

All Saints, Little Casterton



St Peter & St Paul, Great Casterton

# Four Churches Together

All Saints, Pickworth



St Peter's Tickencote



**NOVEMBER 2026**

# Calendar of Events for November 2026

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 9.00am | Holy Communion | Little Casterton |
| | 10.30am | Holy Communion - All Saints Day | Great Casterton |
| 2 | | | |
| 3 | | | |
| 4 | 10.00am | Celtic Prayers | Church Hall |
| | 10.30am | Community Coffee | Church Hall |
| 5 | 7.00pm | House Group | TBA |
| 6 | 10.00am to 12.00 | Toddlers | Church Hall |
| 7 | | | |
| | | | |
| 8 | 10.30am | Remembrance Service | Great Casterton |
| 9 | | | |
| 10 | | | |
| 11 | 10.00am | Celtic Prayers | Church Hall |
| | 10.30am | Community Coffee | Church Hall |
| 12 | | | |
| 13 | 10.00am to 12.00 | Toddlers | Church Hall |
| 14 | 6.30pm | Ladies Play Reading | Church Hall |
| | | | |
| 15 | 9.00am | Holy Communion | Little Casterton |
| | 10.30am | Holy Communion | Great Casterton |
| 16 | | | |
| 17 | | | |
| 18 | 10.00am | Celtic Prayers | Church Hall |
| | 10.30am | Community Coffee | Church Hall |
| | 2.00pm | PCC Meeting | Church Hall |
| 19 | 7.00pm | House Group | TBA |
| 20 | 10.00am to 12.00 | Toddlers | Church Hall |
| 21 | 12.00 to 1.00pm | Saturday Live Stamford Consort | Great Casterton |
| 22 | 10.30am | Morning Praise | Great Casterton |
| 23 | | | |
| 24 | | | |
| 25 | 10.00am | Celtic Prayers | Church Hall |
| | 10.30am | Community Coffee | Church Hall |
| 26 | | | |
| 27 | 10.00am to 12.00 | Toddlers | Church Hall |
| 28 | | | |
| 29 | 10.30am | BENEFICE SERVICE Archdeacon Alison leading | St John's Ryhall |
| 30 | 2.00pm | Book Club | Sue Stretton's |

# FOUR CHURCHES NEWS – November 2026

**Parishes of Great and Little Casterton, Pickworth and Tickencote**

Dear Friends

## Appointment of a new Vicar

The process for appointing a full-time Vicar for a new Benefice consisting of Essendine, Great Casterton, Little Casterton, Pickworth and Ryhall is progressing well.

A group of Churchwardens and others meets weekly to discuss and prepare the Benefice Profile which is nearing completion. This will inform prospective applicants about our 5 churches. We all get on very well and are looking forward to working together in future.
The schedule we are working to is advertise in December, with a closing date of 3rd January, short listing on 14th January with the interviews to be held on 10th and 11th February.

Where there is a fifth Sunday in a month, we usually hold a whole Benefice service, as do Essendine and Ryhall. Next month on 29th November we will be holding a Benefice service for all 5 churches in St John's Ryhall at 10.30am. The service will be led by Archdeacon Alison. Everyone is invited to attend and we look forward to seeing you there.

We are also planning a social event for the five churches at Great Casterton Church Hall, on a date yet to be finalised. Full details will be published soon.

Blessings

*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** | **Tony Dolby** | **01780 766897** |
| **Pickworth** | **Goldie Bardwell** | **01780 410272** |
| | **Charles Gilman** | **01780 411017** |

**DOES SEARCHING THE HOUSE FOR AN HOUR COUNT?**

The brain uses fully 2 per cent of your body's entire blood supply. It just so happens that physical exercise increases the number of capillaries in the brain, which improves the flow of that blood, which in turn provides neurons with more energy to grow, which then improves your memory.
Now, if only you could remember where you put your running shoes….

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Priest in Charge** | **Vacancy** | |
| **Benefice Safeguarding Officer** | **Carol Maynard** | **01780 755687** |
| **Great Casterton Hall Bookings** | **Steve Cunninngham** | **07810 404748** |
| **Newsletter** | **Mary Sproson** | **01780 762933** |
| **Church Wardens:** | | |
| **Great Casterton** | **Peter Bryan** | **07507 299436** |
| | **Geoffrey Archer** | **07803 423010** |
| **Little Casterton** | **Tony Dolby** | **01780 766897** |
| **Pickworth** | **Charles Gilman** | **01780 411017** |
| | **Goldie Bardwell** | **01780 410272** |

## ***Quote of the Month***

Answer from last Month: Abraham Lincoln said “Better to remain silent and be thought a fool, than to speak out and remove all doubt.”

