

Sunday 11 October 2026: 19th Sunday after Trinity (Trinity 19)
2nd Sunday of October

St Michael's Readings – Preparing to Worship: Ecclesiastes 5 (1-6)
WGO-Readings - Preparing to Worship: Ecclesiastes 5 (1-6)

Sunday 11 October 2026

9.30am Holy Communion - St Michael's Church
9.30am Holy Communion - Church of the Ascension, Southam
9.30am Morning Praise - The Old Chapel, Gotherington
11.15am Contemporary Worship - St Michael's Church
1.00 pm Baptism of Sophie Hodge and Bodhi Hayward - St Michael's Church
3.00-4.30pm Harvest Extravaganza - Gotherington Village Hall

Next Thursday Morning Communion at St Michael's Church: 5 November at 10.45 am
For the complete list of services see <https://www.stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk/whats-on>



Thanksgiving Gift Day - Sunday 18th October

Over recent years we have talked about our financial giving as a normal part of our worshipping life, as we express our gratitude to God for all He has done for us - and all that He has entrusted to us. And we are having our annual focus on this aspect of our Discipleship during October. We appreciate some will not be able to give very much at all (cf. "the widow's mite") - but it's important that we all think about this together.

For those who saw the Vision 2030 Progress Presentation a few weeks ago (you can review it on the next page) - you will know that we are in a mixed position financially. Thanks to Esme and Graham Teale's legacy we have money in the bank. This is wonderful! However, because this is one-off non-recurring funding, the Church Council has committed to only spend this money on step-changes which will develop the long-term ministry and fabric of St Michael's - rather than on the day-to-day running of the church.

More concerning is that we have an underlying and recurring deficit of somewhere between £15,000 and £20,000 each year. This has arisen from our healthy determination to improve our outreach through children's work and schools work, but which has never been covered by our regular giving.

On Sunday 18th October - everyone will receive a pledge form - either to return on the day - or over the next few weeks. Obviously it would be great to see this deficit gap closed through regular giving (Parish Giving Scheme) - but I have been so blown away by all that our church family has sacrificially given over the past 3 years' gift days - that I'm just grateful for any gift - given in any way!! Thank you to you all, Tim.



Light up the Night – Saturday 31 October 2026-St Michael's Church –
3pm – 5pm-Family Fun Afternoon at St Michael's Church

Halloween can be a difficult time for many families, with the pressure of costumes, trick-or-treating, and celebrations that don't always reflect the values we want to share with our children. This year, why not do something different?

Join us for a fantastic Family Fun Afternoon where we'll enjoy laughter, activities, friendship, and fun, while sharing God's love and shining His light into our community on what is often considered a dark day. What's Happening?

🎈 Bouncy Castle 🎈 Inflatable Fun 🎈 Family Crafts 🎈 Games and Activities
🍪 Treats and Surprises 😊 Fun for all ages

Come and enjoy an afternoon packed with excitement, creativity, and community as we celebrate the hope and light that Jesus brings.

If you no longer wish to receive Weekly News, please email admin@stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk

Vision 2030 Progress Update

Vision 2030 Progress Update Sept 2026



For those who couldn't be at our services on Sunday - or who wish to review the Vision 2030 presentations in more details - you can see the finance presentation and the Vision Progress Presentation by scanning the QR code. Please do review and prayerfully consider if you might be being called to help with any aspect of the Vision. Many thanks Tim.



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

iSingPOP-Grangefield Primary School

We were thrilled to host iSingPOP at St Michael's Church. It was a tremendous success and enjoyed by everyone. Please scan the QR code to read the blog:



PRAYER

Centering Prayer – every Wednesday at 4pm Church of the Ascension, Southam

I am sure that not everyone has had the opportunity to experience, the silent practice of Centering Prayer. All welcome to join us.

We have started the practice of Centring prayer here at Southam/St Michael's, we gather at our church in silence at 4pm on Wednesdays, and finish at 4.30pm. During this time, we start with a short reflection, from then we begin our silence, silent prayer is primarily reconnecting to God as Jesus asked us to do, 'Go into your room and close the door, and listen, listen to God by inclining the Ear of your Heart'.

It is not easy to keep a silent mind, a friend once wrote, "I use prayer as the umbrella word for any interior journey, or practice that allows you to experience Faith, Hope, and Love within yourself". John Donovan
For more information about Centering Prayer, please scan the QR code.



Zoom House of Prayer Meetings-Thursdays Evenings 7.30pm and Saturday Mornings 9.30am

Here are the links if you would like to join us:

Zoom Meeting Thursday 7:30.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89900367545?pwd=SgVob9MBWOsuKocSofggWaW8DwHWdL.1>

Zoom Meeting Saturday 9:30 am

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84984096745?pwd=LV6iUdaPxdveLkFmfgzhmIC6rWdTJZ.1>

If you are unable to connect this way, please email Ian on: smprayerchain@outlook.com and I will send you a link straight to your email box.

