

# Sunday 19th April 2026



United Benefice of  
Aspenden, Buntingford  
and Westmill

## Easter 3rd 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 2: 14a, 36-41 (NRSVA)

<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them:

<sup>36</sup> Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' <sup>38</sup> Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' <sup>40</sup> And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' <sup>41</sup> So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

### Luke 24: 13-35 (NRSVA)

<sup>13</sup> Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and

went with them, <sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' <sup>19</sup> He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' <sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' <sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they

recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' <sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

### Collect

Risen Christ,  
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father.

### Post Communion

Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

### Remembering in our prayers:

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

## Sunday Services & Morning Prayer

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

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

11am Morning 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.

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

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

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> 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

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May** 7pm Ascension Day Holy Communion - St Mary the Virgin Westmill

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May

9:30am Holy Communion – 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.

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

Held weekly at 10am – 12pm every Monday except a Bank Holiday. 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.

### APCMs

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

**"Thy Kingdom Come" Praise & Prayer Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup>, 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/>

**Buntingford Live - Music for an April evening - Friday 24 April, 7:30pm St Mary the Virgin Westmill**

Featuring students from St Edmunds College Director of music Andrew O'Brien is bringing a group of talented young musicians to entertain us. Please book your tickets through Buntingford Live's website:

<https://buntingfordlive.org/events/music-for-an-april-evening/>

**Plant Sale 2<sup>nd</sup> May held outside St Peter's 9:30am to 12pm** - Aspenden's Plant Sale is almost here. 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.

**Westmill Art Exhibition Sat 30<sup>th</sup> - Sun 31<sup>st</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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: Easter3:** Why not calculate your carbon footprint to see where you could do your bit to make changes to reduce global warming and help the planet? Eg use World Wildlife Fund's questionnaire <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/questionnaire>

### 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.

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