This month’s quote: Who said this?
“If you don’t like the road you’re walking, start paving another one.”

## Word Challenge

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

**“Importunate”**

## Harvest Lunch 2026

Great Casterton's Harvest Lunch was held on Sunday 27th September following on immediately from our Harvest Festival service in church.

We were enormously pleased that Bob and Bev Mackrill were able to attend.

Twenty-two sat down to lunch and were treated to an array of home-cooked foods on the buffet table. Baked jacket potatoes, green salads and rice salads were plentiful, as were the main choices of ham, coronation chicken, quiches, pork pies and scotch eggs. Once plates were empty, and after second helpings were eagerly snapped up too, a wonderful selection of puddings were arranged on the buffet. Trifle, apple tarts, cherries in jelly, lemon meringue pie, fresh fruit salad, and frangipane pie to name but a few.

Soft drinks were available at a small price, and teas/coffees had been made available too.

A total of over £220 was raised for church funds although once a few expenses were taken this fell to just under the £200. All-in-all our harvest lunch was a super, warm and friendly event where companionship, kindness, and generosity were all on equal display.

Thank you very much to all who contributed.

Sue Cliffe




**A good spread at the Harvest Lunch**

# Have You Ever Visited? Greenwich?

A visit to Greenwich, London is a sheerdelight. Beginning at London's oldest royal park, and many ancient trees.  A short walk uphill takes able to stand on Longitude 0° because this is the historic home of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)
You will also see a drop globe that precisely marks the hour - used in days gone by for ships to synchronize their time for navigation purposes - and the collection of Harrison Clocks which are all craftsmen made again for the purpose of navigation and are the amazing central characters of the story to the history of "Longitude". Returning down the park to the edge of the Thames, there are cosy cafes and pubs and a lovely vibe to the little village. Plus book in to see The Cutty Sark, or The Old Royal Naval College, and/or The National Maritime Museum and Queen's House.

To get there you'd need to travel to London Kings Cross by train. And from there when we visited we took the tube to Embankment and then an Uber Water Taxi to Greenwich, which provided much fun en route.

Returning down the park to the edge of the Thames, there are cosy cafes and pubs and a lovely vibe to the little village. Plus book in to see The Cutty Sark, or The Old Royal Naval College, and/or The National Maritime Museum and

To get there you'd need to travel to London Kings Cross by train. And from there when we visited we took the tube to Embankment and then an Uber Water Taxi to Greenwich, which provided much fun en-route.

*Sue C*







**Murder Mystery Play**

**Ladies Play Reading & Supper**

Saturday November 14th 2026 ~ 6.30pm £15pp to include supper

Bar available

Come to join ladies from the congregation and friends reading a play unseen.

# The Mad Professor

Action takes place at Preston Railway station. An accident further North has closed the line - sounds a bit like 'Murder on the Orient Express'.

Come to find out what happens next.

Tickets available now from ann.m.archer@gmail.com

**Raising money for Great Casterton Church Roof Repairs**

## October Quingo Evening

An evening of quizzing and fun was enjoyed by a select audience

Friday 16th October.

Our grateful thanks go to Joan and her friend Dee for putting together the evening's entertainment and asking us some quite challenging question from time to time.

We had a well-stocked bar with both alcohol and non-alcoholic beverages including beer, wine and soft drinks. An amazing array of prizes in the raffle allowed each table to win at least one prize.

A total of £120 was raised for our church roof repair fund.

# NAHUM

What on earth has an obscure preacher in about six hundred years before Jesus came to teach and the gospels were written got to do with us people in 2026/7? But this message has been carefully recorded and printed in the Old Testament part of our Bibles. The Assyrians based on Nineveh ruled everywhere and were ruthless and brutal even atavistic. They had already wiped-out Israel in Samaria in 722bc. Despite some revivals, the city of Jerusalem still stood until 597bc Nahum, whose name means "The Lord comforts" writes in the few years before Nineveh was conquered, and forecasts judgement. Nahum writes deploring the way of life and forecasting retribution. That happened in 612bc by the Babylonians. We do not know much about Nahum although some say he had lived in an Israeli village which took on his name in Capernahum, missing out the h later. He was possibly a prisoner when he wrote this vicious description. There is no reference to Nahum elsewhere in the Bible. We think he wrote in the period just before 612bc.

