

STAYING CONNECTED

Dear Friends,

As summer gives way to autumn, our church enters a special season in the life of faith: *Creationtide*. Christians around the world set aside this time to give thanks for the gift of creation, to reflect on the beauty and fragility of the earth, and to renew our commitment to care for all that God has made.

It is no accident that *Creationtide* leads us naturally into the celebration of *Harvest*. In our services we give thanks for the fruits of the earth and the labour of those who grow, gather, and prepare our food. Harvest is more than a quaint tradition: it is an act of gratitude, a reminder of our dependence on God's provision, and an opportunity to share what we have with those who are in need.

This year, I encourage us to think of Harvest in the widest possible sense. We are invited not only to bring tins and produce to church, but also to bring hearts that are open to justice and generosity. We are called to consider our daily choices—how we shop, what we waste, how we use energy—and to see these as acts of worship, honouring the Creator.

This is who already part of who we are as an Eco church, but perhaps this season is a great big nudge to refresh our involvement in those projects which care for our patch of earth and the wider world.

Let's join our prayers and actions together as we proclaim a message of hope: that God's creation is good, and that by God's Spirit we are entrusted with its care.

With every blessing for this Harvest season,

Revd. Ben Williams
Team Vicar

Harvest services at St Michael's Church this year:

Sun 5 October: 9.30am: Harvest Morning Prayer at St Michael's Church
11.15am: Harvest Café Church at St Michael's

Please bring donations of non-perishable items which will be donated to the foodbank.

The full list is here:

<https://northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>.

There are mini shopping lists available at the back of the church.

The North Cotswold foodbank are currently short of:



- Baked beans
- Tinned tomatoes
- Cooking sauces
- Ketchup
- Mayonnaise
- Tinned vegetables
- Fruit juice
- Jellies
- Custard
- Angel Delight
- Coffee
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned pasta
- Tinned meat
- Tinned potatoes
- Rice pudding
- Longlife milk
- Bleach
- Savoury and sweet snacks



Church of the Ascension, Southam

Services October 2025

Sunday 5 October

9.30 am—Holy Communion at Church of the Ascension, led by Tim Garrett

Sunday 12 October

9.30 am—Holy Communion at Church of the Ascension, led by Nat Garrett

Sunday 19 October

10.00 am—Church on the Hill, Cleeve Hill, led by John Donovan

Sunday 26 October

9.30 am—Breakfast Bill Blakey



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

SERVICE INFORMATION FOR OCTOBER 2025

All services start at 10:00 am unless otherwise stated.

Sunday 5 October :	Holy Communion	Oxenton
Sunday 12 October:	Morning Praise	Old Chapel, Gotherington
Sunday 19 October:	Harvest Holy Communion	Woolstone
Sunday 26 October:	Café Church	Old Chapel, Gotherington

OTHER EVENTS TO LOOK OUT FOR:

Harvest Extravaganza—In the Village Hall on 12 October 3pm-4.30pm.

Harvest Service at Woolstone—19 October at the morning service—donations for the Food Bank welcome.

Alternative Halloween Pop-up—31 October—Rectory Drive 5pm-7pm.
Activites/goodie bags/hot drinks for the adults

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
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The Parish Safeguarding Officer	Pauline Bower	01242 672900
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St Michael's Church in the sun,
and its beautiful garden area still
with providing so much colour.
Thank you Ro, Tony and all who
help to maintain this.

(These photos have been taken
over the last couple of months).
Kate



Sunday Bible Readings from the Lectionary

16th Sunday after Trinity/

Harvest

- 5 October

Lamentations 1.1-6

Psalms 137*

2 Timothy 1.1-14

Luke 17.5-10

17th Sunday after Trinity

- 12 October

Jeremiah 29.1,4-7

Psalms 66.1-11

2 Timothy 2.8-15

Luke 17.11-19

18th Sunday after Trinity

- 19 October

Jeremiah 31.27-34

Psalms 119.97-104

2 Timothy 3.14 - 4.5

Luke 18.1-8

19th Sunday after Trinity

- 26 October

Joel 2.23-32

Psalms 65

2 Timothy 4.6-8,16-18

Luke 18.9-14

Our next themed readings:

Sunday 5 October

Harvest

Colossians 1: 15-20

Sunday 12 October

Gift Day

1 Timothy 6: 17-21

Sunday 19 October

Good God! Why Trinity?

Psalms 27: 1-8

Sunday 26 October

Good God? Busy Before Creation?

Matthew 3: 13-17

THE CHURCHES OF

St Michael & All Angels
Southam, Woolstone, Gotherington & Oxenton



Coffee Morning at the Church Office

Tuesday 7th October 2025

10am - 11.30am

You are invited to join us in the church office for coffee, cake and chat. Come and join us for coffee, cake and chat and meet the team and see the 'hub' of activity that is the Church Office. We will be raising money for one of our Mission Partners, North Cotswold Foodbank



 **North Cotswold
Foodbank**
Together with Trussell



www.stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk
email: 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)



My sunflowers are blooming well, enjoying having had some rain. The top photos are from the front of my house.

The bottom ones are of the sunflower which 'planted itself' in a crack in my patio. It is the biggest and tallest of all my sunflowers. **Kate**

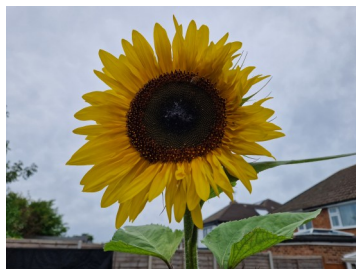


HOME COMMUNION

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

Oct 2nd 16th

Nov 6th 20th



For more information about our services please see:

www.stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk

Email: admin@stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk

Tel: 07354 874617

In 1 Thessalonians 5 v18, Paul tells His people to “ Give thanks in all circumstances”. There is no doubt that this is not always the easiest thing to do, but let’s reflect for a while and then offer God our praise and thanks for just 3 things we are grateful for today. It may be as simple as “thank you for waking me up today”, but God always values our efforts to follow His instructions.

Recently in St Michael’s church there have been several opportunities for church members to be in local schools and share the message about Jesus. Please pray for these people that they will be inspired and led by God to spread the good news that God loves them. Pray please that these doors will remain open and that relationships with schools will be fruitful.

Finally let’s pray for the areas of this world that are still , after so long, in conflict and war. Pray for all who are seeking to bring relief and help to the people trapped in these places.

May God bless you all as you serve Him in this wonderful ministry of prayer. Thank you.

L.D.

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

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

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.

1st Sunday – Holy Communion at Church of the Ascension

2nd Sunday – Holy Communion at Church of the Ascension

3rd Sunday – Church on the Hill at 10.00 am

4th 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