

Sunday 15 February 2026 Last Sunday Before Lent

Readings:

St Michael's—Southam – The Gospel According to Joseph: Reconciliation: Genesis 50: 12-21
WGO- The Gospel According to Joseph: Reconciliation: Genesis 50: 12-21, Matthew 5: 21-37

9.30am Holy Communion - St Michael's Church

10.00am Church on the Hill – meet at Southam Church at 9.45am

10.00am Holy Communion – St Martin de Tours, Woolstone

11.15am Contemporary Worship - St Michael's Church

For the complete list of services see <https://www.stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk/whats-on>

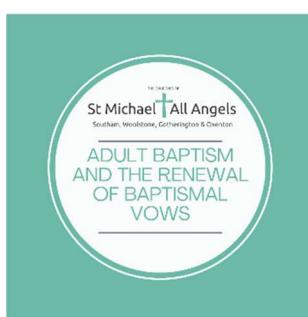


2 x Lent Courses - 25/26 February

The Quiet Revival research (<https://theresource.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/The-Quiet-Revival.pdf>) and widespread anecdotal evidence is telling us that more people are coming to church and exploring faith, especially young adults. Many are eager to understand the Bible better but aren't always sure where to start. As a church family, we want to respond. This Lent, we are running two Bible courses which offer a friendly, relaxed space to explore the whole story of the Bible together, in order to grow in confidence, and deepen faith. They are also designed for mature Christians who want to be better equipped to support and encourage others on their faith journey.

Ben will be leading the daytime course in Gotherington on **Wednesday afternoons at 1pm** on 25 February, 4 March, 11 March, 18 March, 25 March at Gotherington Old Chapel.

Tim will be leading an evening course in St Michael's on **Thursday evenings at 7.30pm** on 26 February, 5 March, 12 March, 19 March, 26 March. All are very welcome!!



Easter Sunday Adult Baptisms

From around AD 150 it became traditional for adult converts to be prepared (and to fast!) and then to all be baptised together on Easter Sunday - a great celebration of the new life that they have received from Jesus' resurrection!

On this Easter Sunday (5th April) St Michael's will also be providing an opportunity for some of our congregation to be baptised by full immersion.

We would also like to offer this as an opportunity for any other members of our church family to reaffirm their baptismal vows at this celebration. This could be a great opportunity for a public confession of faith for people who have come back to faith or who were baptised/christened as children and would like to declare their adult faith in your local church family.

If you are also interested in being baptised - or renewing your baptismal vows - please contact the church office at admin@stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk or talk to Tim, Ben, Nat or Lucy.



February Prayer Focus: Children's, Family and Youth Ministry

Throughout February, we are inviting our congregations to join us in praying for our Children's, Family and Youth Ministry. A prayer calendar is available at the back of the church, as well as on our website and social media platforms.

We encourage you to use this resource as you pray for the children and young people we connect with, and for all who faithfully serve in this important ministry. Thank you for your support, please click on the link for further information.

<https://www.stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk/prayer>

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

No Children's Groups on Sunday 22 February

Due to half term, there will be no children's groups on Sunday 22 February. However, the service will be family friendly.

No Praise & Play, Gotherington Praise & Play and Bible Brick Club next week

Due to half term, these groups are taking a break this week, all groups will begin again from **Monday 23 February**.

Easter Egg Collection 2026

Every year we collect Easter eggs for the children we connect with through our children's work. The £2,91g eggs are now in Tesco. If you can pick up an extra one and drop it at church or the church office, it would be wonderful. Alternatively, if you'd like to donate cash, please put it in an envelope marked 'Eggs' and place it in the big chest. Thank you

Friday Night Youth Club – Next Session 27 February

Gotherington Old Chapel 7pm to 8.30pm

Our youth group meets every other Friday during term time it is open to young people in years 7-13. Each session is packed with fun activities, including games, engaging discussions, and plenty of time to hang out over a hot chocolate and snacks. We aim to support and inspire young people, empowering them in their faith and personal life. The future dates are: **13 March and 27 March**

Save the Date

Holiday Club Summer - 11 August – 13 August 2026

We will be holding our Holiday Club from Tuesday 11 August to Thursday 13 August. More information to follow.

WHAT'S ON?

Bereavement Support Group

Saturday 14 February 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.

Ash Wednesday Service at St Michael's-Wednesday 18 February 2026 at 7pm

Begin your Lent journey with a Holy Communion service for Ash Wednesday, with hymns and music. Imposition of Ashes (ashes placed on the forehead in the shape of a cross) will be available for those who wish to partake – this is optional. All welcome.

Church on the Hill – Southam Church

Sunday 15 February 2026 meet at 9.45 am

The theme this Sunday is Psalm 51: Have mercy on me, O God.

