



All Saints, Little Casterton



St Peter & St Paul, Great Casterton

Four Churches



Together

All Saints, Pickworth



St Peter's Tickencote



**September
2026**

Calendar of Events for September 2026

Day	Time	Activity	Place
1 st			
2 nd	10..00am	Celtic Prayers	Great Casterton
2 nd [*]	10.30am	Community Coffee	Church Hall
3 rd	9.00am	Parish Breakfast	Garden Centre
3 rd	7.00pm	Home Group	Chez Rentowl
4 th			
5 th			
6 th	10.30am	Holy Communion	Great Casterton
6 th	9.00am	Holy Communion	Little Casterton
7 th			
8 th			
9 th	10.30am	Celtic Prayers	Great Casterton
9 th	11.00am	Community Coffee	Church Hall
10 th			
11 th	10.00am	Toddlers	Church Hall
12 th			
13 th	10.15am For 10.30am	Café Church	Great Casterton Church Hall
14 th			
15 th			
16 th	10.00am	Celtic Prayers	Church Hall
16 th	10.30am	Community Coffee	Church Hall
16 th	2.00pm	P.C.C. Meeting	Church Hall
17 th			
18 th	10.00am	Toddlers	Church Hall
19 th	12.00 noon	Saturday Live	Great Casterton
20 th	10.30am	Holy Communion	Great Casterton
21 st			
22 nd			
23 rd	10.00am	Celtic Prayers	Church Hall
23 rd	10.30am	Community Coffee	Church Hall
24 th	7.30pm	Parish (Parsons) Pints	
25 th	10.00am	Toddlers	Church Hall
26 th			
27 th	9.00am	Holy Communion	Pickworth
27 th	10.30am	Morning Praise	Great Casterton
27 th	12.00noon	Harvest Lunch	Church Hall
28 th	2.00pm	Book Club	Sue Stretton's
29 th			
30 th	10.00am	Celtic Prayers	Church Hall
30 th	10.30am	Community Coffee	Church Hall

FOUR CHURCHES NEWS – SEPTEMBER 2026

Parishes of Great and Little Casterton, Pickworth and Tickencote

As September hoves into view, we sense we are entering the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. This might be a very familiar saying - taken from the first line of John Keates's poem "To Autumn". It is said he wrote the poem in September, and it looks ahead to an end of summer with a calm maturity that doesn't mourn or regret the past, but instead welcomes and celebrates the next milestone - nature's abundance.

In my living memory, the church has always celebrated the harvest during either September or October. Church schools do, too. Harvest celebrations can be traced back to ancient pagan times when people thanked the gods for the safe collection of crops to see them through winter months. The harvest used to be divided into three stages: **Lughnasadh – now called Lammas Day** (early August) for the first grain, **Mabon** (autumn equinox) for the main gathering, and **Samhain** (late October) for the final clearance. Early Christian harvest celebrations combined these ancient agricultural traditions with biblical customs and themes.

The Harvest Festival itself is said to be a Victorian innovation that built a tradition of decorating places of worship with sheaves and fruit. Excess food was distributed to the poor. At the back of our church, we have a Food Bank collection point that is collected weekly and taken into Stamford where the cost of living squeeze has greatly impacted some young families.

So, as we celebrate the safe bringing home of the Harvest, and our good fortune of living in a rural setting, surrounded by farmers' fields, great views, and lovely people, let us not forget those for whom life is more difficult and more challenging. Indeed, many of our young people are at a new beginning. And some of our older congregation members are too. For some, we may breathe a sigh of relief to wave goodbye to the extreme heat of the summer and welcome back greyer skies, light rains and windier conditions once again. But whatever our thoughts about the summer we have just experienced, let us move forward to the future with hopeful and grateful hearts, and a calm maturity that makes the most of change.

Sue C

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	Tony Dolby	01780 766897
Pickworth	Goldie Barnwell	01780 410272
	Charles Gilman	01780 411017

Can you name the Five Cardinal Virtues?

Can you name the Seven Deadly Sins?

Answers at the foot of page 17



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Priest in Charge

Benefice Safeguarding Officer

Great Casterton Hall Bookings

Newsletter

Church Wardens:

Great Casterton

Little Casterton

Pickworth

Vacancy

Carol Maynard

Steve Cunningham

Mary Sproson

Peter Bryan

Geoffrey Archer

Tony Dolby

Charles Gilman

Goldie Barnwell

01780 755687

07810 404748

01780 762933

07507 299436

07803 423010

01780 766897

01780 411017

01780 410272

Quote of the Month

*Answer from last month – Noel Coward said
“The higher the building, the lower the morals”*

This month's quote: who said this? “Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value”.

