



The Parish of St. Peter, Bushey Heath October 2026



From the vicar

One of the strengths of St. Peter's Church is its diversity. We worship with people of all ages and numerous backgrounds and nationalities. Together we cohere as a parish church exists to praise God in the local area. A recent visitor remarked (with surprise) that we are much more mixed than he had expected. He was pleasantly surprised.

The Diocese of St. Albans has as one of its stated tasks the intention to growing younger and more diverse. Life at St. Peter's should give to those in St. Albans some sense of encouragement. It is an easy church to fit into and feel you belong. We should all be pleased about this, but before we get too pleased we might note that it is not all of our doing. We exist together at St. Peter's by God's grace. If you like we are part of the harvest of grace which the gospels and other New Testament writings point to.

Harvest, which we celebrate this month, is often used as an image for the end times and the day of judgement. The Book of Revelation is particularly strong on this.

Then I looked, and lo, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand. And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat upon the cloud, "Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe." So he who sat upon the cloud swung his sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

(Revelation 14: 14-16)

There is more, but you get the message. It would be worth attending to this harvest especially this year because it is the harvest of grace – God's wonderful gift. We are who we are because of the fruit of prayer. We pray frequently for our growth as a congregation, both numerically and in terms of our commitment to God and to each other. We recognise that we are the disciples of Jesus, proclaiming him and serving him in this place. It is humbling to recognise that we are here by God's grace whatever choices have been offered to us and whatever decisions we have made over the years. There is something behind our choice of house or job, something more to our search for a place to worship than just our own fancies and inclinations. We were led here by God's grace, at the bidding of his Spirit.

I find these thoughts encouraging as I make plans to leave and others make plans for my replacement. The whole process requires a lot of stillness and listening in order to make the most of the opportunities which God offers; it requires the gifts of wisdom and discernment. I know that we are very much in the prayers of Bishop Luke who will play a significant role in the months to come, offering guidance and working very often 'behind the scenes' to find you a new priest. Please pray for him too. Pray too for the Bishop's staff at St. Albans who will deal with some of the practical matters surrounding the vacancy.

It is a privilege to know that we are part of God's harvest and that he has a purpose for each of us. Let us thank him for all he has done for us and for bringing us to the place we now find ourselves.

Richborough October Devotion

Canterbury Cathedral, Saturday 17th October

12 noon Mass in the Chapel of Our Lady of the Undercroft

Lunch provided

2.30pm Devotions

REQUIEM FOR ALL SOULS

Tuesday 3rd November at 8.00pm

There will be a sheet at the back of church for the names of the departed to be remembered from 18th October.

PRAYER FOCUS

Please continue to pray for an end to conflict in the Holy Land, Iran, Ukraine and in all countries beset by violence. Remember too those who bear the weight of authority that they may be humble in their deliberations.

From the diary...

Usual Sunday services: 8.00am Holy Communion; 9.30am Parish Mass

Sunday 27th September

Wednesday 30th September, 10.00am

Friday 2nd October, 7.00pm

Sunday 4th October

Wednesday 7th October, 10.00am

Friday 9th October, 7.00pm

Sunday 11th October

Trinity 17

Mass

Mass

Trinity 18

Mass

Mass

Harvest Thanksgiving

In addition to services at 8am and 9.30am: Family Service at 11.15am.

Tuesday 13th to Thursday 15th October: Pilgrimage to Walsingham

No midweek service on Wednesday

Friday 16th October, 7.00pm

Mass

Sunday 18th October

Trinity 20

Wednesday 21st October, 10.00am

Mass

8.00pm

Parochial Church Council in the Parish Hall

Friday 23rd October, 7.00pm

Mass

Sunday 25th October

Trinity 21

Wednesday 28th October, 10.00am

Mass

Friday 30th October, 7.00pm

Mass

Sunday 1st November

All Saints' Sunday

Tuesday 3rd November, 8.00pm

Requiem for All Souls

Wednesday 4th November, 10.00am

Mass

Friday 6th November, 7.00pm

Mass

From the registers

Funeral

22nd September Pamela Hurst (aged 96 years)

St. Peter's Quiz Night

This year's quiz night raised a remarkable £1,000 for church funds. Thank you to Alan and Chris Hudson for organising the quiz and to Ranjan David and the team for making sure we were so well fed and looked after. And if you were there, thank you for your company and support.

St. Francis Church, Hammerfield

Sunday 4 October 2026 at 5.00pm

You are cordially invited to our Patronal Festival on the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi.

Sung Mass (music by Palestrina and Bryd) followed by Benediction and Refreshments.

Celebrant and preacher the Right Revd. Luke Irvine-Capel Bishop of Richborough

Glenview Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1TD. RSVP to Father Andrew by 30th September

Harvest Appeal 2026

Red Trust Bushey who run the local foodbank are asking for the following items this year to replenish their stocks:

Tinned meat

Rice

Long life fruit juice

Laundry tablets

Tinned fish

Soup

UHT milk

Shampoo

Tinned tomatoes

Cereal

Mashed potatoes

Soap/toothpaste

Tinned pulses

Tinned fruit

Tea/coffee

Toilet rolls

Baked beans

Custard

Rice pudding

Baby wipes

Pasta/pasta sauce

Biscuits

Deodorant

BUSHEY INTERFAITH FORUM

"JOURNEYS OF FAITH"

Speakers from different faiths on Wednesday 18th November 7.30pm in St Peter's Parish Hall

Free Admission. Light refreshments provided.

Contact details:

Parish Priest: Fr. Andrew Burton SSC, a priest of the Society. (020 8950 1424). Usual day off Monday.

Churchwardens: Mr. Simon Farley (020 8950 4073) and Mr. Tony Quinn (07786 332654)

www.stpeterbusheyheath.org.uk / www.achurchnearyou.com