

# STAYING CONNECTED

## Space Hoppers Holiday Club: A Galactic Adventure of Faith, Fun & Gunge!



**Wow**—what an *out-of-this-world* week we had at our **Space Hoppers Summer Holiday Club**! Over three jam-packed days, we launched into space, time-traveled through the Bible, and discovered just how amazing God's love truly is.

### ***Time Travel with Peter the Disciple***

Each day, our brave leaders hopped into their time machines and landed in the first century to interview **Peter**, one of Jesus' closest friends. Through these encounters, we learned:

- How Peter was chosen to follow Jesus
- The moment he denied knowing Jesus

And the beautiful story of forgiveness and purpose Jesus gave him

The best part? We discovered that **Jesus chooses each of us too**—even when we mess up, He forgives us and gives us a mission to share His love with the world. That's a message worth shouting from the stars!

### ***Three Zones of Intergalactic Fun***

Our club was divided into three stellar zones:

- **Games Zone:** Lots of running around and fun parachute games
- **Craft Zone:** Creative masterpieces that were out of this world!
- **Lego Zone:** telling the Bible story one brick at a time

We also had Messy games, quizzes, and action songs (featuring some truly unforgettable *dancing sheep*)

### ***Star Ship St Michaels Drama***

Our drama team took us aboard the **Star Ship St Michaels**, where the crew was on a mission to spread the Good News of **Mission Command**—living out **goodness, kindness, generosity, honesty, and mercy**. Despite a few cosmic hiccups, they completed their mission and reminded us all of the power of faith and friendship.





## **Gunge Galore!**

And of course... **THE GUNGE!**

Every day ended with a gloriously gooey splash of gunge, much to the delight of the children (and the horror of a few brave volunteers!). It was messy, it was hilarious, and it was the perfect way to wrap up each day.

## **Thank You & Keep Praying**

A massive thank you to everyone who helped, prayed, and supported

this incredible week. Your love and dedication made it all possible. Please keep praying for the children—that the seeds planted during Space Hoppers will grow strong in their hearts and minds.

Until next time, keep hopping through the galaxy of God's love! ✨



Sorry for the black and white printing,  
our machine has run out of colour!



## **Church of the Ascension, Southam**

### **Harvest Festival**

**Sunday 28 September**

**9.30 am at Southam Village Hall during Breakfast Church.**

Donations of non-perishable food items, household cleaning, toiletries or nappies will go to the North Cotswold Foodbank to help support local people facing hardship

### **Services September 2025**

#### **Sunday 7 September**

9.30 am—Holy Communion at Church of the Ascension, led by Ben Williams

#### **Sunday 14 September**

9.30 am—Holy Communion at Church of the Ascension, led by John Sharpe

#### **Sunday 21 September**

10.00 am—Church on the Hill, Grangefield Community Orchard, led by Lucy Barbour

#### **Sunday 28 September**

9.30 am—Breakfast John Donovan

### **Current shortages:**

Ketchup  
Mayonnaise  
Tinned vegetables  
Fruit juice  
Custard

Coffee  
Savoury and sweet snack  
Washing powder/liquid  
Cooking sauces  
Tinned pasta

Tinned meat  
Tinned potatoes  
Rice pudding  
Longlife milk



**St Martin de Tours Church, Woolstone,  
St John the Baptist Church, Oxenton,  
and using 'The Old Chapel' in Gotherington**

**SERVICE INFORMATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2025**  
***All services start at 10:00 am unless otherwise stated.***

Sunday 7 September:	Holy Communion	Oxenton
Sunday 14 September:	Morning Praise	Old Chapel, Gotherington
Sunday 21 September:	Holy Communion	Woolstone
Sunday 28 September:	Café Church	Old Chapel, Gotherington
Sunday 31 August:	BCP Holy Communion	Oxenton

**CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTIONS:**

From Oxenton collection, Coffee Morning, Church and cash donations, plus online giving and Gift Aid a total of just over £850 pounds was raised for Christian Aid this year.

