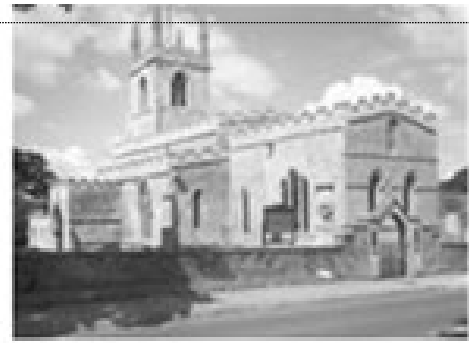




All Saints, Little Casterton



St Peter & St Paul, Great Casterton

Four Churches



Together

All Saints, Pickworth



St Peter's Tickencote



**August
2026**

Calendar of Events for August 2026

Day	Time	Activity	Place
1 st			
2 nd	10.30am	Holy Communion	Great Casterton
2 nd	9.00am	Holy Communion	Little Casterton
3 rd			
4 th	10.30am	Celtic Prayers	Great Casterton
4 th	11.00am	Coffee and Chat	The Crown
5 th			
6 th	9.00am	Parish Breakfast	Garden Centre
6 th	7.00pm	House Group	Harvard
7 th			
8 th			
9 th	10.15am for 10.30am	Café Church	Great Casterton Church Hall
10 th			
11 th			
12 th	10.30am	Celtic Prayers	Great Casterton
	11.00am	Coffee and Chat	The Crown
13 th			
14 th			
15 th			
16 th	10.30am	Holy Communion	Great Casterton
16 th	9.00am	Holy Communion	Little Casterton
17 th			
18 th			
19 th	10.30am	Celtic Prayers	Great Casterton
19 th	11.00am	Coffee and Chat	The Crown
20 th	7.00pm	House Group	Harvard
21 st			
22 nd			
23 rd	10.30am	Morning Praise	Great Casterton
24 th	2.00pm	Book Club	Mary Sproson's
25 th	7.30pm	Parish (Parson's) pints	The Crown
26 th	10.30am	Celtic Prayers	Great Casterton
26 th	11.00am	Coffee and Chat	The Crown
27 th			
28 th			
29 th			
30 th	10.30am	Benefice Service	Pickworth
31 st			

FOUR CHURCHES NEWS – AUGUST 2026

Parishes of Great and Little Casterton, Pickworth and Tickencote

Dear All

Well, here we are, six months into our interregnum with Rev Don having retired in February. We thought it was going to be hard but in fact everyone has pulled together and we have found hidden talents within the congregations. The Lord will provide.....

However, most of us had little idea of the load which has fallen on the church wardens and the P.C.C.'s of all of the churches which will make up the new benefice of Great and Little Casterton, Pickworth, Ryhall and Essendine.

As I am writing this we are all, Churchwardens and members of all five PCC's, trying to do what is asked of us by way of compiling a document 'selling' ourselves to clergy looking to take on a new challenge of a new Benefice containing five very individual parishes. Having survived previous vacancies, I did not realise how much the process had changed and how much more work it now involves, especially for the church wardens.

Very shortly the churchwardens of all five parishes, together with their PCC's, will be meeting with the Archdeacon to put together thumbnail histories of our churches, congregations and activities added to our hopes for the future and the type of person we are hoping will accept the challenge to take us forward to realise those hopes and dreams. Once the Archdeacon is satisfied with the completed document, the vacancy can be advertised.

Please can I ask that, as a nascent Benefice, we join each other in regular prayer that the meeting goes well and the process of appointing a new vicar goes smoothly?

Mary

Finding Hope Through Cancer

A cancer diagnosis changes your life in an instant. It brings fear, uncertainty and many questions about the future. Like so many others, I found myself facing hospital appointments, treatments and the emotional rollercoaster that comes with living with cancer.

Throughout my journey, I discovered that one of the greatest needs was not just medical treatment, but the support and understanding of other people. A kind word, someone who listens, or simply meeting others who truly understand what you're going through can make an enormous difference.

That experience led me to help establish Stamford and Rutland Cancer Support. Our aim is simple, to ensure that nobody has to face cancer alone. We welcome anyone affected by any type of cancer—whether they have recently been diagnosed, are undergoing treatment, are living with cancer, are recovering, or are supporting a loved one. You can find out more about our meetings on our website <https://www.stamfordcancersupportgroup.org.uk/>

Stamford and Rutland Cancer Support is about friendship, encouragement and creating a safe place where people can share their experiences, ask questions and know they are understood.

