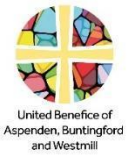


Sunday 20th September 2026



16th 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

Jonah 3: 10-end of 4 (NRSVA)

¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

4 But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord and said, 'O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³ And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' ⁴ And the Lord said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down

on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.'

⁹ But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' ¹⁰ Then the Lord said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

Matthew 20: 1-16 (NRSVA)

20 'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; ⁴ and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" ⁷ They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹ And when they received it, they

grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." ¹³ But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

Collect

Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives' end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

Almighty God,
you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Remembering in our prayers:

Lil, Evelyn, Jackie, Christine, Kathe, Judy, Jenny,
Russell, Hilary, Phyllis, Jane, Ailsa, Lisa M,
Debbie, The Kingsley's, Pauline F, David.

Recently departed:

Norman Axford, Dennis Beisser, Lawrence Godfrey,
Vera Staniland.

Church Services & Morning Prayer

Sunday 27th September

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 4th October – Harvest Services

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

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

11am Holy Communion – St Peter's Buntingford

Sunday 11th October

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 18th October

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

11am Holy Communion – 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 Choc Stop will 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

Choral and Chamber music at St Mary the Virgin Westmill

Thank you to the wonderful singers and musicians from Haileybury College who put on a lovely evening of choral and chamber music.

Pet Service at St Mary the Virgin Westmill, Today Sunday 20th September, 4pm.

All pets welcome, please remember to bring your owner/carer with you! Or bring along a picture of your pet for a blessing.

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.

Chris Hinchliff MP

Our MP Chris Hinchliff will be coming to the Monday Coffee Morning at St Peter's on 26th October. Do come along for your opportunity to discuss community matters with him.

Eco Church Tip: Trinity 16: Could you make a conscious effort to only buy fruit and veg that is in season this week (and better still for the food miles, produce that is grown in the UK!)- reducing your carbon footprint and helping British farmers.

Find all our latest services & news here:

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



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