Team Rector	Reverend Tim Garrett	tim@stmbc.uk
Team Vicar	Reverend Ben Williams	ben@stmbc.uk
CHURCH OFFICE	See Notice Boards	07354 874617
Churchwarden	Michael Bower (Oxenton)	01242 672900
Churchwarden	Bob Wickens (Woolstone)	01242 679345 rwickens242@gmail.com
PCC Secretary	Pauline Bower	01242 672900
PCC Treasurer	Michael Bower	01242 672900
Bell Ringing Team	Pauline Bower	01242 672900
Church Flowers Woolstone	Joan Hocken	01242 674453
Church Flowers Oxenton	Pauline Bower	01242 672900
Newsletter Distribution	Gill Lofts	01242 674129
Deanery Synod Rep	Pauline Bower	
The Parish Safeguarding Officer	Pauline Bower	01242 672900
Newsletter Editor	Jean Wickens	01242 679345 jeanwickens242@gmail.com



## Mary Hughes

It is with great sadness that we have to let you know that Mary Hughes passed away on Sunday 17 August in Gloucestershire Royal Hospital.

**Her funeral is taking place on**

**Thursday 11th September 2025**

**at 11.30 am**

**at St Michael's Church.**

The family have requested that smart and colourful clothes be worn and that everyone is welcome for refreshments afterwards at The St Michael's Centre.

We have the sure and certain hope that Mary will rest in peace and rise in glory.

My sunflower that 'planted itself' in my patio is doing really well. In the photo to the right my daughter stood next to it for context of it's size. She is 5 feet 4 inches, so this is getting on for 5 feet. It is taller and stronger than any of my other sunflowers, which are also doing well, but have all had to be staked.

We were discussing why this might be and thought maybe because the slabs are keeping the moisture in the 'soil/sand' below the patio, but also because the roots will be able to reach further down. I am hoping it will open its flower head soon. **Kate**





## **Sunday Bible Readings from the Lectionary**

### **12th Sunday after Trinity - 7 September**

Jeremiah 18.1-11  
Psalm 139.1-5,12-18\*  
Philemon 1-21  
Luke 14.25-33

### **13th Sunday after Trinity - 14 September**

Jeremiah 4.11-12,22-28  
Psalm 14  
1 Timothy 1.12-17  
Luke 15.1-10

### **14th Sunday after Trinity - 21 September**

Jeremiah 8.18 - 9.1  
Psalm 79.1-9  
1 Timothy 2.1-7  
Luke 16.1-13

### **15th Sunday after Trinity - 28 September**

Jeremiah 32.1-3a,6-15  
Psalm 91.1-6,14-16\*  
1 Timothy 6.6-19  
Luke 16.19-31

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On Bank Holiday Monday, while sat having a cup of tea in my garden I spotted this beautiful dragonfly resting on one of my solar lights. It would stop for a few minutes then fly a circuit of the garden and then land back here. I managed to get this photo of it showing the sun reflecting on its wings. The cabbage white butterfly that was also flying around didn't stay still long enough for me to take a picture.

**Kate**

## **Our next themed readings:**

### **Sunday 7 September**

Why do we sing?  
Colossians 3: 15-17

### **Sunday 14 September**

Why do we preach?  
Acts 20: 17-32

### **Sunday 21 September**

Why do we take Communion?  
1 Corinthians 11: 17-26

### **Sunday 28 September**

Why do we confess, absolve and bless?  
John 13: 2-17

For more information about our services please see:  
[www.stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk](http://www.stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk)  
Email: [admin@stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk](mailto:admin@stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk)  
Tel: 07354 874617



## **St Michael's Church Weekday Open for Visitors/Private Prayer**

Monday 11am - 2pm

Tuesday 9.30am-10.30am

Wednesday 10am - 4pm

Thursday 12pm - 2pm

*(times may occasionally change due to*

*Services or volunteer availability*

*- check with Church Office 07354 874617)*

*If you do NOT wish to receive copies of  
Staying Connected, please phone the  
Church Office on  
07354 874617*



The cats discovered the garden chairs at the weekend! **Kate**



### **HOME COMMUNION**

Our Pastoral Assistants' Team offer anyone who can't get to church a short Home Communion service in the comfort of their own home.