As a Christian, my faith has been a source of strength, comfort and hope during difficult days. It has reminded me that even in life's darkest valleys, God is with us, often working through the kindness and compassion of others. I was so grateful to the members of St Peter and St Paul Great Casterton Church. Just a smile at a service, a cup of tea at my house when fatigue set in or a lift to an appointment.

Cancer is a journey none of us would choose, but together we can make that journey a little less lonely. If you know someone affected by cancer, please encourage them to reach out. Sometimes the greatest gift we can offer is simply to walk alongside another person with love, hope and understanding.

Joan Richardson

Local Cancer Support

Find strength and support with us

A safe, friendly space for anyone affected by cancer including family, friends and carers.

Whether you're newly diagnosed, in treatment, or adjusting to life after cancer, no matter how long ago, you're welcome. Come and share, listen or simply be among others who understand.

When and Where We Meet:

- 1st Saturday - A stroll and a cuppa in Burghley Park
- 2nd Wednesday - An evening meeting in Ryhall
- 3rd Thursday - A morning meeting in Oakham
- 4th Tuesday - An afternoon meeting in Stamford

Find details of locations and times on our website:
stamfordcancersupportgroup.org.uk

Contact Us:

Stamford and Rutland Cancer Support

Email: stamfordcsg@gmail.com

Tel: 07352 979613



*No need to book - just come along.
Bring a friend if you like*

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Newsletter

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Little Casterton

Pickworth

Vacancy

Carol Maynard

Steve Cunningham

Mary Sproson

Peter Bryan

Geoffrey Archer

Tony Dolby

Charles Gilman

Goldie Barwell

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01780 762933

07507 299436

07803 423010

01780 766897

01780 411017

01780 410272

Bats that aren't in the Belfry!

Bats have been found in churchyards for a very long time, often roosting in trees or buildings. A bat roost may be nearly as old as the building with around 60% of pre-16th century churches containing bat roosts. There are seventeen species of bat native to the UK: eight of these use churches or chapels for roosting, including some of the less common species such as the Natterer's bat and the Serotine bat. Some of the remaining nine species roost in large trees.

Bats do not roost in the belfry ... too much noise! They usually use different roosts through the seasons. Bats need nursery roosts for the young, winter roosts to hibernate and also temporary roosts to digest their food and to sleep in during the daytime. They like to roost in clean, draught free, quiet crevices where the temperature is constant. Within churches or chapels bats are found in the eaves, porch, under roof tiles, in old timber joints, behind ceilings, hangings and commemorative plaques. They also roost within chest tombs, in holes or cracks within a wall, behind ivy or in lych-gates. When roosting in trees they use holes, crevices, flaking bark and gaps behind ivy. Veteran trees are full of possible roosting places.



Churchyards tend to have a mixture of large trees, grassland, flowers, areas of long or tussocky grass, compost heaps, log piles and stonework. They are generally relatively free of chemicals, tend to have some areas which are not too tidy and may have been there a long time. All of this leads to a good population of insects which is food for the hungry bats.

Why not have a quiet sit in the churchyard at the end of the day, look to see if any swifts are swirling around the churchyard and then wait to see if any bats appear. Bats can fly long distances to forage for food so, even if you don't have roosting bats in your churchyard, they may well come visiting.

We took part in the Bats in Churches project which ran from 2019 to the end of October 2023 and their website batsinchurches.org.uk still holds a plethora of information and resources. Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the partnership comprised Natural England, Church of England (Cathedral and Church Buildings Division), Historic England, Bat Conservation Trust and Churches Conservation Trust. We discovered that we had Brown Long Eared, Common Pipistrelle and Soprano Pipistrelle bats in church. Judging by the

droppings the colonies are not large and use various roosts around the church, in the porch roof, over the lectern and organ and in the corner near the main door. The graveyard, river and farmland provide good feeding grounds. We occasionally find young Brown Eared bats which have not fully matured at the end of the season when they have been abandoned by their mothers when they leave the roost to breed between August and November. If you find one let me know.

Peter

August Around the World

August is named after the Roman Emperor Augustus Caesar, it is famous for the [Perseid Meteor Shower](#) .

