

Services this week

Trinity: Sunday Cycle Year A

Services/Events are at St Michael's unless stated otherwise

St Michael's open: Monday-Friday 8.30 am - 4 pm

St Mary's open: Tuesday 10 am - 1 pm (March-December)

SUNDAY (26)	Mass with Hymns (St Peter)	9 am
TRINITY 8	Sung Mass	10.30 am

Monday (27)		
Brooke Foss	Morning Prayer and Rosary	9 am
Westcott		

Tuesday (28)		
Feria	Morning Prayer	9 am

Wednesday (29)		
Mary, Martha	Morning Prayer	9 am
and Lazarus		

Thursday (30)		
Wilberforce, Equiano	Morning Prayer	9 am
and Clarkson	Mass	11 am

Friday (31)		
Ignatius of Loyola	Morning Prayer	9 am

Saturday (1)		
Feria	Morning Prayer	9 am
	Mass	9.30 am

SUNDAY (2)	Mass with Hymns (St Peter)	9 am
TRINITY 9	Sung Mass	10.30 am

Notices

Hall Roof fund

We need to raise £11,400 to replace the main roof on the Church Hall. One donor has agreed to match fund any donations made. £3038.82 raised so far.

Baby Boomers Sausage Sizzle

Saturday 8 August from 5 pm at Steve and Marian's beach hut (No 38). Bring drinks, plastic glass and any salad. Sausage and rolls £1. Please let Margaret Burton know if you plan to attend. Even those who don't like sausages are welcome!

Guest Preacher for 150 years of Mothers' Union

On Sunday 9 August our guest preacher will be Canon Emma Ham-Riche, Diocesan Mothers' Union Chaplain and Associate Archdeacon for Diversity and Inclusion. The service at St Michael's will also include the enrolment of new members.

Screening of *The People's Emergency Briefing*

This eye-opening film brings together leading UK climate and nature scientists, experts and well-known voices to explain the latest evidence on the climate and nature crisis, what it means for all of us, and the actions that can still make a difference. Saturday 15 August, 3.30 pm at Lancing Parish Hall. Book your free place at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1993533534466>

Next Chalk Spring Supper Club - 15 August, 6 pm

Let's raise a glass to VJ Day at The Perch on Lancing beach. Sign up sheet available. Closing date Sunday 9 August.

Choral Evensong for St Mary's Patronal Festival

Sunday 16 August, 5 pm with Guest Preacher Canon Dominic Keech, Priest-in-Charge of Boxgrove Priory, and great music.

Saturday Afternoon Pictures at St Peter's

The Choral by Alan Bennett, starring Ralph Fiennes. Saturday 22 August, 2.30 pm. Tickets £8 includes refreshments. Book at <https://www.chalkspringchurches.org/coming-soon> or via Ian Tout.

Can you ride or stride to raise funds?

Ride and Stride is back on Saturday 12 September. If you would like to take part as a rider or strider or would be happy to sponsor someone, please contact Katie 01903 756583. Half the money raised will go to your nominated church, the other half to the Sussex Historic Churches Trust. To find out more visit: <https://www.sussexhistoricchurchestrust.org.uk/ride-stride>

Curate: Father Ben Scott

07492 930704 chalkspringscurate@outlook.com

Parish Administrator: Heather Crookes

01903 750286 office@chalkspringchurches.org

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Gill Kerney

southlancingandsomptingpso@gmail.com

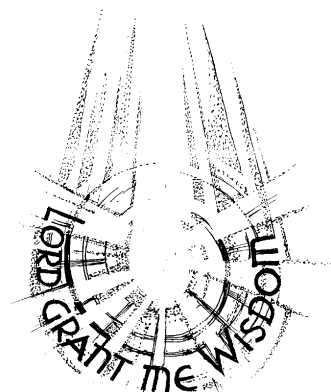
SUNDAY BULLETIN

Bulletin No. 461

26 July 2026

St Michael and All Angels, Lancing
St Mary the Virgin, Sompting
St Peter the Apostle, Sompting

Eighth Sunday after Trinity



Welcome to our worship today.

9 am Celebrant and Preacher: Father Ben Scott

10.30 am Celebrant and Preacher: Canon Michael Hart

Father Ben is also the celebrant at St James the Less

Refreshments are available after both services.

For your prayers...

