepted the inevitable and then sets out to change it, even though she was in a privileged position. She gets the kitchen staff to produce two hundred loaves of bread (when had David's men had proper bread recently?), five roast sheep, lots of wine and sent it all to the approaching David without saying anything to her husband. Abigail follows after tidying herself up and makes one of the longest speeches by a woman recorded in the Bible. Now, although she was the wife of the biggest farmer in the area and David is really trespassing on their land, she starts by calling him "My lord". Then she admits that her husband was not only foolish but also wrong not to have shared the shearing feast with David's men. Without David's protection there would probably have been no flock to shear. Then she assumes she has won the discussion as she says, "the Lord has kept you, my master from bloodshed". She pleads for forgiveness and forecasts that David will become the leader of the Israeli nations and it would not be right to have the "staggering burden of needless bloodshed just for vengeance on his conscience". Finally, she asks David to remember her when the Lord has given her master success. What a romantic proposal.

It worked too. David who thanks God for her prompt action. Without it, he says he would have carried out his severe lesson on Nabal and his staff. David accepts the gift of food she offered him and goes back to his camp.

Result of fairness: Meanwhile Nabal is having a "banquet like that of a king". The next morning, when she tells Nabal what she has done he seems to have had a heart attack and is incapable of speech before dying ten days later. Guilty conscience? As soon as David heard about this he sent messengers to Abigail asking her to be his wife. She immediately accepts and sets off on her donkey with her five maids to become (another) Mrs David.

Responses: The first question is to ask why is this incident recorded in so much detail? The second question we must ask is why was David who has a strong armed force and widespread praise, honour and acclaim in the country, doing hiding in the wilds? Was Saul just jealous? David could easily have set up an estate or commune like Nabal's and lived happily. He already had some wives. But he chose to support Saul and tradition with law and order. He is loyal. He could have killed Saul several times. Remember the toilet incident in 1 Samuel 24 or the spear and water jug in chapter 26? Instead David volunteers to police the country with his Merry Men as protection from foreign attacks. Third question - was David right in asking for protection money from Nabal in the form of food? Nabal would probably have lost much of his stock if David had not, in the words of Nabal's staff "been a wall around us all the time we were herding our sheep near them" and not a thing went missing.

We are given the whole of Abigail's initial speech in 1 Samuel 24 to the invading David and then his response in detail. She does not plead extenuating circumstances but starts straight off by calling David "my lord". In other words, accepting him as boss. It must have taken her some courage to confront all those bloodthirsty brigands by herself, probably in the evening. Each sentence has a wealth of wisdom.

What are the messages for us today? Should we use force to claim our rights or even to punish injustice? Is it just that a soft answer turns away wrath? Is there ever a case for vengeance? Was what happened to Nabal pure chance? Answers to all questions appreciated. God is the final and ultimate judge, not us. Read the whole story in 1 Samuel 26, preferably in the Message version.



The Meeting of David and Abigail- Peter Paul Rubens c. 1630

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Nigel Callow

nigelcallow0@gmail.com 01780 762450

Donations to MAGPAS would be appreciated.



History Talks

Join us this Autumn for a warm and engaging series of history talks, in person and online, with world-renowned historians and experts.

For full details and booking please see website.



Thursday 18th September, 7.30pm (ONLINE)

Assassins and Templars: A Battle of Blood and Myth with Dr Steve Tibble.

Thursday 25th September, 6.30pm (IN - PERSON)

Henry VIII : A Legacy of Power and Blood with Jackson van Uden.

Wednesday 8th October, 7.30 (IN-PERSON)

Peterborough and the Mercian Kings with Max Adams.

Tuesday 14th October, 7.30 (IN-PERSON)

The Hedda Stone Mystery with Cathedral archeologist Dr Jackie Hall and Dr Teresa Porciani.

Thursday 16th October, 7.30 (ONLINE)

The Surprising Afterlife of a Northumbrian King: The Cult of St Oswald and Beyond with Dr Johanna Dale.

Thursday 20th November, 7.30 (ONLINE)

Zealous: A Darker Side of the Early Quakers with Dr Erica Canela.



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Mary Sproson 01780 762933 masproson@btinternet.com**

Four Churches Together

We would love to receive contributions for the newsletter from all four churches. These should be sent, in the first instance, to Mary Sproson - masproson@btinternet.com by the 18th of the month



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- To promote healthy ageing and attitudes towards older people, seeking relevant ways to honour old age and if needed, to serve through advocacy, friendship and practical support.