The month is synonymous with arts and culture, with the Edinburgh Fringe Festival transforming Scotland, while Japan observes Obon, a stunning lantern-floating festival commemorating ancestors.

International Youth Day falls on August 12th, World Humanitarian Day on August 19th, and both the House of Commons and the House of Lords on recess during the month of August. This year in August, the Bayeux Tapestry is being installed in the British Museum, London for tours commencing in September.

Peridot is the birthstone for August. Historically called the "gem of the sun", Peridot forms deep within the Earth's mantle and is occasionally even found in Meteorites

Gladiolus and Poppies are the official birth flowers.

Elisha and Blindness

We are about 850 years BC and the Israelites had split into a northern kingdom based on Samaria and a southern state based on Jerusalem about a hundred years before. Neither kingdom was very stable as there were neighbours who looked at that land by the sea with jealousy. Jehu was the king of the northern lot and he had a reputation for fast driving as he rushed around quelling infiltrations by those neighbours. Ben Hadad was the king of Syria, the country further North, and he was rather upset that on each occasion he tried to take over a bit of Israel young Jehu was there ready for him. We read that he had a top level meeting with his officials and asked them who was giving away the military secrets. The answer he got surprised and annoyed him when they said that there was this “prophet” who tells Jehu the very words you speak in your bedroom. God knows people’s thoughts.

The threat

Elisha was the prophet then and he lived near a small town called Dothan, about eleven miles time and again he warned the king, so he was on his guard in such places. Ben Hadad heard about this and sent a strong force of horses and chariots to capture him. Of course, Elisha had already told Jehu that the Syrians were on their way so they were prepared. One morning Elisha’s servant had got up to cook breakfast when he saw all these Syrian soldiers surrounding the town and Jehu’s little force hopefully on their way and panicked. “Don’t worry”, Elisha tells him, “There are more with us than there are with them”. That was silly because Jehu’s army was very small in comparison. But he prayed that his servant’s eyes would be opened. He saw what the Syrians had seen - the hills full of horses and chariots of fire surrounding Elisha. Then we read that Elisha prayed that God would make the invaders blind and walked up to them and explained that they must have lost their way, “just follow me and I will take you to the man you were looking for”..

The joke

We are not told how this blindness was caused. It may have been a sand storm or lightning strike. If we pray to a God that is almighty, we don’t need to know how. Then follows one of those hilarious events which must have caused laughter and relief. Don’t tell me that God does not have a sense of humour. Elisha leads them eleven miles down the road into the main square in Samaria before asking God to restore their sight. I have no evidence for it but I suspect most of them had by now discarded their swords and spears while trying to

walk. I imagine most of them were rather surprised and afraid knowing the usual treatment of invading forces who had been disarmed.

The soft answer

Jehu, in common with common practice, proposed to kill them all which would be easy on exhausted and confused soldiers who were without weapons. Elisha is wise and tells the king to prepare a “great feast” for them. When they had finished eating and drinking the king sends them away back to their master. But that was not the end of the small raids on Israel. Elisha’s closeness to God is shown in a number of other incidents.

The harder answer

The next time the Syrians came down in big force and besieged Samaria, the town ran out of food and people were so starving that some were even cooking children. The town official tells Elisha that only if God opened the floodgates of heaven could they be saved. Elisha says he will see it but not benefit from it. Elisha’s cure this time is by sound, not sight, but only at the last minute. Now there were some men with leprosy in isolation outside the city gate who said to each other one night “we might as well try to beg off the Syrians than die out here” and went into their camp. They found it deserted, so helped themselves before telling the gate keepers. Scouts went out and found the road strewn with weapons, clothes and other baggage and no Syrians. They had heard the sound of an approaching army and panicked. The town people came out with such a rush that they trampled on the official who had doubted Elisha and he died.

The question

This is just one of a series of extraordinary events that God did through Elisha. In this one we see that a gentle answer turns away wrath. A lesson not learned by the Syrians resulted in disaster. Each event gives a different lesson. We will see later that the Syrians ignored these two lessons and suffered a fatal approach. Was God teaching Jehu a lesson, or Elisha or us? That promise “There are more with us than there are with them” is encouraging.

