

# Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026



United Benefice of  
Aspenden, Buntingford  
and Westmill

## Palm Sunday

Welcome to our churches of St Mary's Aspenden, St Peter's Buntingford and St Mary the Virgin Westmill. Whoever you are, wherever

you've come from, you are welcome! If this is your first visit, please do introduce yourselves to the clergy and stay for coffee after the service to meet others

### Liturgy of the Palms

**Matthew 21.1-11** (NRSVA)

**21** When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' <sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

<sup>5</sup> 'Tell the daughter of Zion,  
Look, your king is coming to you,  
humble, and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup>they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

'Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

<sup>10</sup> When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' <sup>11</sup>The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

### Liturgy of the Passion

**Matthew 26.14- to end Chapter 27**

#### Collect

True and humble king,  
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:  
grant us the faith to know you and love you,  
that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory.

#### Post Communion

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,  
and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:  
give us the mind to follow you  
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,  
to the glory of God the Father.

#### Remembering in our prayers:

Sheila, Lil, Evelyn, Jackie, Christine, Kathe, Judy,  
Jenny, Russell, Hilary, Phyllis, Jane, Lisa, Clive, Ailsa.

### Sunday Services & Morning Prayer

#### Easter Day - Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April

6am Sunrise Service followed by Breakfast and Holy Communion – St Mary's Aspenden  
9:30am All Age Holy Communion – St Mary the Virgin Westmill

11am All Age Holy Communion – St Peter's Buntingford.

**Morning Prayer** – Held 9am to 9:30am, weekly on Tuesday at St Peter's Buntingford  
Wednesday St Mary the Virgin, Westmill and  
\*Thursdays at St Mary's, Aspenden  
for further details chat with Kirsty or Sarah.

\*Morning Prayer **will not take place on Thurs 2nd April (Aspenden)** as Kirsty and Sarah are heading to St Albans for the Chrism Service.

#### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April

9:30am Sung Eucharist – St Mary the Virgin Westmill  
9:30am All Age Worship – St Mary's Aspenden  
11am All Age Worship – St Peter's Buntingford

#### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April

9:30am Holy Communion – St Mary's Aspenden  
11am Holy Communion – St Peter's Buntingford

#### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April

9:30am Sung Eucharist – St Mary the Virgin Westmill  
11am Morning Worship – St Peter's Buntingford

### News & Notices from our Churches and Community



#### St Mary the Virgin Westmill Building Project

Excellent news we have now received full faculty approval for phase 2 of the building project. The Welcome Area has begun with the installation of the new cupboards.

Donations towards are gratefully received. Please speak to Sue, Colin or Kirsty if you are able to support this.

### Monday Morning Coffee at St Peter's Church

Held weekly at 10am – 12pm every Monday except a Bank Holiday – there will be no coffee morning Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April.

This coffee morning is growing with lots of people attending and making friends.

There is the opportunity for prayer too. Do pop in and join us.

**Little Lambs, St Mary the Virgin Westmill** Held weekly on Wednesday 10am – 11:30am term time only, for pre-school children and their grown-ups. A very informal social and worship occasion for pre-school children and their carers. We sing songs, along with lots of fun activities.



**Choc Stop** We are starting a new venture, 'Choc Stop'. Hot chocolates for young people on their way home from school. Every Thursday, outside St Peter's church from 3.15pm.

**Lent Reflections** – Hosted by The Woollcombes. Weekly reflections on the theme of Power. Every Tuesday, 8pm – 9pm – tea and biscuits at 7:30pm. For further details please see church notice boards and contact details.

### Churches Together Lent Course

Christchurch URC, weekly on Wednesday until 25<sup>th</sup> March. Meeting with your own lunch for 12:30pm

**Daffodil Coffee Morning & Plant Sale** – Thank you to Lord & Lady Carter for opening their lovely garden. Thank you to everyone who supported this event. We hope you enjoyed the delicious cakes and beautiful bunch of daffodils.

### Holy Week

**Passover Meal Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 6.30pm at Benson Hall**, bring and share supper (veggie or fish). Led by Rabbi Irit Shillor. For further details please speak to Sarah.

### Taizé Services

7pm Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March at St Peter's Buntingford  
7pm Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April at St Mary's Aspenden

### Maundy Thursday – Holy Communion with Washing of Feet

7pm Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at St Mary the Virgin Westmill

### Good Friday

10am Walk of Witness – Churches Together  
11am Stations of the Cross outside St Peter's  
2pm Hour at the Cross at St Mary's Aspenden

### Easter Day – 5<sup>th</sup> April

6am Sunrise service with breakfast followed by Holy Communion Service – St Mary's Aspenden  
9:30am All Age Holy Communion – St Mary the Virgin Westmill  
11am All Age Holy Communion – St Peter's Buntingford

### APCMs

**St Mary's Aspenden**, Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April- following the service.

**St Mary the Virgin Sunday** 19<sup>th</sup> April at 3 pm

**St Peter's Church**, Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April following the morning service.



### Plant Sale 2<sup>nd</sup> May held outside St Peter's 9:30am to 12pm

Aspenden's Plant Sale is already in the planning. If you are a keen gardener or know someone who is and will be growing or dividing plants and would like to donate any spare plants, that would be amazing.

**Eco Church Palm Sunday:** If you're planning a celebration over Easter weekend, try not to over-cater because food waste has a huge impact on the environment (as well as your purse!)

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### Find all our latest services & news here:

[www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/32-012BK/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/32-012BK/)



### Get in Touch

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### Benefice Administration hours

Wednesday & Thursday 8:30am to 12:45pm.

Email: [unitedbeneficeabw@gmail.com](mailto:unitedbeneficeabw@gmail.com)

Contact Telephone: 07484 345027

**Please note** that the benefice office will be closed week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> April and Nina will return to the office on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026.