

Sunday 26th July 2026



8th Sunday after Trinity

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

Romans 8.26 - End (NRSVA)

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the

love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52 (NRSVA)

³¹ He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

³³ He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

⁴⁴ 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'

⁴⁵ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.'

⁴⁷ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every

kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' ⁵² And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

Collect

Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you for ever.

Remembering in our prayers:

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

This month we delighted to be welcoming the family and friends of Liz and Dan, Laura and Lorenzo to St Mary the Virgin Westmill for their weddings. We hold them in our prayers for their special day and for their future as a married couple.

Church Services & Morning Prayer

Sunday 2nd August

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

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

11am 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.

Sunday 9th August

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 16th August

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

11am Holy Communion – St Peter's Buntingford

Sunday 23rd August

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

11am Morning Worship – St Peter's Buntingford

Sunday 30th August

11am Benefice Together All Age 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 Bank Holidays. 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 Teddy Bear Picnic, St Mary the Virgin

Westmill, every Wednesday from 22nd July to 26th August 10am – 11:30am. Perfect for little ones and their grown-ups. Bring along your own picnic, favourite teddy and cosy blanket to sit on. We'll provide lovely stories, joyful songs and plenty of toys to play with.

Choc Stop Choc Stop is now taking a break for the Summer and will return in September.

Pete's Place Please pray for our planning session on Saturday 1st August 10am - 12noon when our young people will be dropping in to share their ideas for our new youth club space.

Aspenden Village Fete and Dog Show Sunday, August 2, 2026, from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Aspenden Village Green. This traditional community event features live music, a bar, a picnic area, a raffle, and a variety of stalls. St Mary's will be serving teas, coffees and cake. If you can help on the day or offer a cake, please speak to Kirsty, Sarah or Gill Stemp. It would be greatly appreciated.

Summer Fayre - Saturday 22nd August 2pm – 4pm

St Mary the Virgin Westmill - Join us for our Summer Fete. Weather permitting, it will be in the church yard, if not, we'll be dry in the church! There will be Stalls, Raffle, Cakes and Refreshments

Benefice Bring & Share Lunch at the Vicarage

Sunday 23rd August from 1pm.

Please come along to our annual lunch together at the Vicarage. Everyone is welcome.

Eco Church Tip: Trinity 8

15 minutes between now and 9 August in a garden/park in the sun is all it needs to take part in this citizen science project. Can you help? <https://butterfly-conservation.org/events/big-butterfly-count-2026>

Find all our latest services & news here:

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



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