



Notices Sheet - 18th October 2026

Notices

Bible readings:

8.00: Luke 1:1-4 (p 1025)

Acts 1:1-11 (p 1092)

10.30: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (p 1186)

Matthew 22:15-22 (p 990)

News from café: We have had some encouraging news after Wednesday's café. It went "extremely well" with lots of children, many doing crafts with Jane. Lizzy brought some year sixes from the school to help with setting up. Jo, one of the managers at Libury Hall, brought one of their residents, Jane, to help. She was a natural with the children, and enjoyed it very much. In addition, another new recruit, Alison, from Nasty, was also very helpful and "so willing to do anything. It was a fantastic afternoon!" Please continue to pray for this important outreach, and the dedicated team that makes it possible.

Christmas is approaching: The dates and time of our Christmas services will appear soon on our website, but we thought it might be helpful to let you know that all our carol services, apart from Sacombe's, will be at the new time of 4pm. It will still be dark enough for candles, but we hope this will enable more people to attend. This will apply to the Advent Carols service on 29th November and the two Christmas carol services on 13th December in Little Munden and 20th in Standon.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal: This weekend, Lizzy will be clearing her attic of all the shoeboxes and gifts she and others have collected during the year, ready to send to children in areas affected by war, natural disaster, or some other catastrophe. There are three ways you can help:

1. Fill a shoebox with gifts (ask Lizzy for the list of what's allowed and not allowed) and leave it in St Mary's or give it to Lizzy or Caroline.
 2. Contribute gifts to be packed - Lizzy is always short of small toys and games, little treats for teenage girls (eg hair accessories, eye shadow, keyrings) and small toys for toddlers.
 3. Donate money so that Lizzy can use it to buy things she is missing for boxes, or to pay for the travel costs. Cash can be given to Lizzy or Caroline, or transferred to the Standon PCC bank account, reference "OCC".
- Thank you - every box filled is another child who will know someone cares this Christmas.

Little Angels help: We could do with another person or two on the rota of helpers at Little Angels, especially as winter bugs start to appear. Helpers arrive at 9 to set up, welcome the children and their carers, make tea or coffee, prepare the children's snack and clear up the church afterwards. We are usually finished a few minutes after 11. If you think you would like to help, please speak to Caroline or Cate.

Floodlights at St Mary's: The floodlights at St Mary's are still in the process of being repaired and currently they aren't operating properly. Please take great care if you're accessing or leaving the church in the dark. Some of the fluorescent tubes in the vestries are also awaiting replacement, so please bear with us if you're affected.

Making St Mary's Sparkle on Saturday: The St Mary's cleaning teams are planning a Spring Clean on Saturday 24th October, 10.00 - 11.00 followed by refreshments. All the equipment needed will be available, and all are welcome! If you are able to join one of the teams in any of our churches, please speak to us.

Services for the next few weeks:

Midweek services each week:

Tuesdays, 9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) & Bible study	St Catherine's
Wednesdays, 9.30 am	Morning worship & Bible study	St Mary's

On Tuesday 10th November, the Little Munden School choir will join us again for our Sacombe service of Remembrance at 9.30. All are welcome.

Sunday services:

18 th October	8.00 am	Holy Communion	St Mary's
	10.30 am	Holy Communion	All Saints
25 th October	10.30 am	Family worship	St Mary's
	6.00 pm	Choral evensong	St Mary's
1 st November	8.00 am	Communion by extension	St Mary's
	10.30 am	Morning worship	All Saints
	3.00 pm	Service of Memories	St Mary's
8 th November	10.30 am	Remembrance Sunday service	St Mary's
15 th November	8.00 am	Holy Communion	St Mary's
	10.30 am	Holy Communion	All Saints

Dates & meetings coming up:

20 th October, 12.00	Funeral of Pamela Harwood	All Saints
22 nd October, 10.00 am	Youth team meeting	The Old Top Shop
24 th 10 – 11 am	Spring clean of church	St Mary's
28 th October, 12.30 pm	Midweek Music	St Mary's
28 th October, 5.00 pm	Benefice finance committee meeting	The Old Top Shop
30 th October, 11.00 am	Funeral of Audrey Morton	All Saints
1 st November, 3.00 pm	Service of memories	St Mary's

Prayers:

On this sheet, we suggest focus areas for prayer, but please continue to pray for the work of our churches and missionary partners around the world (details on our website).

