

Sunday 30th August 2026



United Benefice of
Aspenden, Buntingford
and Westmill

13th 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 12: 9 to end (NRSVA)

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' ²⁰ No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matthew 16: 21 to end (NRSVA)

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ 'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

Collect

Almighty God,
you search us and know us:
may we rely on you in strength
and rest on you in weakness,
now and in all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

God our creator,
you feed your children with the true manna,
the living bread from heaven:
let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage
until we come to that place
where hunger and thirst are no more;
through 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, Pauline F, David.

Church Services & Morning Prayer

Sunday 6th September

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

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

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 13th September

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 with Baptism

Sunday 20th September

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

11am Holy Communion – St Peter's Buntingford

Sunday 27th September

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

11am Morning Worship – St Peter's Buntingford

News & Notices from our Churches and Community



Aspenden New Sound System

St Mary's, Aspenden have recently installed a new sound system. As we are considering how to make all our churches and services more accessible, this new sound system is making a big difference, especially to people living with hearing difficulties.

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. 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 Is back on 3rd September Choc Stop 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

Summer Fayre - Saturday 22nd August 2pm – 4pm
St Mary the Virgin Westmill – Thank you to everyone who supported this lovely event as always a great and vibrant atmosphere.

Benefice Bring & Share Lunch at the Vicarage

Sunday 23rd August from 1pm.

What a lovely afternoon we all had chatting and catching up with everyone. Thank you Kirsty and Paul for hosting a lovely afternoon.

Classic Car Show Refreshments – Saturday 5th September 10am – 4pm. Join us for teas, coffees, cakes and light lunches at St Peter's Church whilst you enjoy looking at the classic cars or you want to catch up with friends. If you would like to help or donate a cake for this event, please speak to Tracey.

Sponsored Bike 'n Hike -Saturday 12th September 9am – 5pm. In aid of Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust. Funds raised for this fantastic charity are evenly shared between your church and the Trust. The Trust supports the local churches with grants which our benefice has benefitted from too. Sponsorship forms are at the back of the church.

St Peter's Church will be open to those taking part please speak to Tracey if you would like to help on the day.

Choral and Chamber music at St Mary the Virgin Westmill Thursday 17th September 7pm – 10pm

Join Buntingford Live as Haileybury Musicians present a beautiful evening of Choral and Chamber music. Tickets to be purchased through Buntingford Live website
<https://buntingfordlive.org/events/haileybury-musicians-at-westmill/>

Buntingford Festival Choir presents A Harvest of Sound Saturday 10th October, 4pm at St Mary the Virgin Westmill. Join us for four centuries of choral masterpieces. Tickets £10 and can be purchased by

following this link or use the QR Code as advertised on Poster

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/buntingfordfestivalchoir>

Quiz Night Saturday 17th October 6:45pm for 7pm start at Benson Hall. Back by popular demand St Peter's annual Quiz Night hosted at Benson Hall. Maximum 8 people per teams. £12 per person including a ploughmans supper.

To book your team please scan the QR code or visit our website for the link to the booking form.

Start to gather friends and family for a night of fun.



Eco Church Tip: Trinity 13: not available at time of preparation of notice sheet.

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.

Nina will be on annual leave from 22nd August and will return to the office 9th September.