Bob

Apple-sauce Bread

Anyone who comes to Coffee Morning on Wednesday will already have sampled this lovely moist cake / bread. The recipe was found on Facebook by Janet. The added advantage is that it is dairy free.



Ingredients:

1.5 cups	Plain Flour
1 cup	Applesauce
0.75 cups	Sugar
2	Eggs
One tsp	Baking soda (bicarb)
Half tsp	Baking powder
One tsp	Cinnamon
Quarter tsp	Nutmeg
Quarter tsp	Cloves
One tsp	Vanilla Essence

Mix the dry ingredients first then add the applesauce, sugar and eggs. Mix well and put mixture into a loaf tin.
Cook at 180 degrees until done.

If you have a favourite recipe that you would like to share,
please email it to me at

stpeter.stpaul@outlook.com

with 'newsletter' in the subject line.

Quote of the Month

Answer from last month – Confucius said "Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in getting up every time we do".

This month's quote: who said this? "The higher the building the lower the morals".

Word Challenge

How many words can you make of 3 letters or more from the word
"Astrological"

Have You Ever Visited? A Brewery or Vineyard.

You've probably heard of The Grainstore Brewery and Tap pub next to Oakham's train station, but did you know that it offers tours of the brewhouse as well as music nights, comedy nights, great food and great ales (of course). It has a capacity of brewing 60 barrels a week, and some of its ales have won awards, such as Nip, and Rutland Beast.

To arrange a tour of the brewery, contact The Grainstore directly. Also, look out for when they hold Beer festivals.

The Rutland Vineyard is a beautiful vineyard producing stunning wines on Jurassic soil. Located in Ketton, on top of a narrow ridge between the rivers Welland and Chater, this is a family-run vineyard.

You can book [Summer Tour Tickets](#) for £20–£25, which include dinosaur/geology talks, a walk through the vines, and five wine tastings.

Summer Family Fun Day

Saturday 28th June 2026 was one of the hottest days in the year so far and promised to be a great event with plenty of prizes on the adult tombola and children's tombola.

There was a great selection of homemade cakes, both to take away and eat on the day. The white elephant and children's games stalls were overloaded with good things to buy or bid for.

The children's games of hoop-la, bean bag games, and craft items were installed in our lovely cool church and we had face painting in the church hall.

However, the attendance was disappointing compared to previous similar events, the weather being too hot (in England) and World Cup mania kept potential visitors away.

I would like to thank everyone who helped on the day in the church hall or the church, and in setting up and taking down tables. Big cheers to all who helped raise a massive £500+ on the day with some extras still to be added.

Thank you all

From the social committee team

Update for Social Events Autumn 2026

**Sadly there will be no Lunchtime Live in August or September
but we will be back in October**

September 27th -	Harvest lunch after church. (12.00 noon) £10pp BYO alcohol
October 16th -	Quingo Quiz (change of date) - 6.30 pm – £10pp - Bar available.
November 14th -	Ladies Play Reading – details tbc.
December 5th -	Christmas Raffle and coffee morning. From 10.30. Raffle drawn at about 11.30 am.

Help wildlife in hot weather

We are feeling the heat and wildlife does too. As hot weather and heatwaves become more frequent due to climate change there are ways that you can help the wildlife in your garden to cope.

Even a small change can make a big difference so get involved and let your garden grow for nature.

Provide water for wildlife.

Leave out a shallow dish of water for thirsty birds, mammals and insects. Placing stones in a dish will help any insects that may fall in and provide useful landing spots for them to have a drink too. Change the water daily to keep birds healthy and diseased free.

Top up the bird bath.

Birds need water to bathe to keep their feathers in good condition so providing a bird bath can really help. Make sure to change the water daily you can use rainwater collected in water but. Remember to clean your bird baths every week to help birds stay free of disease.

Provide enough cover from the sun.

Adding a log pile, rockery and tall grassy areas to your garden will provide cover for frogs, toads and newts seeking shelter from the sun.

Top up your pond

Ponds that are low can be topped up. The best way to do this is through collecting rainwater. If your water butt or rain barrel is empty tap water can be used but only use a little at a time. Ideally let the tap water stand for 24 hours before adding it to your pond. Remember to make sure your pond has easy access points for wildlife that may fall in.

Stay messy.

Wild areas in the garden will provide shade and shelter for a wide range of wildlife so don't be too tidy.

