

Sunday 12th July 2026



United Benefice of
Aspenden, Buntingford
and Westmill

6th 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

Isaiah 55. 10-13 (NRSVA)

For as the rain and the snow come down from
heaven, and do not return there until they have
watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my
mouth; it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹² For
you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst
into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap
their hands. ¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up
the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the
myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23 (NRSVA)

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and
sat beside the lake. ² Such great crowds gathered
around him that he got into a boat and sat there,
while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he
told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A
sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some
seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate
them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where

they did not have much soil, and they sprang up
quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when
the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they
had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell
among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked
them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought
forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some
thirty. ⁹ Let anyone with ears listen!'

¹⁸ 'Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When
anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does
not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches
away what is sown in the heart; this is what was
sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky
ground, this is the one who hears the word and
immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet such a
person has no root, but endures only for a while,
and when trouble or persecution arises on account
of the word, that person immediately falls
away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is
the one who hears the word, but the cares of the
world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it
yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good
soil, this is the one who hears the word and
understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in
one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in
another thirty.'

Collect

Creator God, you made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do; through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Post Communion

God of our pilgrimage, you have led us to the living
water: refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 19th July

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 26th July

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

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

Sunday 9th July

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.

Lost Property – Please ensure you check our churches for any lost property such as umbrellas, clothing and so on. Thank you

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, St Mary the Virgin Westmill Held weekly on Wednesday 10am – 11:30am term time only, for pre-school children and their grown-ups. Will take a break after this weeks session for summer and return in September, but please join us for a summer of fun at**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 still going well serving hot chocolate or ice poles for young people on their way home from school. Every Thursday term time only, outside St Peter's church from 3.15pm. After the 16th July we will take a break for the Summer Holidays and return on Thursday 3rd September when schools are back.

Congratulations Reverend Sarah on her Ordination as a priest. Thank you to everyone who came along to St Albans cathedral as for the ordination service and celebrated with Sarah at Matt & Janeane's garden party. Many thanks to them for hosting a wonderful afternoon at their lovely home and making every one so welcome.

'Music for the Summer' Saturday 11th July 3pm at St Peter's Church – Thank you to The Priory Singers & Wild about Recorders for their 'Music for Summer' concert and to all those who supported this event.

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.

Bishop of St Albans' hidden two acre city centre oasis open 2pm-4pm, Abbey Gate House, Abbey Mill Lane, AL3 4HD Sunday 12 July, Sunday 19 July - Entrance £5 per adult - dogs on leads – no toilet facilities.

Eco Church Tip: Trinity 6: Treat water as a precious resource - why not collect the water you run for the hot tap and use to water your plants and use a watering can not a sprinkler to water selected plants (leave the grass - it will recover later).

Kirsty is currently on Annual Leave so if you have any ministry queries this week please contact Sarah.

Find all our latest services & news here:

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



Get in Touch

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