

Parish News: 18th October 2026

♥ Dear Church Family,

Greetings in this season of mists and the turning of leaves into glorious autumnal shades, a time to pause and reflect on what we have learnt this year as a Parish, to be kinder and more patient with each other, and to seek reconciliation where there has been hurt or misunderstanding. Together we are stronger.

In this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 22:15–22), the Pharisees attempt to trap Jesus with a trick question about paying taxes to Caesar. Jesus' famous reply:

"Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God"

This powerful message from Christ reminds us of our dual calling as Christians. While we are called to be responsible, honest members of our civic society, our ultimate loyalty, heart, and soul belong to God, in whose image we are created. As we go about our week, let us ask ourselves:

Are we giving God the full devotion and trust He deserves in our daily lives?

St. Michael's Gospel reading is (**John 15:9–17**), where Jesus offers us a deeply comforting and radical invitation:

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love."

Jesus reminds us that we are no longer called servants, but chosen as His cherished friends. We are called to let this divine love overflow in our lives through simple, self-giving love for one another—so that our joy may be complete and our lives may bear fruit that lasts.

Let both readings guide, comfort, and strengthen you this coming week.

🙏 Our Prayers

We hold Reverend Steven Young in prayer, asking God for strength, comfort, and ongoing progress in his recovery. We also pray for healing for Father Matthew and his son, Christian. May God protect Reverend Steven and his family as he leads our parish, blessing his ministry for years to come.

Lord, we thank You deeply for Reverend Louise—for her dedicated service, compassionate heart, and bright presence in our community. Grant her good health, time to rest with her family, and Your peace. May she always feel supported by the love she gives so freely.

Amen.

🏛️ Our Sunday Services: October 18th

- **9:15 am** | St Nicholas: Holy Communion

- **9:30 am** | Holy Cross: Service of the Word
- **9:30 am** | St Michael: Holy Communion, Godparent Sunday
- **11:15 am** | All Saints: Holy Communion

Weekday Eucharist, Prayers & Open Church

- **Monday, October 19th:** 9:30 am Morning Prayer, All Saints
- **Tuesday, October 20th:** 3:00 pm Holy Communion with Songs of Praise and Pop-up Cafe, Holy Cross
- **Wednesday, October 21st:** 10:00 am Holy Communion, St Nicholas
- **Thursday, October 22nd:** 9:30 am Morning Prayer, St Nicholas
- **Thursday, October 22nd:** 3:00 pm Holy Communion with Songs of Praise, St Michael and All Angels
- **Friday, October 23rd:** No Open Church at All Saints.

***Can you spare an hour?** We always need volunteers to keep our beautiful churches open to the public during the week. If you can help, please get in touch with Reverend Steven for details: email rector.eabw@gmail.com or reply to this email with "Volunteer" in the Subject line.*

Upcoming Events

- **Saturday, November 21st, 10:00 am - 2:30 pm: Christmas Fair.** St Michael and All Angels Church/Hall. (See pew sheets for details)
- **Sunday, November 29th, 10:00 am:** Parish Service at All Saints. Presided over by The Right Reverend Andrew Rumsey, Bishop of St Albans.

A Moment for Reflection

As we move into the week ahead, may you take comfort in knowing that God sees you, knows you, and loves you deeply. As Psalm 139 reminds us, nowhere can we go beyond His presence—His hand will guide us, and His strength will hold us fast. Rest gently in the grace of being wonderfully created for a purpose, and in the knowledge that He walks beside you every step of the way.

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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