**Modern living**. The main theme of the book which is recorded as a vision is that God will punish those who do not live by his principles. Now he forecasts destruction to Nineveh. God's justice is in his own time and we can be certain of it. Do not ignore his powers over the earth. The Assyrians had taken Thebes in 663bc who thought they were the strongest city in that area of the known world. Thebes had the great river Nile as one side and the protection of the Egyptians on the other so thought they were safe. Nahum comes in the middle of all these great events and castigates both. Of Nineveh he says that much of their society is *"like locusts with more people buying and selling than there are stars in the sky"*. Then again "*There are too many bureaucrats, bankers and brokers who are all keen to be at your service with smiles and promises. But later when you return with questions or complaints you'll find they've flown off and are nowhere to be found".* People were goods. The Assyrian soldiers reportedly first marked their slaves by cutting off a few fingers. When they found this limited their use as slaves, they cut off noses and ears instead. That made them obvious. Misbehaving male slaves had their vital parts removed. Jonah had already written against the Nineveh ways of life and suggested that God would take vengeance on the city because of their behaviour.

**Surprises** Nahum deplores this way of life with the promise of inevitable divine retribution. This was done by the Babylonians. Nineveh was thought to be impregnable. It had walls 100 feet high with fort towers extending 100 feet above the wall.

The wall itself was so wide that three chariots could drive abreast along it. It was surrounded by a moat 45 meters wide and 18 meters deep. Although the Babylonians had built a siege ramp working under a defensive shelter called a mantelet which was a moveable structure, they never used it. Instead, they dammed the local river that had gone round the city and dug a diversion into the city and so flooded it. No preparation had been made for this form of attack and the city was taken. That rupture of the old river bank into the new channel took the city by fatal surprise.

**Who were the worst?** His criticism is not reserved for just the people. He addresses his remarks to those he calls "the *shepherd leaders who are in charge of caring for your people. They are busy doing everything else but."* And later, "*They are not doing their job."* He uses some lovely similes when he says the "*forts are like peach trees with lush peaches ripe and ready for picking. One shake of the tree and they fall into hungry mouths".* He makes no difference between the hedonic and the bestial. The soldiers or the traders? Nahum seems to make no difference. Seeing cruelty and wrong and doing nothing about it is as bad as doing it.

**Questions.** Perhaps his message is that God will inevitably bring judgement. Big is not always good and safe. They had relied on their forts. Nahum said that the people were like locusts, too busy to remember God, relying on their own strength. Are the great powers in the world now so busy that they forget God? Are we?

His country had been surrounded by great empires like Solomon and possibly the Philistines to the Egyptians. Then the Assyrians who were pushed out by the Persians and Medes. Their empire was taken over by the brilliant Alexander in 332 who had conquered the whole of the then known world when he was only young. Some say he sent a detachment into Britain, but that is not clear. He certainly was crowned Tutankhamen the second in Egypt and even anointed Messiah in Jerusalem. He was twenty three when he died. His empire was soon superseded by trade forces as Rome had money and Egypt had grain. To protect the trade route Israel asked the Romans to establish fortresses and army bases which they did in Samaria and Jerusalem. The Romans did not conquer Israel, they organised it. Was Britain the last of the empire seekers or do we look for another? Is one sin worse than another? Do empires fall for greed or just plain jealousy? Or are there religious or societal reasons?

***Bob***

*Quotes in italics are taken verbatim from the Message version of the Bible*

# Hedgehogs

,



Hedgehogs get a regular mention in these notes and with Bonfire Night just a few days away now and, for some folk, the tradition is an opportunity to dispose of discarded wood or fallen branches from their garden. But bonfires can be very dangerous for some of our most vulnerable species. To hedgehogs, bonfires look like a good place to rest and unfortunately, this can lead to disaster.

Here are some easy-to-follow steps to help keep your bonfire safe for everyone, including hedgehogs.

