

St. Barts Weekly News

Sunday Worship • Parish Notices • Prayer
• Community Life

This Sunday Sept. 27th 2026

Time	Service	Notes
8 am	Holy Communion	The traditional service. BCP
10am	Parish Eucharist Exodus 17: 1-7 Philippians 2: 1-13 Matthew 21: 23-32	Hymns 368, 432, 117, 99
6pm	Harvest Service at the Baptist Chapel	A quiet way to end the day

Next Sunday Oct 4th 2026

Time	Service	Notes
8 am	Holy Communion	The traditional service. BCP
10am	Harvest Festival Deuteronomy 26: 1-11 Philippians 4: 4-9 John 6: 25-35	Hymns 101, 138, 9, 534
6pm	Evening Prayer Psalm 136:1-9 Proverbs 2: 1-11 1 John 2: 1-17	At St. Mary's

Church working party

The next church working party will be on 24th. October 2026 from 9am -12 pm.

We will be clearing up the grounds, cutting back areas that have become overgrown, clearing the compost heaps

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

Saying Yes to God

In the Gospel, Jesus tells of two sons. One speaks respectfully but does nothing; the other refuses at first, yet changes his mind and goes to work. The parable reminds us that faith is revealed not merely by what we say, but by the choices we make and the lives we lead.

During the week ahead, we may notice a gap between our good intentions and our actions. We may promise to pray, help, forgive, or make time for someone, only to let the moment pass. God does not ask for perfection, but for honesty: the willingness to turn around, begin again, and take the next faithful step.

St Paul points us to Jesus, who chose humility and placed the needs of others before his own. We follow him in simple acts: keeping a promise, listening without hurry, offering help before it is requested, admitting when we are wrong, and doing unseen work with love.

Contacts

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Readers: Peggy Sear and David White

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God in the Arts

Summoned by Bells' is the title of John Betjeman's poetic autobiography, where he describes how bells summoned him to school and to church. Bells announcing the joy of weddings and Sunday services; and also marking out times of sadness and the death of loved ones.

One of the strangest bell-towers is at St Augustine's Church, Brookland in Kent, north-east of Rye. It was originally built in the medieval period, and now stands as a triple coned, wooden, octagonal tower detached from the church, and clad with shingles in 1936.



The story is that the tower looked down at a beautiful bride about to marry an unpleasant groom: it was such a surprise that the tower jumped off the church in shock. The truth is that the church was built on marshy ground, and a stronger foundation was needed for the bells. And so the tower was built north of the church.

Like all belfries and steeples, it is an impressive witness to the place of bells in human life and work: as timekeepers, announcing both festive occasions and emergencies, and calling people away from more worldly pursuits to worship. That is why bells have always been blessed at their installation for their true function is to ring out the harmony of heaven.

Prayer Focus

A Prayer for Harvest

Generous God, we thank you for the gifts of creation and for all who sow, tend, gather, transport, and share the food we receive. As we prepare to celebrate Harvest, deepen our gratitude, help us care wisely for the earth, and make us generous towards those who do not have enough.

For worship and fellowship

Bless the Harvest Service at the Baptist Chapel this Sunday evening. Be with all who prepare, lead, welcome, sing, pray, and attend. May our churches grow in friendship and serve our community together with humility, joy, and the love of Christ.

For Rev Jonathan's cycling fundraiser

Watch over Rev Jonathan as he cycles around the Isle of Wight in support of Phakamisa. Grant him strength, safety, good weather, and encouragement along the way. Bless all who sponsor him and use every gift to sustain and extend Phakamisa's work.

For those carrying burdens

Hold close all who are ill, bereaved, lonely, anxious, or uncertain about the future. Give strength to carers, comfort to those who mourn, wisdom to medical teams, and peace to families waiting for news. Show us where a visit, a message, practical help, or quiet companionship may bring hope.

For our community and our world

God of peace and mercy, we pray for our neighbourhood and for places across the world affected by conflict, hunger, disaster, injustice, and fear. Guide those who lead, protect those in danger, strengthen all who bring relief, and make us faithful in prayer and action. Give us thankful hearts, willing hands, and courage to follow Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing prayer

Loving God, gather all these prayers into your care. Fill us with gratitude for your gifts, compassion for those in need, courage to serve our neighbours, and hope for your world. Guide us through the week ahead, that our words and actions may reflect the love of Christ. Amen.