Word Challenge

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

“Regretfulness”

Update for Social Events Autumn 2026

September 19 th	Saturday Live – 12 noon Admission Free – retiring collection
September 27 th	Harvest lunch after Morning Praise. (12.00 noon) £10pp BYO alcohol
October 16 th -	Quingo Quiz - 6.30 pm – £10pp - Bar available.
November 14 th -	Ladies Play Reading –‘The Mad Professor’ - 6.30 pm £15 pp to include light supper of baked potatoes with choice of filling and cakes to follow. Bar available.
December 5 th -	Christmas Raffle and coffee morning. From 10.30.with singing by Anna Taylor Raffle to be drawn at approximately 11.30 am. (Tickets to be available at beginning of September)

Who was the first person
to download something
from a cloud to two tablets?

MOSES.



wikiHow



Have you Ever Visited?

Browne's Hospital on Broad Street.

The Hospital was founded by William Browne, a rich wool merchant of Stamford, and built in 1475 in the reign of Edward IV. With his brother, John, William Browne was largely responsible for enlarging and embellishing the Church of All Saints nearby. In 1485 William was authorised by letters patent of Richard III to found and endow the almshouse, but after his death and that of his wife Margaret, in 1489, the management of the Hospital passed to her brother, Thomas Stokke, Canon of York and Rector of Easton-on-the-Hill. The Hospital or Bedehouse - a name by which it was also known - was established as a home and a house of prayer for 10 poor men and 2 poor woman, with a Warden and a Confrater, both of whom were to be secular, i.e. non-monastic, priests. The statutes required attendance at chapel twice daily, where masses for the repose of the souls of the Founders were said. In present times, the accommodation consists of 13 self-contained flats set around a beautiful Cloister garden. To visit, see the web-site. Generally the museum is open for visitors on Bank Holidays and Saturdays from March to September, 11.30 till 15.30.

S.C.



Words of God

4w

G.R.A.C.E.

G

God's Gift

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

ROMANS 6:23



💡 Grace begins as a gift—you didn't earn it, you received it.

R

Redeemed by Christ

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace."

EPHESIANS 1:7



💡 Grace paid your price when you couldn't.

A

Abundant Mercy

"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time"

HEBREWS 4:16



💡 Grace is not limited—it meets you in every need.

C

Covered in Love

"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

ROMANS 5:8



💡 Grace covers your past with His love.

E

Everlasting Favor

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."

EPHESIANS 2:8



Grace changes everything.

Grace isn't something you earn
it's something God ...



Looking Ahead

The church wardens and members of the P.C.C. of the five churches in our proposed new benefice of Ryhall, Essendine, Little Casterton, Pickworth and ourselves have met with Bishop Debbie to prepare a document much like a C.V. about each of our churches and our congregations. This will become the document used to advertise our need for someone to take over the role of Priest in Charge of the new benefice. If the process goes to plan it is hoped that advertising will take place in January.

In the meantime, a member of the clergy is being appointed to work with Ryhall and Essendine, hopefully from the beginning of September until the end of December, as these churches have been in vacancy for over three years and are struggling. The good news for us is that he will be available for us to call on for weddings, baptisms and funerals. This will take a great weight off our church wardens.

In the meantime we ask for your prayers for the smooth running of the selection process and the joining of our five churches into one new benefice. Change can be difficult but it can also be exciting.

The great Sir Isaac Newton was so absentminded, he would often lose his way while heading for dinner from his room at Cambridge University. Finding himself in the street instead of the dining hall, he would then retrace his steps and return to his room, having forgotten where he was going and why.

-oOo-

“Music, at its essence, is what gives us memories, and the longer a song has existed in our lives, the more memories we have of it.

Musician Stevie Wonder in an interview with Oprah Winfrey.

-oOo-

“The Rolling Stones suffered a great loss with the death of Ian Stewart, the man who had for so many years played piano quietly and silently with them onstage.”

