Sunday 22nd November

Christ the King

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

Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24 (NRSVA)

11 For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search
for my sheep, and will seek them out. 12 As
shepherds seek out their flocks when they are
among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my
sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to
which they have been scattered on a day of clouds
and thick darkness. 13 I will bring them out from the
peoples and gather them from the countries, and
will bring them into their own land; and I will feed
them on the mountains of Israel, by the
watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the
land. 14 I will feed them with good pasture, and the
mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture;
there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and
they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of
Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep,
and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God.
16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the
strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will
strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I
will destroy. I will feed them with justice.
20 Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I
myself will judge between the fat sheep and the
lean sheep. 21 Because you pushed with flank and
shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with
your horns until you scattered them far and wide,
22 I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be
ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.
23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant
David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them
and be their shepherd. 24 And I, the Lord, will be
their God, and my servant David shall be prince
among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

Matthew 25.31-end (NRSVA)

31 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all
the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne
of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered
before him, and he will separate people one from
another as a shepherd separates the sheep from
the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right
hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will
say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are
blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared
for you from the foundation of the world; 35 for I
was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and
you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger
and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave
me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I
was in prison and you visited me." 37 Then the
righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that
we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty
and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was
it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or
naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it
that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?"
40 And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you,
just as you did it to one of the least of these who
are members of my family, you did it to me."
41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You
that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal
fire prepared for the devil and his angels; 42 for I
was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty
and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a
stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and
you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and
you did not visit me." 44 Then they also will answer,
"Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or
thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison,
and did not take care of you?" 45 Then he will
answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not
do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it
to me." 46 And these will go away into eternal
punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

Collect

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory.

Post Communion

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; 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.

Recently departed

Jean Berkeley

Church Services & Morning Prayer

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 29th November

9:30am Holy Communion – St Mary's Aspenden
11am Café Church 'Waiting with Open Hands' exploring Advent using clay with our guest speaker, Susie Betley – St Peter's Buntingford

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

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

News & Notices from our Churches and Community

Buntingford Live Pilgrim Cello.
Another wonderful event with fabulous music and funny stories along the way. Thank you to everyone who supported this event and to Buntingford Live for their organisation.

Aspenden Christmas Tree Festival bookings are open. This is the 3rd year and we are hoping to see the church filled with wonderful, creative and festive Christmas trees.
Saturday 12th December 10am – 4pm and Sunday 13th December 11am – 4pm.
If you would like to enter a Tree for the festival, please scan the QR code or visit our website for further information.

Lights of Love Friday 27th November – 6pm Manor house car park for switching on the lights.

Late night shopping Refreshments and Gift Stall, Friday 27th November 4pm – 8pm St Peter's Church
St Peter's Church will be open for festive refreshments from 4pm – 7pm and will be holding a gift stall. If you can offer help and or donate quality gifts for the stall this will be very much appreciated. Please speak to Tracey.

Welwyn Garden City Male Voice Choir, Saturday 28th November, 7:30pm St Mary the Virgin Westmill. We are delighted to welcome the WGC Male Voice Choir back to Westmill, with guest soloist Amelia James. To book your tickets at £15 per person please scan the QR Code.

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.

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.

Find all our latest services & news here:
www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/32-012BK/

Get in Touch

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