

St. Barts Weekly News

Sunday Worship • Parish Notices • Prayer
• Community Life

This Sunday Oct 4th 2026

Time	Service	Notes
8 am	Holy Communion	The traditional service. BCP
10am	Harvest Eucharist Deuteronomy 26: 1-11 Philippians 4: 4-9 John 6: 25-35	Hymns 524, 172, 505, 380
6pm	Harvest Evensong Deuteronomy 8: 7-18 Luke 12: 16-30	534, 186, 101

Next Sunday Oct 11th 2026

Time	Service	Notes
8 am	Holy Communion	The traditional service. BCP
10am	Parish Eucharist Exodus 32: 1-14 Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22: 1-14	Hymns 457, 325, 188, 366
6pm	Evening Prayer Psalm 139; 1-18 Proverbs 3: 1-18 1 John 3: 1-15	A great way to slow done the day in the peace of the church

Contacts

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Readers: Peggy Sear and David White

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Useful Numbers

Electricity Emergency 0800 783 8866

Gas Emergency 08001 11999

Water 0345 357 2407

Police Non Emergency 101

Police /Fire/ Ambulance Emergency 999

NHS Direct 111

Stoke Mandeville Hospital 01296 315000

Rothschild House Surgery 01442 822468

The New Surgery 01442 890661

Urgent Care centre 01442 213141

NHS Direct 111

Thought for the week ahead

As we give thanks for the harvest, let us pause to notice the many blessings around us—the food we share, the beauty of creation, and the kindness of others. Even in ordinary moments, God's generosity is present.

The week ahead offers each of us opportunities to share that generosity. A kind word, a patient response, a helping hand, or time given to someone who is lonely can make a real difference.

May we begin this week with thankful hearts and willing hands. Let us receive God's gifts with gratitude and share them freely, so that our lives may bear good fruit for others.

And when challenges arise, may we remember that we do not face them alone. God walks beside us, giving us strength for today, hope for tomorrow, and the grace to encourage one another along the way.

Our clocks go back soon

Just a reminder. The clocks this year go back 1 hour on October 25th at 2am

School harvest service

The school Harvest service is on
October 14th

Francis of Assisi

Eight hundred years ago, on 3rd October 1226, St Francis of Assisi, the Italian friar, deacon and mystic, died. One of the most venerated religious figures in Christianity, he founded the Franciscan Order.

He died at the age of about 44 of severe illness, including eye disease, malaria and exhaustion, possibly following a 40-day fast. He was declared a saint by Pope Gregory IX two years later.

Francis' father was a wealthy silk merchant, Pietro di Bernardone dei Moriconi, and his mother a noblewoman from Provence. He was one of seven children – called Francesco by his father, who was an enthusiast for France. At first, he behaved as a typical son of a wealthy merchant, but several things changed his attitude – one of which was his capture and imprisonment for nearly a year after fighting in a war against Perugia.

He also had visions and underwent a change in character leading him to a strong commitment to help the poor – an attitude which led to estrangement from his father, whom he eventually renounced.

He aligned himself strongly with the poor, on one occasion begging with them at St Peter's Basilica in Rome. He also spent times in lonely places, seeking divine illumination, and was said to have received the stigmata during an angelic vision.

Often pictured wearing a plain brown habit tied with a rope of three knots, symbolising poverty, chastity and obedience, St Francis is one of the most honoured people in Christianity.

He is a joint patron saint of Italy with Catherine of Siena, and in 2013 Archbishop Bergoglio of Argentina chose the papal name of Francis in his honour, becoming Pope Francis.

Many pilgrimage routes lead to the tomb of St Francis in Assisi, and he is honoured by many churches, including Lutherans and Anglicans.

Prayer Focus

A Prayer for Harvest

Generous God, thank you for the harvest and for all who bring food to our tables. Help us care for creation and share with those in need. Amen.

For worship and fellowship

Bless our Harvest worship and all who take part. Draw our churches together in friendship, joy, and service. Amen.

For those carrying burdens

Comfort all who are ill, bereaved, lonely, or anxious. Strengthen those who care for them and help us offer kindness and practical support. Amen.

For troubled areas of the world

God of peace, protect all who are caught in conflict, violence, and fear. Comfort those who have lost homes and loved ones, strengthen those working for peace, and guide leaders in the ways of justice, wisdom, and reconciliation. Amen.

For places where harvest has failed

God of compassion, be close to all facing hunger and uncertainty after failed harvests. Send rain where it is needed, bless the work of farmers and relief agencies, and move us to share generously with those in greatest need. Amen.

For our community and our world

God of peace, guide our community and our world. Protect those in danger, support those who bring relief, and lead us in faithful action. Amen.

Closing prayer

Loving God, receive our prayers and guide us through the week ahead in gratitude, compassion, and hope. Amen.