I would encourage all those intending to come, to read the psalm and chapter 11 of 2 Samuel asking themselves the question "Is this psalm relevant today"? John Donovan

World Day of Prayer – 6 March 2026

Bishops Cleeve Methodist Church 10.30 am

Our Ecumenical World Day of Prayer Service – all welcome.

Refreshments to follow.

The Last Supper – Maundy Thursday - 7pm St Michael's Church

Join us on Maundy Thursday for a Christian Passover Meal as we remember the Last Supper and explore the deep connection between the Jewish Passover and the Lord's Supper. The evening will include Scripture, reflection, and a full seated meal of lamb, with a vegetarian option available.

As places are limited, tickets must be reserved in advance. We warmly invite you to gather around the table with us as we remember Christ's love and sacrifice.

There will be an opportunity for you to sign up to this from next week.

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

Every Friday 11am to 2pm – 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

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

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Help Needed for Our Monday Praise and Play Parent & Toddler Group

Our Monday Praise and Play, Parent and Toddler group is growing beautifully, and we're so thankful for the families who come each week. This ministry is thriving — but to keep it running well, we need a few more helping hands.

We're looking for volunteers who can serve **every week or every other week**, during **term time only**, from **9:00am to 12:30pm**.

★ What helpers do:

- Welcome parents, carers, and children
- Help set up toys and activities
- Chat with families and build friendly connections
- Support tidy-up at the end

You don't need special skills — just a warm heart, a willingness to help, and a desire to bless local families.

If you'd like to join the team or find out more, we'd love to hear from you.

Please contact Lucy Betts on lbetts@stmbc.uk

DBS and Safer recruitment process will be required

Would You Like to Volunteer?

If you would like to volunteer for a good cause, for as much or as little time as you have available please contact St Michael's Church Office where we can give you further information on the current volunteer need within the benefice. Please email: admin@stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk or telephone **07354 874617**

NOTICES

Funeral Notices:

Pat Holland's funeral is on Thursday 19 February 2026 at St Michael's Church 1.30pm. Pat Holland died peacefully on Monday 19 January.

William (Bill) Arden's funeral is on Tuesday 24 February at St Michael's Church at 12.30pm. Bill died peacefully at Baytree Court on 30 January.



Thank you – Quiz Night

Thank you to all who supported our quiz night held at St Michael's Centre at the end of the January. We raised £835.96. To see more information and some pictures from the evening, please visit our website:

<https://www.stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk/quiz-night-january-2026> or scan the QR code:

Lost Items

There are two gilets, one warm hat, one M & S red cardigan and three scarves in the lost property box in St Michael's. Please claim them if they are yours.

Calling all Knitters-Anna Chaplaincy Easter Project -Easter Pockets

As Easter is quite early this year, Palm Sunday is the 29 March, we have decided on an easy pattern of an Easter Pocket. The plan is to put a small packet of tissues inside each one. There will be hard copies of the pattern at the back of St Michael's Church along with a basket to leave your completed pockets, or you can drop them into the Church Office. The deadline for this is Friday 27 February

Watch Sermons on YouTube

Watch our Sunday sermons on our YouTube channel. Please do have a look and feel free to share with others. If you Subscribe to the website (which is free) you will receive a notification when a new video is uploaded. Visit the channel here: <https://youtu.be/RjbH3bo5jb8>

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 about these, and how you can help, please go to our website:

<https://www.stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk/world-mission>

UPCOMING TRAINING COURSE FROM THE DIOCESE OF GLOUCESTER

For the latest training courses on offer from the Diocese of Gloucester [Please Click Here for Information.](#)

ECO-CHURCH - FEBRUARY

Terracycling

Terra cycling boxes are available in the office and in church every week. See the lists attached for acceptable items. Please contact Ro by email at ro.hunt60@gmail.com to arrange collection.

Our Energy Saving Tip This Month

Recycling Christmas Chocolate Tubs and Biscuit Tubs

Make sure your tubs don't go to waste! Bring your clean, empty plastic confectionery and biscuit tubs to participating Greene King pubs between **1 January and 15 February 2026** to be recycled. The Royal Oak Bishop's Cleeve is part of this scheme.

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-bishopsleeve.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 (next meeting 3 February)

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.

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

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

www.stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk

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

Safeguarding: stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk/safeguarding

Church Office: stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk/contact

Donate: [Bishop's Cleeve - Parish Giving Scheme](http://Bishop's%20Cleeve%20-%20Parish%20Giving%20Scheme)

[Southam - Parish Giving Scheme](http://Southam%20-%20Parish%20Giving%20Scheme)

[WGO - Parish Giving Scheme](http://WGO%20-%20Parish%20Giving%20Scheme) Or ring 03330021260

Watch Sermons: [youtube.com/@StMichaelsBishopsCleeveChurch Office](http://youtube.com/@StMichaelsBishopsCleeveChurchOffice)

Different ways to pray at St Michael's



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