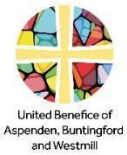


Sunday 19th July 2026



7th 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 8.12-25 (NRSVA)

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for

adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43 (NRSVA)

²⁴ He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" ²⁸ He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" ²⁹ But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' ³⁷ He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where

there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears ^[a] listen!

Collect

Generous God, you give us gifts and make them grow: though our faith is small as mustard seed, make it grow to your glory and the flourishing of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and 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 26th July

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 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 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



It was lovely to have Layston School in St Peter's on Thursday & Edwinstree in Aspenden on Friday to celebrate their Year 4 & Year 8 leavers. We wish them all well and hold them and all the students and staff in our prayers for an enjoyable Summer holiday.

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

Pete's Place Please prayer 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.

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

Eco Church Tip: Trinity 7 Plan meals in advance and take a list to the shops so that you don't get tempted to buy a lot more than you need - saving money and food waste (a big cause of CO2 emissions).

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.