Peter

**Parish of Great Casterton
and Tickencote
Church of St Peter and St Paul, Great Casterton**

Following the retirement of the Rev. Don McGarrigle our parish is now in a period of 'vacancy' (also known as an interregnum). During this time, all the life and worship of the Church continues under the oversight of our Churchwardens.

Churchwardens:

Peter Bryan: 07507 299436

Geoffrey Archer: 07803 423010

They are working closely with the Diocese to begin the process of finding our new priest.

Please direct any enquiries about the Church or services:

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals etc., directly to the Churchwardens.

Thank you.

All enquiries regarding
All Saints Little Casterton and All Saints Pickworth
during the vacancy should be directed to the Church Wardens

**Little Casterton
Pickworth**

**Tony Dolby
Charles Gilman
Goldie Barwell**

**01780 766897
01780 411017
01780 410272**

Church Projects

Moving on from our heating project we are now fund raising to renew the church hall kitchen which needs updating 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.

Fun Facts

THAT YOUR KIDS WILL LOVE

THE ONLY BIRD
THAT CAN FLY
BACKWARD IS THE
HUMMINGBIRD.

OCTOPUSES HAVE
3 HEARTS.

THE AVERAGE
PERSON HAS AT
LEAST 7 DREAMS
A NIGHT.

ALLIGATORS
CANNOT MOVE
BACKWARDS.

TIGERS HAVE
STRIPED SKIN.
NOT JUST STRIPED
FUR.

YOUR BRAIN IS
80% WATER.

A PREGNANT
GOLDFISH IS
CALLED A TWIT.

IT TAKES MORE
MUSCLES TO
FROWN THAN TO
SMILE.

A SLUG HAS 4
NOSES.

AN OSTRICH'S
EYE IS BIGGER
THAN ITS BRAIN.

THE AVERAGE
HUMAN DREAM
LASTS ONLY 2-3
SECONDS.

HONEYBEES HAVE
HAIR ON THEIR
EYES.



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Dear Mr Postman.. Beholder of parcels, bringer of letters and utility bills.

I write to you on this day to ask a simple task of you. Living on the Right hand side of my letter box is a spider, seemingly holding my post hostage.

If you could remove him for me, either by relocation or brutal murder, I would be forever in your debt

Signed Resident

Spider looks



like this

Name: _____

Date: _____

Find the words listed. Words may appear forward, backward, up, down or diagonal. Words may overlap and cross each other. When you have found a word, be sure to circle it and cross it off the list.



BIBLE

Word Search



ADAM
ANGEL
ARK
BETHLEHEM
BIBLE
CREATION
CROSS
CRUCIFIXION
DAVID
DISCIPLES
EXODUS
FAITH
GARDEN
GOD
GRACE
JESUS
JOSEPH

K T G M K G H C V N J K N M V C N C T B
R G T M O L F N F L O Y Q W P Z O V K B
V J Y D H Z T T L M R I Z X J J A D X G
L M I R A C L E S A N D X L S X H K L A
Z N G N M B J D M X M R P I R U N P C R
L T D N O Z E G N J R A V V F O S J Q D
N E I C T I T T T A R G L B I I C E S E
X N V Q M N T L H A L E M T Q R C E J N
M C A M A R V A B L G D C F E P L U F Q
V O D B D V S L V N E E E A G P R L R G
V M S C A Q E H A L R H T S I B X W K C
S M L E B S M P E R A I E C I W A R K V
T A Q R S G N E U P O S S M Z M W T Z H
E N S S O R C S L N H I N V F R O X N Z
H D P H N H E O L R D E R G F M B R Z H
P M N L B R N J Z Y W F R P D J M J P M
O E N B I J S E R M O N A D N R M C R L
R N B M B T G L Y R X K F I G E C A R G
P T N M L V E X O D U S X T T M F D C M
K S P L E M L J R E Y A R P C H Z G N Y

PRAYER

SALVATION

PROMISED LAND

SERMON

PROPHETS

SHEPHERD

RESURRECTION TEN COMMANDMENTS



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Stamford. PE9 4JZ

FOR HIRE

Great Casterton church hall is available for hire for children's parties, meetings, talks and other events. For more details contact Steve Cunningham
Email: stephenmichaelcunningham@gmail.com Phone: 07810 404748



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