BIRTHDAYS: David Peskett, Isaac Tout

SICK OR IN NEED: Joan Goddard, Karen Goldstraw, Ben Hollins, Dawn Burton, Daphne Gaitley, Laurette Gaitley, Mark Gilbert, Rena Gaitley, Olive Leonard, Richard Thompson, # Ben Stanton and Julie Laraway # (#= due for renewal)

THE DEPARTED COMMEMORATED THIS WEEK: Hubert Lisher, Ron Parley, Edith Hollamby and Victor Moore

PARISH: Churchwardens, Deputy and Assistant Churchwardens

THE LAMP BURNING BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT is sponsored this week in Thanksgiving for Beth's Graduation

THE LAMP BURNING BY THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY STATUE is sponsored this week for David Smart RIP

Names of the sick are included on the Bulletin for 4 weeks after which they have to be renewed in writing.

Events this week

Full list of services on the back page

Services/Events are at St Michael's unless stated otherwise

Thur: Mass 11 am

Sat: Mass 9.30 am; Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary
Summer Social 2 pm (Beach Green)

Sun: Trinity 9: Mass with Hymns 9 am (St Peter); Sung Mass 10.30 am

All items for inclusion in next Sunday Bulletin, in writing, to Ian Tout by Wednesday 12 noon.

Please send emails to stmichaelslancing@gmail.com

www.chalkspringchurches.org

Calendar

JULY

Sunday 12	Trinity 6: Services at usual times; <u>Blessing the Boats</u> 2.30 pm followed by Mothers' Union Cream Teas
Wednesday 15	<u>Evergreen</u> 2 pm
Thursday 16	<u>Mass</u> 11am; <u>Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary</u> Picnic followed by Guild Office and Benediction 6.30 pm (Coombes)
Sunday 19	Trinity 7: 9 am <u>Mass with Hymns</u> (St Mary)
Tuesday 21	<u>Craft Club</u> 10 am
Thursday 23	<u>Mass with Anointing</u> 11 am
Friday 24	<u>Memory Lane Cafe</u> 2 pm
Saturday 25	James the Apostle: <u>Mass</u> 9.30 am (Walsingham Cell);
Sunday 26	Trinity 8: Services at usual times

AUGUST

Saturday 1	<u>Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary Summer Social</u> 2 pm (Beach Green)
Sunday 2	Trinity 9: Services at usual times
Tuesday 4	<u>Craft Club</u> 10 am
Wednesday 5	<u>Social Afternoon</u> 2 pm (St Peter)
Thursday 6	Transfiguration of Our Lord: Church cleaning 9.15 am; <u>Mass</u> 11 am;
Saturday 8	<u>Mass</u> 9.30 am; <u>Mothers' Union Coffee Morning</u> 10 am (Church Hall); <u>Baby Boomers Sausage Sizzle</u> 5 pm (Beach Hut 38)
Sunday 9	Trinity 10 (Mary Sumner Day): Services at usual times; Preacher at 9 am and 10.30 am The Revd Canon Emma Ham-Riche
Thursday 13	<u>Mass</u> 11 am; <u>Standing Committee meeting</u> 7.30 pm
Saturday 15	<u>Chalk Spring Supper Club</u>
Sunday 16	Blessed Virgin Mary: Services at usual times (St Michael's); <u>Choral Evensong</u> 5 pm (St Mary) Preacher: The Revd Canon Dr Dominic Keech
Monday 17	<u>"The Net" (Autumn) deadline</u>
Tuesday 18	<u>Craft Club</u> 10 am;
Wednesday 19	<u>Evergreen</u> 2 pm
Saturday 22	<u>Mass</u> 9.30 am (Walsingham Cell); <u>Saturday Afternoon Pictures</u> 2.30 pm (St Peter)
Sunday 23	Trinity 12: Services at usual times

25-28 August: Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham

Thursday 27	<u>Mass with Anointing</u> 11 am
Sunday 30	Trinity 13: Services at usual times; <u>Morning Worship</u> 9 am (St Peter)

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 1	<u>Craft Club</u> 10 am
Wednesday 2	<u>Ecumenical Morning Prayer</u> 8 am (St Michael and All Angels); <u>Social Afternoon</u> 2 pm (St Peter)
Thursday 3	<u>Church cleaning</u> 9.15 am; <u>Mass</u> 11 am
Friday 4	<u>Mothers' Union Meeting</u> 2.30 pm
Sunday 6	Trinity 14: Services at usual times; <u>Alive!</u> (Children's group)
Monday 7	<u>"The Net" (Autumn) printing</u>
Thursday 10	<u>Mass</u> 11 am; <u>Parochial Church Council (PCC) Meeting</u> 7.30 pm
Friday 11	<u>XYZ</u>

Heritage Open Days 11-20 September (St Mary)

Saturday 12	<u>Mass</u> 9.30 am; <u>SHCT Sponsored Ride and Stride</u> ; <u>Mini Market</u> 10 am - 12 noon;
Sunday 13	Harvest Thanksgiving: Services at usual times;
Tuesday 15	<u>Craft Club</u> 10 am
Wednesday 16	<u>Evergreen</u> 2 pm
Thursday 17	<u>Mass</u> 11 am; <u>Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary</u> <u>Mass</u> 7.30 pm
Saturday 19	<u>Mass</u> 9.30 am; <u>"The Net" (Autumn) folding</u> 10 am; <u>Music Quiz</u> 7 pm
Sunday 20	Trinity 16: 9 am (St Mary) celebrating Harvest; <u>"The Net" (Autumn) distribution;</u>

Fr Ben writes...