1. Store materials for your bonfire in a safe place – then on the day you want to light it, move them to a different patch of ground.
2. Build the bonfire on the same day that you will light it. The longer it's left for, the more likely it is that a hedgehog will wander in.
3. Always place the bonfire on open ground – never on a pile of leaves as a hedgehog may be hiding underneath.
4. Always check the entire bonfire for hedgehogs before lighting it. They tend to hide in the base of the centre of the pile.

If you do find a hedgehog then move slowly and calmly. Pick it up with gardening gloves, along with any nesting material it may have been sitting in and place it in a cardboard box lined with newspaper. Move the box to a safe location and release the hedgehog under a bush or log pile.

These precautions can apply to any time in autumn/winter if you have a bonfire in the garden, especially if the pile has been there a while.

Have a great, safe and hedgehog safe, bonfire night.

*Peter*

## Grand Christmas Raffle and Coffee Morning

**5th December, 2026**

**10.30 - 11.30am**

**Anna Taylor singing Christmas Music**

**Followed by Grand Christmas Raffle to be drawn at 11.30am.**

**Tickets are available at £1 each, from Ann Archer**

**(Ann.m.archer@gmail.com)**

**Cash prizes, vouchers, wine, spirits, plus many other prizes.**

**First Prize £100 cash.**

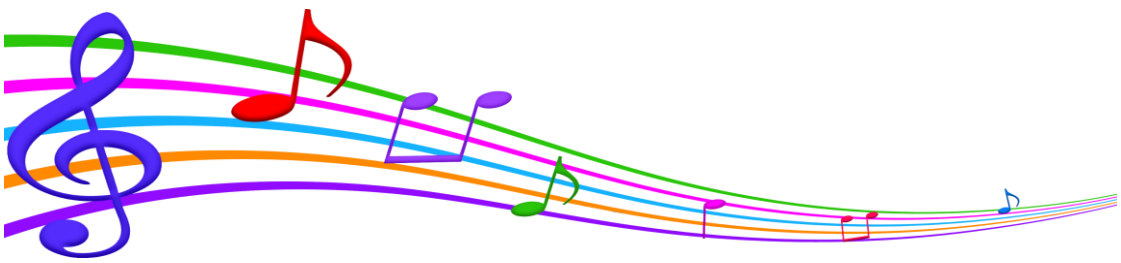
## Saturday Lunchtime Live November 21st 2026

**St Peter &St Paul's Church, Great Casterton**
**12.00 noon to 1.00pm**

# Stamford Consort

A local a-cappella choir singing medieval and Modern Four-part harmonies.

Admission free.
Retiring collection in aid of church roof repairs



# Bubble Church training inspires fresh family ministry across the Diocese




**Churches from across Peterborough Diocese and beyond gathered at Christ the King Church, Kettering, for a lively Bubble Church training day on Tuesday 13 October.**

Bubble Church is a 30-minute Sunday service created especially for young families. With puppets, play, worship, food and coffee, it offers a relaxed, welcoming adventure in which children and adults can take part together.

Organised by the Diocesan Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) Team in partnership with the national Bubble Church team, the day gave clergy, lay ministers and volunteers an opportunity to discover a fresh and joyful way of helping babies, toddlers and their families encounter Jesus.

**Is this something we could think about? Looks like a fun day!**

---

The CYPF Team supports churches of every shape and size to find creative ways of engaging with children, young people and families. Whether your church has a thriving ministry with younger generations or is just getting started,

Contact **louise.skinner@peterborough-diocese.org.uk** for more information.

# *Recipe Page – Sloe Gin*

**Sloe Gin –** At this time of year there are still plenty of sloes in the hedgerows, plump and ready for picking and making into Sloe Gin which will be ready for Christmas.



Ingredients: 500g ripe sloes

250g Golden caster sugar

1 litre of gin

Method:

**STEP 1** Rinse and pick over the sloes, then pat dry in a clean tea towel. Using a stainless steel fork or cocktail stick, prick the sloes and tip into a 2-litre glass jar, or divide between two smaller jars.

**STEP 2** Add the sugar to the gin, then seal the jar. Shake well. Once a day for seven days, give the jar a good shake. Store the jar in a cool, dark place and leave for two to three months.

**STEP 3** Line a plastic sieve with a square of muslin set over a bowl and strain the sloe gin through it. Decant into clean, dry bottles, then seal and label. The sloe gin is now ready to drink but it will improve and mature over time – so, if possible, make it one year to drink the next.



