

St Michael & All Angels

Southam, Woolstone, Gotherington & Oxenton

Sunday 19 October 2025: Trinity 18

Readings- St Michael's- Southam – Good God! Why Trinity? Psalm 27: 1-8

WGO- Harvest: Colossians 1: 15-20, Luke 18: 1-8

9.30am Holy Communion – St Michael & All Angels Bishop's Cleeve

10.00am Church on the Hill – meet at Church of the Ascension, Southam

10.00am Holy Communion - St Martin de Tours, Woolstone

11.15am Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion -St Michael & All Angels Bishop's Cleeve

For the complete list of services see <https://www.stmichaelsbishopsclleeve.co.uk/whats-on>

Sunday 12 October 2025 - Our Annual Gift Day



Through 2025 we have seen some very exciting developments within our Children's and Families Ministry, now with 3 busy Praise and Plays every week, significant increases in our schools work (both in all 4 local Primary Schools, - and in Cleeve School), with increased attendance at Holiday Club over the summer and at Bible Brick Club and Jaffa. Ben and Lucy Barbour are continuing to develop Extravaganza events for children and families in Gotherington. It is therefore vital that we can fund this ministry for the long term.

Unfortunately our costs have increased greatly, by some 9%. On investigation these increased costs are in no particular area, but just seem to be across the board.

Our income during 2025, however, has not increased significantly. This is not at all surprising, as we have tried to keep financial requests to the congregation to a minimum, following your wonderful generosity on the Gift Day, back in July 2024.

However this means that we are projecting a financial shortfall of £25,000 for this calendar year. There are 2 underlying factors that are contributing to this financial shortfall. Firstly the general cost increases described above, but secondly the fact that we have never covered, within our regular planned giving, the cost of our Children's and Families Ministry

The PCC have decided we should have an annual Gift Day, giving us all a chance to review our own giving and to reflect on what God is calling us to do as part of Our Vision 2030. You may think this strange given that we have received the legacy from Esme and Graham Teale of £115K! Speaking personally, it seems to me that God has graciously provided for us at a time when we are looking forward to Vision 2030 so we should try to use the legacy for larger strategic developments hopefully making step-changes that are in line with that Vision.

Our financial shortfall is due to recurring costs and I think it would be unwise to plug this gap, by using up the Teale bequest – removing the opportunity to make more significant changes to our church life.

So do please prayerfully consider if you could make a contribution through taking out a brand new Parish Giving Scheme donation or through increasing your current PGS?? Obviously we would love this to a part of your regular planned giving but clearly any gift, through any means would be wonderfully welcome. Please do help if you can – leaflets are available at the back of church.

Save the Date - Women's Breakfast in St Michael's church Saturday 18th October-9am



Our speaker is Felicity Read, who is Global Communications Director for school feeding charity Mary's Meals. She's lived in Bishop's Cleeve and been part of the St Michael's family for two years and will share how God led her here and to Mary's Meals. She'll also share some of the incredible experiences she has had in the last two years visiting programme delivery countries (including a recent run-in with the Zimbabwe Ministry for Information) and the learnings she has about what real need means.



All Souls Memorial Service Sunday 2 November 2025 at 3.30 pm St Michael's Church

A service of Thanksgiving and remembering loved ones who have died in recent times and provide comfort for those who mourn. There will be cards for you to complete with the names/s of your loved ones which will be collected and taken to the front during the service. All warmly welcome.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Friday Night Youth Club – next session 24 October Gotherington Old Chapel 7pm to 8.30pm

Our youth group meets every other Friday during term time and is open to young people in years 7-13.

Each session is packed with fun activities, including games, engaging discussions, and plenty of time to hang out over a hot chocolate and snacks. We aim to support and inspire young people, empowering them in their faith and personal life. Autumn Term Dates: **24 October, 7 and 21 November, 5 December**

WHAT'S ON?

Bring a coin and a can for Harvest

When coming to one of our services, please bring a can with a £1 coin attached – so we can donate money as well as food to the North Cotswold Foodbank.

Sun 19 October: 10am: Harvest Service with HC at St Martin de Tours, Woolstone

Please bring donations of non-perishable items which will be donated to the foodbank.

The North Cotswold foodbank are currently short of:

The full list is here: <https://northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>.

Church on the Hill – Sunday 19 October 10am at Church of the Ascension, Southam

We will be looking at Psalm 139, I would encourage all those who intend to come, to read and, if you so wish, be prepared to share any thoughts that come to mind.

We will start at Church of the Ascension, Southam and walk across the fields near the Ellenborough Park.

John Donovan

Friday 28 November and Saturday 29 November The Birthday Party – St Michael's Church: 7.30pm for an 8pm start

You are invited to The Birthday Party. Come and spend an evening with Mary, the mother of Jesus, as she remembers some extraordinary moments in the story of her ordinary yet extraordinary life.

Tickets £5.00, including refreshments. . Tickets will be available soon

Connect Chatter – every Friday Community Hall (next to Bishops Cleeve Library)

Every Friday 11am to 1pm – free entry – no sign up needed.

For anyone feeling lonely, bereaved (including pet loss), overwhelmed as a carer.

Please contact John Barton: 07500 003680 or connectchatter@gmail.com for more information

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Can you help supervise the road closure barriers for the following events:

1. Remembrance Parade Sunday 9 November: help needed from 10.20 – 12.00ish.
2. Christmas Lights Switch on Saturday 22 November offers please of any one hour between 9.00am and 9.00pm

Please contact Yvonne Penn on YPenn@christian-aid.org

Help needed for coffee groups

Do you attend the 11.15 am service?

