

Weekly update for Sunday 4th October 2026

The Benefice of
Hopton, Corton & Gunton

09:30 Morning Prayer St Benedict's, Gunton

11:00 Harvest Festival with Holy Communion St Margaret's, Hopton

Followed by a bring-and-share Lite Bite lunch. All are welcome.

THIS WEEK

Monday 5th October

10:00 – 12:00

DROP IN at St Margaret's, Hopton. Meet and chat with others over a cup of tea or coffee. All are welcome.

Wednesday 7th October

14:00 – 16:00

FRIENDSHIP CLUB at St Peter's, Gunton annex. A group to get together to enjoy friendship and activities. All are welcome.

Thursday 8th October

09:15 – 11:15

LITTLE FOOTPRINTS at St Margaret's, Hopton. Play & Stay for pre-school children (0-4) and their parents/carers.

OTHER NOTICES

ALASTAIR IS AWAY from Monday 5th to Saturday 17th October.

HARVEST FESTIVAL is on Sunday 4th October at **St Margaret's, Hopton**. Please bring dry packaged food and tins, which will be donated to a local food bank. Please do *not* bring fresh fruit and veg and other perishable items, or those requiring refrigeration, as these cannot be taken. Many thanks in advance for your generosity.

LITE BITE LUNCH at St Margaret's, Hopton, on Sunday 4th October will be bring-and-share. All are very welcome. Please don't worry if you are unable to bring anything to share; there will be some spare food available.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES will be collected at St Margaret's, Hopton, on behalf of Samaritan's Purse. Fill a shoebox with gifts to be shared with a child in need this Christmas. Empty shoeboxes can be collected from St Margaret's, or you can use one you have at home. A sheet with information of appropriate gift ideas is available. The deadline for returning filled shoeboxes to St Margaret's is Sunday 8th November.

LOWESTOFT LIVING WORD is held at Christ Church Lowestoft on Tuesday 20th, Wednesday 21st & Thursday 22nd October, 19:30 – 21:00, at Christ Church Lowestoft (NR32 1XD). The theme is 'Inner Renewal' with talks each evening from Isaiah 40. The speaker is Revd Ed Veale, vicar of St Mark's Church in Mitcham, south London. More information can be found online at lowestoftlivingword.co.uk

SUNDAY 11th OCTOBER

09:30 Holy Communion St Bartholomew's, Corton

11:00 Morning Worship St Margaret's, Hopton

11:00 Holy Communion St Peter's, Gunton

The Benefice of Hopton, Corton & Gunton

Rector: Revd Alastair Gledhill

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COLLECT

Eternal God,
you crown the year with your
goodness
and you give us the fruits of the earth
in their season:
grant that we may use them to your
glory,
for the relief of those in need and for
our own well-being;
through Jesus Christ your Son our
Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

DEUTERONOMY 8:7-18

⁷For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land – a land with brooks, streams, and deep springs gushing out into the valleys and hills; ⁸a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig-trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; ⁹a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills.

¹⁰When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. ¹¹Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. ¹²Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, ¹³and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, ¹⁴then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ¹⁵He led you through the vast and dreadful wilderness, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. ¹⁶He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you. ¹⁷You may say to yourself,

‘My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.’
¹⁸But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

⁶Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written:

‘They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures for ever.’

¹⁰Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

¹²This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

LUKE 12:16-30

¹⁶And he told them this parable: ‘The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷He thought to himself, “What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.”

¹⁸‘Then he said, “This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹And I’ll say to myself, ‘You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’”

²⁰‘But God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?”

²¹‘This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich towards God.’

²²Then Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. ²⁴Consider the ravens: they do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! ²⁵Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? ²⁶Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

²⁷‘Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. ²⁸If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you – you of little faith! ²⁹And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. ³⁰For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them.

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,
increase in us your gift of faith
that, forsaking what lies behind
and reaching out to that which is
before,
we may run the way of your
commandments
and win the crown of everlasting joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our
Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

ISAIAH 5:1-7

5 I will sing for the one I love
a song about his vineyard:
my loved one had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside.
² He dug it up and cleared it of stones
and planted it with the choicest
vines.
He built a watchtower in it
and cut out a winepress as well.
Then he looked for a crop of good
grapes,
but it yielded only bad fruit.
³ 'Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and
people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.
⁴ What more could have been done for
my vineyard
than I have done for it?
When I looked for good grapes,
why did it yield only bad?
⁵ Now I will tell you
what I am going to do to my
vineyard:
I will take away its hedge,
and it will be destroyed;
I will break down its wall,
and it will be trampled.
⁶ I will make it a wasteland,
neither pruned nor cultivated,
and briers and thorns will grow
there.
I will command the clouds
not to rain on it.'
⁷ The vineyard of the LORD Almighty
is the nation of Israel,
and the people of Judah

are the vines he delighted in.
And he looked for justice, but saw
bloodshed;
for righteousness, but heard cries of
distress.

PHILIPPIANS 3:4b-14

If someone else thinks they have
reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I
have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth
day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe
of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in
regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for
zeal, persecuting the church; as for
righteousness based on the law,
faultless.

⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now
consider loss for the sake of Christ.
⁸ What is more, I consider everything a
loss because of the surpassing worth of
knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for
whose sake I have lost all things. I
consider them garbage, that I may gain
Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having
a righteousness of my own that comes
from the law, but that which is through
faith in Christ – the righteousness that
comes from God on the basis of faith.
¹⁰ I want to know Christ – yes, to know
the power of his resurrection and
participation in his sufferings, becoming
like him in his death, ¹¹ and so,
somehow, attaining to the resurrection
from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained all
this, or have already arrived at my goal,
but I press on to take hold of that for
which Christ Jesus took hold of me.
¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not
consider myself yet to have taken hold
of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what
is behind and straining towards what is
ahead, ¹⁴ I press on towards the goal to
win the prize for which God has called
me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.

MATTHEW 21:33-46

³³ 'Listen to another parable: there was
a landowner who planted a vineyard. He
put a wall round it, dug a winepress in it
and built a watchtower. Then he rented
the vineyard to some farmers and

moved to another place. ³⁴ When the
harvest time approached, he sent his
servants to the tenants to collect his
fruit.

³⁵ 'The tenants seized his servants; they
beat one, killed another, and stoned a
third. ³⁶ Then he sent other servants to
them, more than the first time, and the
tenants treated them in the same way.
³⁷ Last of all, he sent his son to them.
"They will respect my son," he said.

³⁸ 'But when the tenants saw the son,
they said to each other, "This is the
heir. Come, let's kill him and take his
inheritance." ³⁹ So they took him and
threw him out of the vineyard and killed
him.

⁴⁰ 'Therefore, when the owner of the
vineyard comes, what will he do to
those tenants?'

⁴¹ 'He will bring those wretches to a
wretched end,' they replied, 'and he will
rent the vineyard to other tenants, who
will give him his share of the crop at
harvest time.'

⁴² Jesus said to them, 'Have you never
read in the Scriptures:

"The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this,
and it is marvellous in our eyes"?

⁴³ 'Therefore I tell you that the kingdom
of God will be taken away from you and
given to a people who will produce its
fruit. ⁴⁴ Anyone who falls on this stone
will be broken to pieces; anyone on
whom it falls will be crushed.'

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the
Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, they
knew he was talking about them.

⁴⁶ They looked for a way to arrest him,
but they were afraid of the crowd
because the people held that he was a
prophet.