Many of you are wondering how long I have 'left' in the parish, my curacy is now officially coming to an end with sign off in the next couple of weeks and my licence in the parishes runs until the end of December so I have these coming months to apply for any roles which come up as I feel called, please do keep me in your prayers as I discern the next stage of my ministry.

Why We Call the Priest "Father"

From time to time, Christian's encounter Jesus' words in Matthew 23:9: "And call no man on earth your father, for you have one Father—He who is in heaven." At first glance, this seems to forbid the very title many of us use naturally for our parish priest. Yet within the wider teaching of Scripture and the life of the Church, the meaning becomes clearer—and far less forbidding.

Jesus is speaking in a moment of sharp challenge to the religious leaders of His day. They loved titles, honour, and status. Their authority had become self-serving. Jesus warns His followers not to imitate this hunger for prestige. His command is not a ban on everyday language, but a call to humility. It is a reminder that all human authority is secondary, borrowed, and accountable to God.

The New Testament itself uses the word father for spiritual leadership. St Paul writes to the Corinthians, "I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel." He is not claiming divine status; he is describing a relationship of care, guidance, and responsibility. The early Church understood this instinctively. Those who nurtured believers in faith were often called "fathers"—a sign of affection, not domination.

When we call a priest "Father," we are not placing him above God. We are recognising his role in helping us grow as disciples. The title points to service, not superiority. It reminds the priest of his calling to love, teach, and shepherd God's people, and it reminds the community that Christian leadership is always rooted in the Fatherhood of God.

In the end, the word "Father" is not about status at all. It is about relationship—one shaped by Christ, grounded in Scripture, and lived out in the daily life of the Church.

Father Ben.

Parish Barbecue

Rosie Kirsch

The Feast of Corpus Christi is one of the most important events in the church liturgical calendar as it celebrates the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. It is a wonderful occasion and requires a lot of organisation. It involves the whole congregation in a procession to an outside altar of the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance. However, as solemn as the occasion might be, we at St Michael's can't miss the opportunity of celebrating on a slightly lighter note, this time with a bbq. We were certainly all ready for a bite to eat albeit in the hall as the weather really wasn't looking as though it was on our side. Mind you, our Amanda wasn't going to let even a morsel pass our lips without our TICKETS! Fair enough though, it meant there was more than enough to go round. As usual it was a wonderful event made possible by the hard work of bakers, shoppers and maintenance guys in the congregation. Thank you one and all. Now, I wonder what's on the menu for the next one....?

Cheese and wine

Margaret Burton

On a sunny Friday evening in June many of us enjoyed meeting in Mary and Alan Violet's beautiful garden to raise funds for the St Michael's hall roof. After a pleasant interlude chatting and imbibing a few generous glasses of wine we retired to the lounge where we found a delicious spread of cheese and biscuits with fruit and other delicious accompaniments. A raffle was well supported and a large bowl on the coffee table received the rest of the contents of our purses and wallets. A grand total of £286 was raised thanks to the Violet's generous hosting. Well done Mary and Alan.

Rooted

Jo Lansley

Last Saturday, we were blessed with sunshine as we welcomed our 'Rooted' families to St Michael's garden. Our theme this time was 'Summer Party', so children and adults enjoyed decorating pebbles, creating masterpieces in chalk on the paving and creating windsocks to hang in the trees. Most families were known to us from our church family or messy church, but we welcomed a new family who were very keen to join in, so we hope to see them again in the future.

Becca helped us all cool down with ice cream and various toppings, whilst water balloons provided Summer fun and our team water game gave everyone a challenge, especially those wearing flip flops!

Thank you to all our volunteers who helped the afternoon run smoothly, it's great we can continue to welcome our families at St Michael's in such a relaxed way.

Our next get together is on 7 November when we'll be celebrating a year of 'rooted' gatherings!

Blessing the Boats

Sunday 12 July is our annual Blessing the Boats service on Beach Green with music from Lancing Brass. If you can help to get boats to be blessed or any other articles used at the beach then please speak to Steve Gates, and please use the flyers to advertise the service which is followed by cream teas in the church hall.

Choral Evensong - Sunday 16th August

Aedan Kerney

We are truly blessed to have within our Parish of South Lancing and Sompting the glorious Saxon church dedicated to St Mary the Blessed Virgin up on the hill at Sompting.

