

Sunday 3rd May 2026



United Benefice of
Aspenden, Buntingford
and Westmill

Easter 5th 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

Acts 7: 55 to end (NRSVA)

⁵⁵ But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

John 14: 1 -14 (NRSVA)

14 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.' ⁵ Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' ⁶ Jesus said to

him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

⁸ Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' ⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Collect

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.

Post Communion

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and
the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Remembering in our prayers:

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

Church Services & Morning Prayer

Sunday 10th May

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

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.

Thursday 14th May 7pm Ascension Day Holy

Communion - St Mary the Virgin Westmill

Sunday 17th May

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

11am Holy Communion – St Peter's Buntingford

Sunday 24th May Pentecost

9:30am Sung Eucharist – St Mary the Virgin Westmill

11am Morning Worship and Baptism – St Peter's Buntingford

Sunday 31st May Trinity

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

11am Café Church – St Peter's Buntingford

Sunday 7th June

9:30am All Age Worship – St Mary the Virgin Westmill

9:30am Morning Worship – St Mary's Aspenden

11am Holy Communion – 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.

Our dear friend Sheila Drage's funeral will take place on **Tuesday 12th May 10:30am at St Mary's Aspenden.**

Monday Morning Coffee at St Peter's Church

Held weekly at 10am – 12pm every Monday except Bank Holidays, therefore we will be closed on 4th & 25th May. 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 term time only, outside St Peter's church from 3.15pm.

Buntingford Live - Music for an April evening - St Mary the Virgin Westmill Thank you to students from St Edmunds College and their Director of music Andrew O'Brien for putting on a wonderful evening of music. Thank you to everyone who was able to support this event.

Plant Sale outside St Peter's. A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Aspenden's Plant Sale held outside St Peter's Church yesterday morning. Thank you to the organisers, donations of plants and everyone who visited. Monies raised will be given to the Benefice to support our 3 churches and the work they do.

"Thy Kingdom Come" Praise & Prayer Sunday 17th May, 7pm at St Peter's Church Join us for contemporary praise with open + interactive prayer evening. Based on global prayer movement - <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

Westmill Art Exhibition Sat 30th - Sun 31st May, 10.00am-5.00 pm at St Mary the Virgin church. Please do come along to see the wonderful variety of local talent on show, all works will be on sale with all funds raised going to the church.

The Alvor Trio, Wednesday 3 June, 2026, 7:00pm St Mary the Virgin Westmill. An extraordinary evening of chamber music with the highly acclaimed trio featuring Sarah Newbould, Martin Outram, Imogen Barford. Please visit Buntingford Live for further details and booking tickets <https://buntingfordlive.org/events/the-alvor-trio/>

Hymnathon Saturday 13th June 2026 10am – 4pm St Peter's Church. Come along and join us for our sponsored Hymnathon or simply enjoy the music. Hymns will be sponsored in aid of Homestart St Mary's, Aspenden, St Peter's, Buntingford, & St

Mary the Virgin, Westmill. Refreshments will be available throughout the day

Eco Church Tip: Easter 5: Global overheating and extreme weather is already affecting all areas of our lives, even in the UK. The People's Emergency Briefing shows that we ignore it at our peril, but there is still time to turn things around. Hundreds of community groups are screening this film- find one near you! <https://www.nebriefing.org/>

Find all our latest services & news here:

www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/32-012BK/



Get in Touch

Kirsty Wainwright

Tel: 07704695787

vicarabw@gmail.com

Sarah Bagnall

Tel: 07876211406

curateabw@gmail.com

Norman Jones

Tel: 07766 367983

assistantvicarunitedbenefice@gmail.com

Benefice Administration hours

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

Email: unitedbeneficeabw@gmail.com

Contact Telephone: 07484 345027