Church family news:

- Please pray for Steve, who was part of the Standon churchyard working party, and is now in residential care following a cancer diagnosis
- Please continue to pray for those of our church family who are unwell, are undergoing treatment, have had operations, or are waiting for tests or procedures.
- Please pray for those who are grieving, including for Terry Thrussell, Pamela Harwood and Audrey Morton.

Pray for our community

In our cycle of prayers, this weekend we ask you to include in your prayers:

- our local surgeries as the winter vaccinations are rolled out
- those who are vulnerable at this time of year to flu, Covid and other bugs and viruses
- those who feel more isolated in the darker days of winter

Pray for our outreach, our service and our churches

This week we ask you to include in your prayers:

- the work of the café, and all who help
- the many in our community who look to us in times of grief and loss
- those taking part in the Christianity Explored course
- this round of recruitment advertising, and for the person God will send to be our Rector

Pray for our mission partners

In our cycle of prayers for our mission partners, this week we ask you once again to remember the work of John and Gilliam Robinson. *John and Gillian run the Place of Grace in Bangkok, Thailand.* More information about all of our partners can be found on our website.

Prayer points:

- the floods are really bad causing them to have to shut the school
- the roads are like rivers, the water full of leeches and the children have to wade through this water
- the food bank is very busy supporting families who have lost so much
- pray that the rain eases and that all will be able to rest this half term week
- give thanks that all the children are safe

If you are aware of anyone who would like our prayers, or who would like the church family to share in some news, good or bad, please let Caroline know (caroline@ubsms.org.uk).

Regular notices

Groups in the Benefice

Mondays (dates vary – please ask), 2.30pm: Reflections Bible study group at All Saints: contact Jane

Tuesdays, 2:00pm (ad hoc): Benefice Group for World Mission prayer: contact Peter A.

Wednesdays, 2.30pm (2nd Wednesday of the month)

7.00pm (4th Wednesdays): Small Group Marthas & Marys: contact Marion

Wednesdays, 3.15 pm (term time only): Café & Children's Bible clubs at All Saints: contact Lizzie B.

Thursday (2nd of each month), 1.00 – 3.30 pm: Knit & Natter: contact Diane M

Thursday (3rd of each month), 2.00 – 4.00 pm: New Seasons support group: contact Heather

Thursdays, 7.00pm (term time only): Benefice choir practice: contact Michael (music@ubsms.org.uk)

Fridays 9.30 am (term time only): Little Angels for babies & toddlers and their carers at St Mary's:
contact Cate (littleangels@ubsms.org.uk)

Please Continue to Support our Churches

You can donate directly to any of our churches, or you can send donations to any of our treasurers. Bank details are displayed in church and on the website.

Gift aid forms are available from any of our treasurers.

Contacts:

Contacts during the vacancy: While we have no Rector, if you have any queries or concerns, please speak to any of our church wardens. If you know of someone who needs a visit, please liaise with Jacqui. We do have access to clergy who will help if needed, so please don't be put off raising a concern. Rebecca, our administrator, works flexible hours, but will respond to emails as soon as she can.

Rector: Until a new Rector is appointed, please direct any enquiries to our benefice administrator.

Administrator: Rebecca Legg benefice.administrator@ubsms.org.uk 07976 700902

Safeguarding: Lizzy Franks safeguarding@ubsms.org.uk 01920 822723

Our website: <https://ubsms.org.uk/>

Notices: Caroline Franks caroline@ubsms.org.uk