

STAYING CONNECTED

As summer begins, June can feel like an invitation to breathe more deeply and look more carefully at the grace that surrounds us. The fields and gardens are fuller, the evenings are longer, and creation itself seems to speak of patience, promise, and quiet fruitfulness. For Christians, this can be a deeply comforting month: a time to remember that faith often grows in ordinary places, through steady prayer, simple acts of kindness, faithful service, and trust in God's timing.

June as a Season of Light and Renewal

June naturally draws our attention to light. The long days can become a reminder of the light of Christ, which shines in darkness and is never overcome. When life has felt heavy, uncertain, or tiring, this month offers a gentle picture of renewal. God does not rush us, but patiently restores us. The bright mornings, open skies, and signs of life all around us can encourage us to lift our eyes again and to believe that new strength is possible.

This is also a helpful month for gratitude. We may not always notice spiritual growth while it is happening, just as we do not see a plant growing moment by moment. Yet with time, fruit appears. A calmer spirit, deeper patience, renewed compassion, or the willingness to pray again after difficulty are all signs that God is still at work within us.

Life in the Spirit

In the Church's year, June often falls in the season after Pentecost and around Trinity Sunday, a time when Christians reflect on the presence and work of the Holy Spirit and the mystery of the life of God. The Church of England calendar shows Ordinary Time resuming after Pentecost, with Trinity Sunday and the following Sundays shaping much of June.

That makes June a good time to pray for the Spirit's guidance in everyday matters: in our conversations, our work, our decisions, our worries, and our care for other people. The Holy Spirit is not present only in dramatic moments, but also in quiet encouragement, wisdom for the next step, courage to persevere, and peace that steadies the heart.

Faith in Daily Life

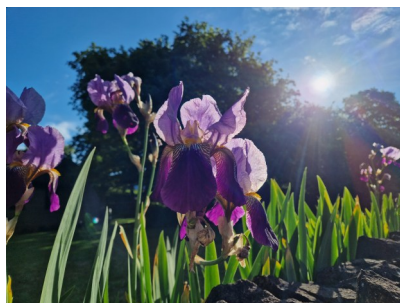
One of the gifts of this part of the Christian year is its emphasis on ordinary faithfulness. Not every season is marked by great celebration or visible change. Much of discipleship is lived out in ordinary routines: saying our prayers, turning to scripture, showing patience, helping a neighbour, writing a kind message, visiting someone who is lonely, and remaining faithful in small responsibilities. These are holy things.

June reminds us that the Christian life is not only about special occasions, but about steady rootedness. Like a tree planted by water, a faithful life is nourished day by day. We do not need to do everything at once. We are simply invited to keep walking with God, trusting that he can use even the smallest offering of love.

Hope for the Month Ahead

June is a gentle teacher. It tells us that growth can be quiet, that light returns, and that faith can deepen in simple ways. If the year has been demanding, this month offers space to begin again. If prayers have felt difficult, June reminds us that even a short and honest prayer is heard. If our hearts feel tired, this season suggests that rest, beauty, scripture, and kindness may all become places where God meets us afresh.

There is no need to strive anxiously. God is already present in the month ahead. He goes before us into every conversation, every duty, every joy, and every concern. Our calling is not to have everything figured out, but to remain open, faithful, and hopeful.



**Church of the
Ascension,
Southam**

Services June 2026

Sunday 7 June

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

Sunday 14 June

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

Sunday 21 June

1.00 pm—Church on the Hill 5th anniversary, meet at
Cleeve Hill Golf Club led by Lucy Barbour

Sunday 28 June

9.30 am—Breakfast Church at Southam Village Hall, led
by Tim Garrett



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

SERVICE INFORMATION FOR JUNE 2026
All services start at 10:00 am unless otherwise stated.

Sunday 7 June:	Holy Communion	Oxenton
Sunday 14 June:	Morning Praise	Gotherington Village Hall
Sunday 21 June:	Holy Communion	Woolstone
Sunday 28 June:	Café Church	Gotherington Village Hall

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
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

Can you believe it's been five years? Born out of the challenges of the Covid pandemic, **Church on the Hill** has grown from a safe way to gather into a deeply loved part of how we worship God together in creation.

