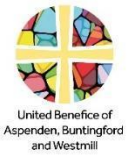


Sunday 27th September 2026



17th 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

Philippians 2: 1 - 13 (NRSVA)

2 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Matthew 21: 23-32 (NRSVA)

²³ When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' ²⁴ Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?"' ²⁶ But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ 'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." ²⁹ He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the

kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Collect

Gracious God,
you call us to fullness of life:
deliver us from unbelief
and banish our anxieties
with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

Lord, we pray that your grace
may always precede and follow us,
and make us continually to be given to all good works;
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:

Vera Staniland, Jean Jacob.

Church Services & Morning Prayer

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

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 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

Sunday 25th October

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

News & Notices from our Churches and Community



Governor Roles

Both Edwinstree Middle School and Layston First School have opportunities for foundation school governors. We are fortunate to have excellent links with our 2 church schools. If you are interested and would like to know more, please speak to Kirsty.

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, Thank you to all the pets and their carers that attended our Pet Service last Sunday. It was lovely to see you all.

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>

Saying Goodbye Services 15th October at 7.30pm in Ely Cathedral, Anyone who has either personally lost a baby at any stage of pregnancy, at birth, or in early years, or who has been affected by family members' or friends' loss. Whether the loss was recent or 80 years ago, everyone is welcome to attend. For further information :
www.sayinggoodbye.org

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 17: Do get leaking taps fixed: as well as being irritating they can waste up to 15l a day. A leaking toilet can waste up to 400l a day. This is water we cannot afford to waste (it adds to our bills too!)

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.