Our granddaughters were asking us the other day why these hills are called downs as they go up! We then found out that the word "downs" is based on the celtic word "dun" meaning a hill, a fortress or a place of safety. For me St Mary's Church is a sanctuary, a place of great beauty where we can offer our best to God in music and prayer.

For five years I have had the privilege of leading the singing of our St Mary's Singers for the Choral Evensongs. Choral Evensong on Sunday 16 August begins at 5pm and celebrates St Mary's Patronal Festival. The congregation will sing three hymns including "Tell out my soul" and "Sing we of the blessed Mother". The Introit is an a cappella version of "Such Love" and the anthem is Morton Lauridsen's beautiful "O magnum mysterium" which tells of the birth of Jesus.

After the Service there will be dancing by Sompting Morris on the lower field with drinks donated by the Sompting Estate and supplied by Stanley Alehouse.

Looking forward - When we meet once again on Sunday 29 November the totally dilapidated Forster and Andrews pipe-organ will be undergoing a complete restoration so that our praise to God might be even more beautiful.

Looking backwards - A comment from a member of the congregation after the recent Choral Evensong on 31st May:

What an absolute delight to be able to take my small part in such a great rendition of such glorious music yesterday afternoon/evening, I felt really privileged. I thought the impromptu 'descants' sounded wonderful. From some of my earlier links with St Mary's Church, it's a long time since seeing so many people in the congregation, so that too was a joy.

We look forward to seeing you there on 16th August.

STOP PRESS: The Guest Preacher for Choral Evensong will be The Revd Canon Dr Dominic Keech, Priest in Charge of Boxgrove Priory. Prior to his appointment there in November last year he was Vicar of St Nicholas, Brighton. He was previously a Chaplain at Brasenose College Oxford, and has a research background in early church history.

The Work of a Church Administrator

In late 2024 I asked my line manager at the Palace for some training in project management. I think the course I found was too expensive because instead he suggested I enrol on "The Work of a Church Administrator" distance learning course run by the UK Church Administrators Network (UCAN) and accredited by Cliff College in Derbyshire. Although aimed at administrators working in church offices, the course tutor was confident we could adapt it to fit my work in the bishop's office.

Starting in January last year, I had to work through ten units covering a range of subjects including character and people-skills, the office base, working with colleagues, principles of communication, systems and structures. What sets this course apart from a secular course was a whole module on administration from a biblical viewpoint (did you know administration can be viewed as a spiritual gift?). In addition there were also regular places for reflection on biblical texts and administrative work in the church setting.

In addition to various exercises within each module I also had to undertake three pieces of coursework. One was a self-reflection on the "principle of release" which suggests that gifted administrators "release" their minister from administration to focus on their ministry and preaching, teaching etc. The second was an essay comparing and contrasting office management in commercial and church settings (eg what's the difference between working in church and non-church settings). The third followed site visits to two other bishop's offices where I had to learn about how they operate and then make recommendations for how we could change our practice for the better. This was very interesting and I enjoyed my visits to the Winchester and Arundel & Brighton offices to see how very similar work is carried out differently in other locations. The coursework had to be properly presented with footnotes and bibliography which took some time to get back into, but it proves some things you don't forget! I also had to read a number of books on management and ministry including one called "Spreadsheets and Prophecy". There was other background reading from an NVQ Business and Administration textbook and items from the course author's website. John Truscott has spent 40 years as a church consultant and he provides a range of training notes, articles, DIY workshops and health checks across church administration and operations.

There were times when I thought "why did I do this?", mainly when I was trying to balance writing my coursework whilst still juggling my regular work, family and all the different commitments I have outside of work. Ultimately it was worth it. In the same way as when I took part in the Authorised Lay Ministry training it was good to be able to reflect on why we do something and how we go about it, rather than just having to get on with it.

I've been challenged throughout the course, not just in terms of making time to study, but to examine my practices and my approach. Some of it has been affirming, some of it has been difficult especially when I've had to examine parts of my character or ways of working. Ultimately it has been beneficial and I know I will be a better administrator because of it. I've learned a lot about how to manage time better and how to be more effective in task management. Fundamentally I now have a better understanding of how my work supports the work and ministry of the bishop, and how it helps them fulfil certain aspects of their role, particularly relating to hospitality and building up the Kingdom of God.

I've now received my glossy certificate and will keep an eye out for future training courses, I think they'll be shorter this time though!

Shopping online? Support your church!

Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ and add **stpeterssompting/** (St Peter), **stmichaelallangelspcc/** (St Michael) or **stmaryssompting/** (St Mary) to sign up. We've raised over £2000 for our churches in this way.