Central Prayer – St Michael's Church every Tuesday at 12.00 noon

Come and join us for weekly prayer – usually led by a member of clergy – all welcome.

WHAT'S ON?

Women's Breakfast – St Michael's Church Saturday 10 October at 9am

Our speaker is Sallie Mumford who will be sharing about her journey of Grief, Hope and Discovery with The Lord. All women welcome so do come and enjoy a morning of blessing and fellowship

Bereavement Support Group

Saturday 10 October 2026 10.30am St Michael's Centre Bishop's Cleeve

We meet monthly on the second Saturday of the month 10.30-12noon in St Michael's Centre. An opportunity to meet with others who have been bereaved for a coffee/tea and chat-come and stay for as long as you wish.

**Christian Aid – Autumn Road Show- Thursday 15 October 7.00pm-9.30pm-
Queen’s Road Baptist Church, Coventry CV1 3EG - Hope, resilience and
action: Stories from South Sudan**



Please join us either using your own/shared transport...

Or using a minibus shared with other local churches – cost £18.00.

Please contact Yvonne on:

ypenn@christian-aid.org or 07950 717268 Sign up using the QR code:

**Church on the Hill: Cleeve Common Guided Walk - October 18 at 10:00am- Meeting
Point: Cleeve Hill Golf Club**

We are delighted to welcome guides from the Cleeve Common Trust for a special Church on the Hill event. Our walk will be led by Michael, who brings a wealth of brilliant experience and deep knowledge about the Common's landscape and history. The guided walk will last approximately 1.5 hours and cover no more than 4km at a gentle pace. Before we set off we will introduce the vital conservation work of the Trust and offer a few thoughtful prompts for us to reflect on as we walk together.

Supporting the Trust

While there is no cost to join us, the Cleeve Common Trust is a charity. They will have a collection tin available at the end of the morning for anyone who would like to make a voluntary donation to support their ongoing work. If you have any questions about the walk, or concerns about accessibility, please let me know by emailing

lucyannbarbour@gmail.com

**Friends of St Martin de Tours Church Woolstone – ‘JUST DESSERTS’
Saturday 24 October in Gotherington Village Hall**

An entertainment offering monologues, sketches and a melodrama from ‘Bishop’s Cleeve’ Players, on Saturday 24 October in Gotherington Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm (doors open at 7.15pm). During the interval a selection of desserts will be offered along with wine and soft drinks.

Tickets, priced at £12.50 will be on sale from the start of September from: George Lewis Shoe Shop, Jean Wickens (01242 679345) or the Church Office.

Harvest Appeal-Help Support Your Food Bank This Harvest



Please donate an item or two from our shopping list to support your community, it will be greatly received: **Tined meat/fish, tinned veg/fruit, cooking sauces, coffee/tea, milk (long life) fruit juice**

(long life), rice pudding/custard, jam/spread, tinned potatoes, table sauces. For more information regarding the food bank please scan the QR Code: <https://northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk/>

Bring a coin and a can for Harvest When coming to one of our services, please bring a can with a £1 coin attached – so we can donate money as well as food to the North Cotswold Foodbank.

Upcoming Harvest Services:

Sun 11 October: 3.00 pm - Harvest Extravaganza at Gotherington Village Hall

Sun 25 October: 9.30 am -Harvest Breakfast Church, Southam Village Hall

All Souls Memorial Service-Sunday 1 November 2026 at 3.30 pm-St Michael’s Church

A service of Thanksgiving and remembering loved ones who have died in recent times and provide comfort for those who mourn. There will be cards for you to complete with the names/s of your loved ones which will be collected and taken to the front during the service.

Followed by refreshments and chat. All warmly welcome.

Connect Chatter – Every Friday-Community Hall 1 (next to Bishops Cleeve Library)

Every Friday 11am to 1pm – free entry – no sign up needed.

For anyone feeling lonely, bereaved (including pet loss), overwhelmed as a carer.

Please contact John Barton: 07500 003680 or for more information.

Save the Date: Saturday 14 November- St Michael's Centre Christmas Market 2026

Donations Needed:

If you've items that you no longer need, please donate them.

What we need:

Unwanted Gifts-new or unused

Toiletries-Unopened

Jewellery-Unwanted in any condition (old or new)

Books & Toys-Adults/children books, toys in good condition

Household goods-clean useful items in saleable condition

Bric a Brac-good quality items suitable for sale

How to Donate: You can drop off your items to St Michael's Church Porch or St Michael's Centre Office (GL52 8LL)

NOTICES

Notices for This Newsletter

Please note that due to the high volume of requests we get for this newsletter, the cut off time for notices to go into the current week's newsletter will be 2pm on Wednesday. Anything received after this time will go into the following week's newsletter.