## BOOKSHELF NEEDED



In lockdown I realised just how many Christian books I have, and, although I may not necessarily wish to get rid of them, I would love to be able to share them. I also have many Christian books and bibles, in a variety of translations, which have been given to me when people have been clearing a house. People who have no faith but somehow cannot just dump them and would love for them to be used by people who do.

The P.C.C. have given me permission to set up a bookshelf in church. The idea being that books could be donated and offered to those who would like to keep them or loaned so that others could borrow them but still give them back as or when the owner wants them. The finer details are yet to be thought through.

My biggest stumbling block now is that I am looking to source a suitable bookshelf, nothing too intrusive in a medium shade of wood, and definitely without doors. Probably about 3 feet high by about 3 feet wide so that it does not stand higher than the pew backs If you have such a bookcase, I would love to hear from you.

Mary Sproson

## PRAYER BOARD

There is a Prayer Board in Great Casterton Church for people to put their prayer requests. Prayers for people they are worried about, illness troubles and situations they cannot see a way out of on their own, and, of course, themselves.
Please feel free to leave a prayer if you visit the church. Every request is prayed aloud at our Celtic Prayer service at 10.00am in the church hall, meeting on Wednesday morning. It would be helpful if you also put the date, so we can keep track of them.

Newsletter ~ we are always happy to receive articles, theological and comical, puzzles, pictures, etc., for inclusion in the newsletter.
They need to be with me, preferably by e-mail, by the 16th of the month.
Thank you in anticipation.

*Mary Sproson ~ stpeter.stpaul@outlook.com*

## HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF ADVERTISING?

**Do you have a small business, offer a service, or run a club, then why not advertise here at very reasonable rates?**
**For more information please contact**

**Mary Sproson ~ email stpeter.stpaul@outlook.com**






# Willow Brook Farm Shop

**TRADITIONAL BUTCHERS & FARM SHOP**

Grass fed, home reared beef here on our family run farm

The largest Butcher's counter in the area, prepared by our friendly expert Butchers

Local produce & fresh vegetables

**Visit us at**

Scotsmans Lodge,
Stamford Road
Peterborough PE6 7EL

RED TRACTOR CERTIFIED STANDARDS







**Telephone:**
01780 740261

**www.willowbrookfarmshop.co.uk**
infowillowbrookfarmshop@btinternet.com



## Repairs and Alterations

Do you have garments that need repairing or altering?

Contact Anna Taylor for all your sewing repair needs.

Telephone: 07492767616




## Richard Arden, Painter & Decorator

Professional Service, Wallpaper Hanging

All aspects of decorating

FREE, No Obligation Quote

07759 638612, 01778 422195

richardnott9@aol.com



- 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.

Radfield Home Care

## Care as individual as you

Inspected and rated Outstanding — CareQuality Commission



### INDEPENDENT LIVING SUPPORT IN YOUR OWN HOME

Help getting ready for your day, or someone to enjoy your day with? Your Radfield Home Care Team is handpicked to provide care and companionship as individual as you

We provide visits to suit all needs, from 3 hours a week to 24 hour live in care

Local, award-winning, family business

For a confidential chat about your requirements, and to find out how we can help, simply call or email us today

email: james.beech@radfieldhomecare.co.uk tel: 01780 755722

www.radfieldhomecare.co.uk

**DALTON**
STONEMASONRY
RESTORE. BUILD. LAST.

Based in Stamford
& covering surrounding areas
Repointing - Conservation - restoration
- New build stone work
j.dalton@daltonstonemasonry.com
or contact James on 07983415016

**Vicki Ball**
**Reflexologist and**
**Bowen Therapist**
Tel: 01780 482244/07803 020571
vickiball10@hotmail.com
www.vickiballreflexologist.co.uk
River Gwash Trout Farm, Ryhall,
Stamford. PE9 4JZ

BCIT
PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

*Why does the computer always play up in the evenings when the repair shops are shut?*

Available to help from 8am until 9pm including weekends
Computer maintenance for home and business

**A complete service for all your computing needs**

34 Oak Rd, Stamford. Telephone: 07766 833076 Email bill@bcit.co.uk

**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

**The Crown Great Casterton**

A welcoming family local – Food served daily.



Selection of fine beverages including real ales.

Open daily: Monday -Sat 11.00am to 11.00pm

Sunday 12 noon to 11.00 pm

**Telephone 75383**