Would you be able to arrive at 10.50 am on week 2 (two people needed), week 3 (two people needed) or week 4 (one person needed) to help serve drinks and then clear up after the church service.

If so, please contact Fee Hall on feehall@ymail.com

NOTICES

Lucy Barbour – November 2025

Lucy will be on a third year curate placement for the whole of November, so you won't see her around as much. Please pray for her during this time.

She will be at Coopers Edge Community Church which will be useful learning to give feedback to our ministry in Bishops Cleeve (and wider deanery with regard to Church on new housing estates).

If you want to find out a bit more about them, their website is [Coopers Edge Community Church](#)

Harvest Supper

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Harvest Supper, we raised a total of **£861**. This will be split equally between North Cotswold Foodbank (Mission partner of St Michael's Church) and our local Foodbank outlet based at St Michael's Centre.

Date for the diary – Saturday 8 November 10am -2pm

St Michael's Centre 'Earlybird Christmas Market' is fast approaching and we are looking for donations of goods to sell to make this popular event a success. There will be a basket in the Church porch for items for the gift stall, toiletries, jewellery (old or new), adult and children's books, toys, and items suitable for a tombola stall. Alternatively, donations can be left in the church office. Thank you!

Alpha Course – sign up for a January course

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone's welcome – those of no faith, some faith or different faith. It's not about 'church' or rituals ... it's about discovery ... and relationship

We will be starting a new course in January: To book a place and indicate your preferences please [click here](#)

Trust 130

You can raise £130 for St Michael's Church by choosing to take out your home insurance through Ecclesiastical Insurance. Click here for more information. [Trust130](#) | [Home Insurance](#) | [Ecclesiastical](#)

Christmas Craft- Cheltenham and Bishop's Cleeve Anna Chaplaincy for Older People

It's that time of year again – CaBiC's Christmas craft project for the residents of our local care homes in Cheltenham and Bishops Cleeve.

We do hope that you might be willing (and able) to continue to support this by knitting some Christmas stars this year. [Please click here for the pattern](#) or you can pick up a paper copy from the back of the church. Please ensure all your stars are at the back of Church, or in the Church Office by **Monday 1 December 2025**.

Watch Sermons on YouTube

Watch our Sunday sermons on our YouTube channel. Please do have a look and feel free to share with others.

If you Subscribe to the website (which is free) you will receive a notification when a new video is uploaded.

Visit the channel here: <https://youtu.be/RjbH3bo5jb8>

OUR MISSION PARTNERS - NEWS

Mission Partners

At St Michael's, we have three Mission Partners with which we have strong ties. Our three Mission Partners are: **North Cotswold Foodbank, Grassroots Rwanda and Mission Macedonia.**

For more information about these, and how you can help, please go to our website:

<https://www.stmichaelsbishopsclleeve.co.uk/world-mission>

If you no longer wish to receive Weekly News, please email admin@stmichaelsbishopsclleeve.co.uk

Thank you from the Foodbank following St Michael's harvest donations.

On behalf of the Trustees and all the Volunteers of the North Cotswold Foodbank, I would like to thank all in St Michael's church for the extremely generous Harvest Festival donation received recently. You might like to know that this weighed in at an impressive **127.8kg**. Many thanks also for the cash donation of **£130.70** which will be used to purchase items which are running low in our warehouse.

Kind regards, Kevin Carden, Foodbank Manager

UPCOMING TRAINING COURSE FROM THE DIOCESE OF GLOUCESTER

For the latest training courses on offer from the Diocese of Gloucester [Please Click Here for Information.](#)

ECO-CHURCH - OCTOBER

Terracycling

Terra cycling boxes are available in the office and in church every week. See the lists attached for acceptable items. Please contact Ro by email at ro.hunt60@gmail.com to arrange collection.

Our Energy Saving Tip This Month

Disposable Cardboard Cups

Disposable cardboard cups cannot go into the blue bin waste after use because they are not clean and dry. However, they will biodegrade in the general waste. Or they will compost if you are patient enough

NOTICES FROM BISHOP'S CLEEVE METHODIST CHURCH

To find out **What's On** at Bishop's Cleeve Methodist Church, please follow the link: https://www.methodist-bishopsleeve.co.uk/page_2275125.html

Sunday:	Worship at 10.30am followed by refreshments.
Monday:	Meeting for Prayer at 12.45 pm. Meet Up Monday 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm.
Wednesday:	Communion Service with other churches at 9.00 am. Fellowship Group with a speaker at 2.00 pm on alternate Wednesdays.
Thursday:	Film Club at 2.00 pm on the first Thursday of each month. Prayer and Bible Study at 2pm and 7.45 pm on alternate Thursdays.
Saturday:	Coffee mornings 10am - 12 noon as announced.

Keep up to date with church news, diary dates and more on our website.

www.stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk

Service times: stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk/worship-services

Safeguarding: stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk/safeguarding

Church Office: stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk/contact

Donate: [Bishop's Cleeve - Parish Giving Scheme](#)

[Southam - Parish Giving Scheme](#)

[WGO - Parish Giving Scheme Or ring 03330021260](#)

Watch Sermons: youtube.com/@StMichaelsBishopsCleeve

Different
ways to pray
at St
Michael's



Church Office Telephone Number and Opening Times

07354 874617 Kate for all enquiries including weddings. Monday to Friday

07871 602525 Tracy for enquiries relating to funerals, baptisms and DBS. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Church Office Opening Times: Monday – Thursday 10am – 2pm

Friday: Kate sometimes works from home, please ring to check before coming to the office

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