To celebrate this wonderful milestone, we are throwing a big picnic—and **everyone** across our communities is invited! Whether you're a regular walker or have never been before, we would love for you to join us.

Sunday 21st June, 1pm

We will meet at Cleeve Hill Golf Club and take only a few steps to a suitable picnic location. Please bring your own picnic, chairs and blanket. Note that parking at the golf club carpark is £2 but you can reclaim that with an ice cream or cuppa! In the event of bad weather we will meet at St Michael's Church for an indoor picnic, do check out Facebook or the Church on the Hill Whatsapp group for updates.

If you would like to ask any questions please don't hesitate to email Lucy on lucy@barbour.co or call on 07821580995



Our next themed readings:

7 June

New Confidence -
Philippian 3: 1-11

14 June

New Ambition -
Philippians 3: 10-21

21 June

New Lifestyle—
Philippians 4: 1-9

28 June

New Generosity—
Philippians 4: 10-23

Pictures of flowers and trees taken
on my runs/walks during May. Kate

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

Trinity 2—7 June

Genesis 6.9-22; 7.24; 8.14-19
Psalm 46
Romans 1.16,17;
3.22b-28[29-31]
Matthew 7.21-29

Trinity 3—14 June

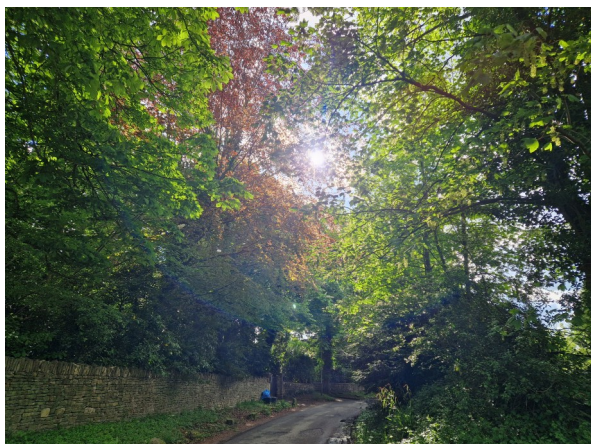
Genesis 12.1-9
Psalm 33.1-12
Romans 4.13-25
Matthew 9.9-13,18-26

Trinity 4—21 June

Genesis 18.1-15 [21.1-7]
Psalm 116.1,10-17*
Romans 5.1-8
Matthew 9.35 - 10.8 [9-23]

Trinity 5—28 June

Genesis 21.8-21
Psalm 86.1-10,16-17*
Romans 6.1b-11
Matthew 10.24-39



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



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

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

Monday 11am - 2pm

Wednesday 10am - 4pm

Thursday 12pm - 2pm

(times may occasionally change due to

Services or volunteer availability

- check with Church Office 07354 874617)

Thursday 10.45am Communion Service St Michael's Church

1st & 3rd Thursdays

Jun 4th 18th

July 2nd 16th

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

For more information about our services please see:

www.stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk

Email: admin@stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk

Tel: 07354 874617

This morning I listened to a 5 minute talk by a preacher I respect greatly. He reminded his listeners that it is not the strength of our faith in God's way of making us right with Him through the death of Jesus, but it is the death of Jesus alone that brings us into a right relationship with Him. Reflecting on this caused me to want to thank God . I wonder if you could spend some time letting this thought really sink deep and then respond in your prayers.

It is sometimes difficult to be grateful in all situations. Try finding just 1 or 2 things for which you are really thankful and tell God about them.

Then pray for the people in your circle of influence and ask God to reveal His love to them.

God always hears and answers prayer, so tell Him what is on your heart today and trust Him to bless you.

May God cause each of you to be strongly aware of His presence with you today.

L.D.



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 (Explorers Extra at St Michael's Centre)

3rd Sunday – Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion
(Explorers Extra at St Michael's Centre)

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