D.J. Andy Peebles in a BBC Radio 1 announcement

The Two Kingdoms Emerge

The two kingdoms emerge The country was in a mess even under Saul its first king. We are about 1060bc. Surrounding nations like the Philistines kept attacking. David, the youngest of a big family and in common with others who may feel they have been overlooked or isolated, naturally took chances when they showed up when a little caution may have been wise. You will remember him as a teenager hearing about Goliath and immediately offering to challenge him against advice. David ridicules Goliath who laughs so much that he lifts his helmet in mirth. That proved fatal. The sling stone cracked the skull. In honour David is brought into society where he meets a very wise lad called Ahithophel. They grow up together and become so close that we read that David never set out on any enterprises without talking it over with his friend. Indeed in “those days the advice Ahithophel gave was like that of one who enquires of God”. Saul thinks David wants to kill him and be king himself, but David saves Saul’s life several times. Saul dies and David was now king and finally lived in Jerusalem. Apart from some local skirmishes, there was reasonable peace among the population but not among the royal family. Do not forget that in those times it was not unusual for a man to have several wives.

Reputations It is recorded that “in all Israel there was not a man so highly praised for his handsome appearance as Absalom”, one of David’s sons.. And so he was very popular and people loved him and thinks he ought to be king. But he went wrong and had to live in another country until David forgave him. Absalom is now very clever and gets David’s chief adviser Ahithophel to become his chief of staff. David is no fool and realises that with this man Ahithophel advising Absalom, he is on a loser and so runs away to prevent civil war. He prays that God will turn Ahithophel’s counsel into foolishness now he has sided with Absalom. David had relied on Ahithophel’s advice for years. They had grown up together. He trusted him. It is said that their relationship is reflected in some of the Psalms. And yet, in this moment of crisis, Ahithophel changes sides. We may well ask why. But David loved his sons and, in the process of time, allowed Absalom to come back to the city but not to the palace. Now Absalom who was very good looking, married and had a daughter who also was quite pretty. One of David’s younger sons fell badly for this daughter and raped her which made Absalom a bit cross and two years later he gave a party and when the wine flowed, had this younger brother murdered. David is not pleased with Absalom who runs away, gets a following by flattery and even

persuades Ahithophel to join him and give more advice. Meanwhile Ahithophel has had a niece called Bathsheba who had married one of David's army generals but had a habit of bathing on the roof overlooked by David. David effectively murders her husband and marries her himself. So Ahithophel has a grievance against David. Absalom is not pleased with David and plots to take over the kingship using that professional advice. David prays that Ahithophel should now give bad advice to Absalom

Obvious outcomes Now we have some complications. A popular uprising in favour of Absalom prompts David to run away from Jerusalem before a battle occurs when Absalom is caught in an oak tree by his hair and is killed. David is devastated by Absalom's death. We can read his thoughts said to be recorded in Psalms 55 and 56. David is perhaps the most clever king the Israelis ever had. Solomon of course the wisest as he prayed for wisdom. David was clever in that he withdrew rather than face a battle with his own people. He had at last learned to be cautious. But Absalom thinks he has a grievance which festered for several years before he had his brother murdered for seducing his daughter. Ahithophel had a grievance because David raped his niece before marrying her. Absalom was murdered while leading an insurrection. Ahithophel we read put his house in order before hanging himself because his advice had not been taken. The difference was perhaps that David had remorse and pleads for forgiveness. The other two seek to exact their own retribution. Solomon's son Rehoboam became king . But he proposed higher taxes and forced labour, and the northern kingdom revolted and became independent based on Samaria.. Jeroboam became king in Samaria and the two kingdoms never respected each other. Rehoboam was king of the small area round Jerusalem. They are now known as Palestinians and Israelis.

Questions? Piecing together all the relationships in these histories is complex and I am indebted to several learned commentators for some details. Even then they do not always seem to agree with each other on details and time scales but the lessons put over are clear for our learning. What grievances may people have now which define their attitudes and actions? Should there have been more forgiveness taking account of their experiences? What would a modern judge say? Or even the papers? Do attitudes derange logical thought?

Bob

Be on the lookout for ducks in disguise.

Visit your local pond lake or wetland in August and you might notice something odd, all the male Mallards seem to have disappeared.

In fact, they will still be paddling around but in disguise.

Males lose their breeding plumage, including their showy green head feathers and grow new brownish feathers, called their eclipse plumage, once the breeding season is over making them resemble females. Look closely though and you can tell the difference; males still have their greenish yellow beak while females have a brownish orange beak.

So why do these usually dapper ducks bother with this drab disguise? It's all down to the way they moult. Unlike most birds ducks lose all of their wing feathers in one go, which means that they are temporarily unable to fly until the feathers grow back. This quite literally makes them sitting ducks for predators and so it pays to swap their eye-catching plumage for something a little more understated that will help them blend in.

By autumn Mallards will be back looking their best with males sporting shiny new emerald head feathers.