Introducing Phoebe Titley!

Phoebe is serving as an intern with St Michaels over the coming year for some 32 hours a week. The PCC have paid for her course fees to enable her to receive training in Christian leadership and discipleship - specifically around Youth Work and Worship Leading.



We see this course as an investment in her and in the future of God's kingdom - rather than a paid job. As such, her course fees are covered and she remains living with her parents - but part of her serving this year, is fund-raising for some living expenses.

If you felt you could sponsor her that would be wonderful (!) - please do get in touch with Tim. To learn about Phoebe and her story, please scan the QR code to read her blog.

Anna Chaplaincy-Christmas Craft – Snowman Knitting Project 2026

The Anna Chaplaincy Christmas Craft this year is a snowman knitting project. If you would like to knit for this charity, there will be some copies of the pattern at the back of the church with a box to put in your finished snowmen. All snowmen need to be put in the box or handed into the church office, no later than 27 November 2026.

Watch Sermons on YouTube

Visit the channel here: <https://youtu.be/RjbH3bo5jb8> or scan the QR code:



VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Can You Help? Light up the Night – Saturday 31 October 2026

St Michael's Church – 3pm – 5pm

We're looking for volunteers to help us put on a Family Fun Afternoon:

Helping with activities – supervising inflatables and games – welcoming families – supporting craft stations

All volunteers will need a current DBS check and to have completed safeguarding training.

Please Pray Too!

Even if you're unable to help on the day, we would greatly value your prayers:

For the safety of everyone attending - For the volunteers and activities - For families in our community - That God's love and light will shine brightly throughout the afternoon

If you can help in any way, or would like more information, please email:

lbetts@stmbsc.uk

Let's work together to create a fun, welcoming afternoon that shares the light of Christ with our community!

If you no longer wish to receive Weekly News, please email admin@stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk

OUR MISSION PARTNERS - NEWS

Mission Partners

At St Michael's, we have three Mission Partners with which we have strong ties. Our three Mission Partners are: **North Cotswold Foodbank, Grassroots Rwanda and Mission Macedonia.**

For more information visit: <https://www.stmichaelsbishopsclleeve.co.uk/world-mission>

ECO-CHURCH - OCTOBER

Terra-cycling-Please Note:

Cake and biscuit wrappers can be recycled in the soft plastic collection bin in Tesco.

Blister packs **can still be brought for recycling.** Boxes available in the church porch and the parish office.

Our Energy Saving Tip This Month

Stop drafts: Seal gaps around windows and doors with cheap draft-proofing strips

FROM BISHOP'S CLEEVE METHODIST CHURCH

To find out **What's on** at Bishop's Cleeve Methodist Church, please follow the link: https://www.methodist-bishopsclleeve.co.uk/page_2275125.html

Sunday: Worship at 10.30am followed by refreshments.

Monday: Meeting for Prayer at 12.45 pm.
Meet Up Monday 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm.

Tuesday: Prayer and Bible Study at 7.45 pm on alternate Tuesdays

Wednesday: Communion Service with other churches at 9.00 am.
Fellowship Group with a speaker at 2.00 pm on alternate Wednesdays.

Thursday: **Film Club at 2.00 pm on the first Thursday of each month. (See below)**
Bible Study at 2.00 pm on the second and fourth Thursday of each month.

Saturday: Coffee mornings 10am - 12 noon as announced.

Christian Film Club-Methodist Church Wednesday 14 October 2pm

Everyone welcome, there will be refreshments after the show.

Keep up to date with church news, diary dates and more on our website.

www.stmichaelsbishopsclleeve.co.uk

Service times: stmichaelsbishopsclleeve.co.uk/worship-services

Safeguarding: stmichaelsbishopsclleeve.co.uk/safeguarding

Church Office: stmichaelsbishopsclleeve.co.uk/contact

Donate: [Bishop's Cleeve - Parish Giving Scheme](#)

[Southam - Parish Giving Scheme](#)

[WGO - Parish Giving Scheme](#) Or ring 03330021260

Watch Sermons: youtube.com/@StMichaelsBishopsCleeveChurchOffice

[Telephone Number and Opening Times](#)

07354 874617 Kate for all enquiries including weddings. Monday to Friday

07871 602525 Tracy for enquiries relating to funerals, baptisms and DBS. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Church Office Opening Times: Monday – Thursday 10am – 2pm

Friday: Kate sometimes works from home, please ring to check before coming to the office

St Michael's at Prayer

There are lots of different ways we pray at St Michael's, scan the QR code to find out different ways of praying.



Different
ways to pray
at St
Michael's



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bishopsclleeve.co.uk