

Parish News: 20th September 2026

Dear Church Family,

As we gather on this **Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**, we step into the fresh rhythm of September and the changing of the seasons.

This week, our Gospel reading brings us to Jesus' powerful parable of the workers in the vineyard (**Matthew 20:1–16**).

"So the last will be first, and the first will be last." — Matthew 20:16

A Note of Thanksgiving

We offer a heartfelt prayer of thanksgiving for all who attended and helped organise the **Installation Service for Reverend Louise Collins** on Sunday, 13th September at Holy Cross, led by the Right Revd Jane Mainwaring, Bishop of Hertford.

Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a wonderful celebration, from those who served in the service to all who brought and shared food for the buffet lunch.

Our Prayers

We hold **Reverend Steven Young** in our steadfast prayers, asking God for continued strength, comfort, and steady progress in his health and recovery. We also hold **Father Matthew** and his son, **Christian**, close in our thoughts and prayers for healing. May God guide and protect Reverend Steven and his family as he leads our parish, and may his ministry continue to flourish for years to come.

We also offer a prayer of deep gratitude for **Reverend Louise**. Lord, thank You for her dedicated service, compassionate heart, and the warmth she brings to our community as she steps officially into her role as Team Vicar of Holy Cross. Grant her good health, strength, refreshing rest with her family, and a deep sense of peace in her daily life. May she always feel uplifted by the same love she so generously shares with us all.

Amen.

Our Sunday Services: September 20th (Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity)

- **9:15 am** | St Nicholas: Holy Communion
- **9:30 am** | Holy Cross: Holy Baptism and Holy Communion
- **9:30 am** | St Michael: Holy Communion
- **11:15 am** | All Saints: Holy Communion
- **2:00 pm** | St Michael: Holy Baptism

Weekday Eucharist, Prayers & Open Church

- **Monday, September 21st:** 9:30 am Morning Prayer, All Saints
- **Tuesday, September 22nd:** 12:00–2:00 pm Lunchtime Prayers, All Saints
- **Tuesday, September 22nd:** 3:00 pm Holy Communion with Songs of Praise and Pop-up Cafe, Holy Cross
- **Wednesday, September 23rd:** 10:00 am Holy Communion, St Nicholas
- **Thursday, September 24th:** 9:30 am Morning Prayer, St Nicholas
- **Thursday, September 24th:** 3:00 pm Holy Communion with Songs of Praise, St Michael and All Angels
- **Friday, September 25th:** 12:00–2:00 pm Open Church and Holy Communion (12:30 pm), All Saints

***Can you spare an hour?** We are always looking for volunteers to keep our beautiful churches open to the public during the week. If you can help, please contact Reverend Steven for details, or reply to this email with "Volunteer" in the Subject line.*

Upcoming Events at St Michael and All Angels

- Sunday, September 27th. Harvest Festival and Michaelmas (Harvest Service with bring-and-share buffet)
- Sunday, October 18th. Godparent Sunday, "The Shape of Love", a special service of Holy Communion and Thanksgiving for Godparents, with all your favourite hymns.

RSVP: Reverend Louise Collins

Email: louise.collins59@hotmail.com

Save the Date:

Sunday, 29th November, 10 am Parish Service at All Saints. Presided by The Right Reverend Andrew Rumsey, Bishop of St Albans.

A Moment of Reflection

In **Matthew 20:1–16**, Jesus tells the parable of the landowner and the vineyard workers who were all paid the same wage, regardless of how many hours they worked. This passage reminds us of God's abundant grace and generosity, which defies human concepts of fairness and merit.

- **God's Generosity:** How do we view God's grace in our lives? Do we celebrate when others receive unexpected blessings, or do we compare our journey to theirs?
- **The Last and the First:** In what ways can we practice radical generosity and grace in our own parish community this week?

May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit rest upon you and those you love this week and always.

With every blessing,

Alana,

on behalf of the Parish of Elstree and Borehamwood

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