PB



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.

Wildfires

Wildfires are an increasing challenge across the UK with significant impacts on people, communities, wildlife and the landscape we all value. Recent fires across England Scotland Wales and Northern Ireland and those on the continent have highlighted both the scale of the threat and the importance of working together to prevent respond to and recover from these devastating events.

What causes wildfires?

Extreme weather caused by climate change is increasing the scale intensity and frequency of wildfires both in the UK and globally.

While warm weather increases the risk of a fire the spark that starts a wildfire is almost always linked to activity by people. Discarded litter, disposable barbecues, campfires, fireworks and deliberate fire setting can all ignore ignite fires that spread rapidly.

This means that although risks are growing many wildfires remain preventable raising awareness encouraging responsible behaviour and helping people understand the consequences of wildfires are all essential parts of the solution.

What can I do to prevent wild fires?

Don't use disposable barbecues in the countryside or on nature reserves or parks

- Only light campfires or barbecues where they are explicitly permitted and safe. Anglian Water has banned barbecues on all of its sites which includes Rutland water as have Nene valley parks (Ferry Meadows)
- Dispose of cigarettes safely. Never throw cigarette butts onto the ground and make sure they are completely extinguished before putting them in a bin.
- Keep glass objects out of direct sunlight as they may contribute to fire risk in some situations.
- Take all litter and food waste home litter can fuel fires and food waste can harm wildlife. Picking up litter left by others also helps reduce fire risk.
- Report any fire immediately by calling 999 and asking for the Fire and Rescue service. If possible, give an accurate location for example using the What 3 words app or another location reference. Early reporting can prevent a small fire becoming a major wildfire.

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www.stamfordcancersupport.org.uk

Recipe for September, or any other time your fancy cake!

(This recipe was published in the Daily Telegraph over twenty years ago as a simple recipe to get children interested in baking. as the only measuring is done with a yogurt pot. I made this cake with my grandchildren and have never stopped making it in many guises. MS)



1-2-3 CAKE

All the measuring is done with an empty yogurt pot, which means that quite small children can manage it. Oil is used in place of butter, so mixing is easier too. The cake is even better with a handful of fresh fruit added to it.

Ingredients:

- 1 small pot of yogurt (any flavour, but caramel or plain are best)
- 1 pot of vegetable oil
- 2 pots of caster sugar
- 3 pots of self-raising flour
- 3 eggs

Preheat the oven to 160C/350F/gas mark 4. Grease an 8 or 9 inch cake tin.

Empty the yoghurt into a mixing bowl. Use the empty pot to measure out the oil, then add to the bowl.

Rinse and dry the pot, then measure the sugar and flour into the bowl. Break in the eggs and mix well, so there are no lumps or streaks. (If you are going to add fruit, stir in a cupful now.)

Turn the mixture into the tin and bake for one and a quarter to one and a half hours (check after 45 minutes, and if it is well browned cover with a piece of greaseproof paper).



To see if the cake is done, stick a skewer into the middle. Pull it out to check for smears of uncooked mixture. If there are none, take the cake out of the oven and leave to cool in the tin.

@SonicaEllis

Random Facts of the Day for Kids



Butterflies taste with their feet.



Snails can have thousands of tiny teeth.

A giraffe's tongue can be about 20 inches long.



Octopuses have 3 hearts and 9 brains.



Jellyfish and cucumbers are both about 95% water.



Ostriches can run faster than horses.



A group of frogs is called an army.



Sea otters hold hands while they sleep so they don't drift apart.



Baby kangaroos are about the size of a jellybean when they are born.



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Mary Sproson – email: stpeter.stpaul@outlook.com

A blue-tinted advertisement for Freeman Landscaping. The background shows a garden with a stone path, a large tree, and a bench. In the top left corner is a circular logo with a tree and the text 'FREEMAN LANDSCAPING'. The main text in the center reads 'We can transform your outdoor living space'. At the bottom, contact information is provided: 'CALL US NOW ON: 07703 337128 or 01780 238376', 'EMAIL: info@benfreemanuk.co.uk', and 'Find us on Facebook or visit www.freemanlandscaping.co.uk'.

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outdoor living space**

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Answers to question on page 4

CARDINAL VIRTUES – Prudence, Justice, Temperance, Fortitude

DEADLY SINS – Pride, Greed, Lust, Envy, Gluttony, Anger, Sloth

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FOR HIRE

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Steve Cunningham

Email: stephenmichaelcunningham@gmail.com

Phone: 07810 404748



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