We are also available to pray with those who can't get to church, in their homes, if that is helpful.

Please call the Church Office  
07354 874617

### **Thursday 10.45am Communion Service St Michael's Church**

*1st & 3rd Thursdays*

Sep 4th 18th

Oct 2nd 16th

### **Our Pastoral Assistants are here** *to support the pastoral work in this benefice.*

- *If you would like to chat or need help - you or your family, friends or carers can contact us on your behalf.*
- *If you are going into hospital, moving or going into a care home - so we can keep in touch.*
- *If you can't get to church and would like Home Communion in the comfort of your own home.*

**Contact:** the Church Office 07354 874617

**Email:** [pastoral.stmichael@gmail.com](mailto:pastoral.stmichael@gmail.com)

September is a month I have always loved. As a child growing up in North Cornwall it was the time for high tides, very often strong winds at the same time and I loved to go to the cliff path to watch the waves breaking and hear the crashing sounds as they hit the cliffs. I remember vividly one real stormy evening when many of us were out watching the waves breaking high up the cliffs to the path we were on.



My grandmother would say  
“God is showing us His Power!”

Indeed God is powerful. Because God is powerful so is prayer and for us reading this it is a calling.

1. Let us pray for world leaders as they seek to find peaceful solutions to end the horror of war we see today. Pray for Godly wisdom and compassion as they enter into talks. Pray against selfish and greedy motives. Specify areas you feel God is asking you to pray into.
2. In recent months we have seen several church members pass over into their Heavenly Home.

The most recent and the longest standing member is our dear friend Mary Hughes.

Let us thank God for the wonderful example she and others have set for us and the benefits of knowing them.

Let us pray for their families, loved ones, friends and our church, that they may know the peace and comfort of The Lord and each other.

Mary once said to me on a holiday “ I don’t want anyone to mourn for me, just be happy I’m in a better place!”

Pray also for all who are suffering sickness of any kind or trauma.

3. As we go into a new term pray for all young people starting new classes or new schools and for our church leaders in their new very busy term. Pray for protection over them, for health, strength deep relationships with The Lord.

Finally don’t forget our so important ‘others’ admin team, church wardens and so many others who help to make St Michaels such a wonderful church community.

Bless you all for your calling as church warriors and Thank You. SL

## **St Michael & All Angels, Bishops Cleeve**

*Please join us for our*  
**SUNDAY SERVICES**

**All at 9.30 am**

1st Sunday – Morning Prayer

2nd Sunday – Holy Communion (with choir and organ)

3rd Sunday – Holy Communion

4th Sunday – Holy Communion (with choir and organ)

**All at 11.15 am**

1st Sunday – Café-style service (with children's activities)

2nd Sunday – Contemporary Worship (with children's groups)

3rd Sunday – Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion  
(with children's groups)

4th Sunday – Contemporary Worship (Explorers Extra at St Michael's Centre)

5th Sunday – Joint Service (Explorers Extra at St Michael's Centre)

## **The Church of the Ascension, Southam**

*Please join us for our*  
**SUNDAY SERVICES**

**all at 9.30 am unless otherwise stated.**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – Morning Prayer at Church of the Ascension

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Holy Communion at Church of the Ascension

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – Church on the Hill at 10.00 am

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Breakfast Church at Southam Village Hall

## **The Parish of Woolstone with Gotherington and Oxenton**

*Please join us for our*  
**SUNDAY SERVICES**

**all at 10.00 am unless otherwise stated**

**St Martin de Tours, Woolstone**

1st Sunday—Holy Communion at St John the Baptist, Oxenton

2nd Sunday—Morning Praise at The Old Chapel, Gotherington

3rd Sunday—Holy Communion at St Martin de Tours, Woolstone

4th Sunday—Café Church at The Old Chapel, Gotherington

5th Sunday—BCP Holy Communion at St John the Baptist, Oxenton