Sunday 29th November

Advent Sunday

United Benefice of Aspenden, Buntingford and Westmill

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

Isaiah 64.1-9 (NRSVA)

O that you would tear open the heavens and come
down, so that the mountains would quake at your
presence— [2] as when fire kindles brushwood and
the fire causes water to boil— to make your name
known to your adversaries, so that the nations
might tremble at your presence! [3] When you did
awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came
down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
[4] From ages past no one has heard, no ear has
perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him. [5] You meet
those who gladly do right, those who remember
you in your ways. But you were angry, and we
sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.
[6] We have all become like one who is unclean, and
all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all
fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind,
take us away. [7] There is no one who calls on your
name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have
hidden your face from us, and have delivered us
into the hand of our iniquity. [8] Yet, O Lord, you are
our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand. [9] Do not be
exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember
iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your
people.

Mark 13.24-end (NRSVA)

[24] 'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun
will be darkened, and the moon will not give its
light,
[25] and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the
powers in the heavens will be shaken.
[26] Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in
clouds" with great power and glory. [27] Then he will
send out the angels, and gather his elect from the
four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends
of heaven. [28] 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as
soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth
its leaves, you know that summer is near. [29] So also,
when you see these things taking place, you know
that he[is near, at the very gates. [30] Truly I tell you,
this generation will not pass away until all these
things have taken place. [31] Heaven and earth will
pass away, but my words will not pass away.

[32] 'But about that day or hour no one knows,
neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only
the Father. [33] Beware, keep alert; for you do not
know when the time will come. [34] It is like a man
going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts
his slaves in charge, each with his work, and
commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.
[35] Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know
when the master of the house will come, in the
evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn,
[36] or else he may find you asleep when he comes
suddenly. [37] And what I say to you I say to all: Keep
awake.'

Collect

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Post Communion

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Remembering in our prayers:

Lil, Evelyn, Jackie, Christine, Kathe, Jenny, Russell, Hilary, Phyllis, Jane, Ailsa, Lisa M, Debbie, Pauline F, John P, Madeline, Penny, Peter and David.

Recent departed

Jean Berkeley funeral will be held on Thursday 10th December, 12:30pm at Woollensbrook Cemetery and Crematorium, Hoddesdon, EN11 9BN

Church Services & Morning Prayer

Sunday 6th December

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 13th December

9:30am Sung Eucharist – St Mary the Virgin Westmill
9:30am All Age Welcome – St Mary's Aspenden
11am All Age Welcome – St Peter's Buntingford

Sunday 20th December

9:30am Holy Communion – St Mary's Aspenden
11am Holy Communion with the Bishop of Hertford, +Jane Mainwaring – St Peter's Buntingford

Sunday 27th December
10am Brunch followed by 11am Benefice Together Holy Communion St Peter's Buntingford.

News & Notices from our Churches and Community

Late night shopping Refreshments and Gift Stall, St Peter's Church Thank you to everyone who donated time, cakes and gifts for this wonderful community event, especially Tracey and team.

Welwyn Garden City Male Voice Choir, St Mary the Virgin Westmill. It was lovely to The WGC Male Voice Choir back at Westmill, with special guests too. A truly wonderful evening and thank you to everyone who supported this event.

Monday Morning Coffee at St Peter's Church
Held weekly at 10am – 12pm every Monday except Bank Holidays.

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.

Choc Stop Term-time Thursdays at 3.15pm outside St Peter's Church. Hot Chocolates and chat for young people on their way home from school.

Advent Service, Sunday 29th November, 6pm at St Mary the Virgin Westmill A reflective service of bible readings, poems and music as we start our Advent journey to prepare ourselves for Christmas.

Advent Group at St Peters Buntingford Each Tuesday evening during December we will be watching an episode of the 4 part BBC Nativity followed by discussion and prayer. Everyone is welcome. Meeting on Tuesdays 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd December.

Christmas Fayre, Saturday 5th December, 2pm - 4pm at St Mary the Virgin Westmill With Christmas just round the corner join us at our Christmas Fayre, stalls will include Mulled Wine and Mince Pies, Tombola, Craft, Gifts to name but a few.

Christingle Service, Sunday 6th December, 4pm at St Mary the Virgin Westmill A jolly service for all ages. We will assemble and light a Christingle to remember Jesus, the Light of the World. All donations will go to The Children's Society.

Aspenden Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's Church Saturday 12th December 10am – 4pm & Sunday 13th December 11am – 4pm.
Come along for a truly festive time of year at St Mary's Church, Aspenden. The church will be filled with twinkling creative trees from our local schools, businesses, charities and individuals too. There will be teas, coffees and cakes too. Perfect for a wintery day.

Carols by Candlelight, Thursday 17th December, 7:30pm at St Mary's Aspenden A truly beautiful traditional carol service. The church will be decorated and lit with candles to get you prepared for Christmas. There will be bible readings, choir and congregation carols. Please come early as this service is very well attended. Doors open at 7pm.

St Peter's Community Carols, Saturday 19th December, 5pm in Layston Gardens, High Street, Buntingford - Come along and join us for carols, readings and the Christmas story. Festive refreshments will be available. Wrap up warm and bring a torch.

Quiet Christmas, Sunday 20th December, 4pm St Mary the Virgin Westmill You are welcome to come to this quieter service, away from the busyness and bustle. This service is especially for those who find this a difficult season. There will be a couple of carols, prayer and some time of reflection on the Christmas message.

Christmas Eve Services – Thursday 24th December
Crib Services
2pm St Peter's Buntingford
3pm St Mary's Aspenden
5pm St Mary the Virgin Westmill

11:15pm Midnight Mass – St Mary the Virgin Westmill

Christmas Day All Age Holy Communion Services – Friday 25th December
9:30am St Mary's Aspenden
10:15am St Peter's Buntingford

Eco Tip Advent 1: Why not visit local Christmas Fairs and Tree Festivals to support local traders when buying Christmas gifts and decorations.

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.