

OLIVE TREE CHURCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER · OCTOBER 2026

OUR THEME FOR OCTOBER

Growing in Christ

Rooted in Christ · Built by Christ · Becoming Like Christ

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Olive Tree Church Family,

Happy new month, and welcome to October! As we begin this new month together, I want to encourage each of us to embrace our theme: Growing in Christ — Rooted in Christ, Built by Christ, Becoming Like Christ.

Our theme is drawn from the powerful words of the Apostle Paul in Colossians 2:6–7:

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

Colossians 2:6–7 (NIV)

Growing in Christ is not simply about knowing more about Jesus; it is about becoming more like Him in every area of our lives. It is a journey of faith, obedience and transformation, and of an ever-deeper relationship with God.

Three Marks of Growth

Rooted in Christ

Like a tree with deep roots, may our lives draw strength, nourishment and stability from Christ. When storms come, may we remain firmly grounded in Him.

Built by Christ

May we allow Jesus to shape our character, strengthen our faith and build our lives according to His purpose. We are His workmanship, and He is continually at work in us.

Becoming Like Christ

May our words, attitudes, relationships, choices and actions increasingly reflect the character of Jesus. As we walk with Him, may others see more of Christ in us.

As a church family, let us make October a month of intentional spiritual growth. Let us spend more time in God’s Word, deepen our prayer lives, encourage one another, serve faithfully, forgive freely, love generously, and seek to follow Christ wholeheartedly.

Whatever season you may be in right now, remember that God is not finished with you. There is still room to grow: deeper roots to establish, stronger foundations to build, and more of Christ’s character to develop in each of us.

May we not simply pass through October, but grow through it. Let us grow together as a church — rooted in Christ, built by Christ, and becoming like Christ. May the Lord strengthen our faith, deepen our roots, establish our lives, and make us fruitful for His Kingdom.

Happy new month, Olive Tree Church!

With love in Christ,

Rev Michael Anokye

THIS MONTH AT A GLANCE

Sundays 10:30 – 11:30 am Morning Worship Holy Communion on Sunday 4 October Harvest Lunch on Sunday 11 October	Thursdays 10:30 am – 12 noon Coffee Morning or Chair Aerobics (alternating weekly) 7:30 – 8:30 pm Encounter Prayer Meeting
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OCTOBER 2026 CALENDAR

DATE	TIME	EVENT	CATEGORY
Thu 1 Oct	10:30 am – 12 noon	Coffee Morning	Community
Thu 1 Oct	7:30 – 8:30 pm	Encounter Prayer Meeting	Prayer
Sun 4 Oct	10:30 – 11:30 am	Holy Communion Service <i>Led by Rev Michael Anokye. Rev Raymond – High Town Methodist Church.</i>	Worship
Thu 8 Oct	9:30 am – 5:30 pm	CPD: Advanced Questions in Practical Theology <i>University of Roehampton</i>	Ministry Development
Thu 8 Oct	10:30 am – 12 noon	Chair Aerobics	Community
Thu 8 Oct	7:30 – 8:30 pm	Encounter Prayer Meeting	Prayer
Sun 11 Oct	10:30 – 11:30 am	Harvest Sunday Service <i>Led by Robin Wright, followed by Harvest Lunch</i>	Worship
Thu 15 Oct	10:30 am – 12 noon	Coffee Morning	Community
Thu 15 Oct	7:30 – 8:30 pm	Encounter Prayer Meeting	Prayer
Sat 17 Oct	11:00 am	Messy Goodies and Baddies	Community
Sun 18 Oct	10:30 – 11:30 am	Sunday Service <i>Led by Rev Michael Anokye</i>	Worship

DATE	TIME	EVENT	CATEGORY
Thu 22 Oct	10:30 am – 12 noon	Chair Aerobics	Community
Thu 22 Oct	7:30 – 8:30 pm	Encounter Prayer Meeting	Prayer
Fri 23 Oct	11:00 am	Funeral of Cislin Mills <i>Followed by brunch</i>	Pastoral
Sun 25 Oct	10:30 – 11:30 am	All-Age Sunday Service <i>Led by Claire. Rev Michael will be at High Town Methodist Church.</i>	Worship
Thu 29 Oct	10:30 am – 12 noon	Coffee Morning	Community
Thu 29 Oct	7:30 – 8:30 pm	Encounter Prayer Meeting	Prayer

“Rooted in Christ. Built by Christ. Becoming Like Christ.”

Everyone is welcome at Olive Tree Church. We look forward to growing together this October.

THE OLIVE TREE CHURCH
Luton

Foodbank Appeal
for Luton Food Bank

Real help. Real hope.

Harvest & Christmas Foodbank Appeal

This Harvest and Christmas, let's share our blessings with those in need.

As we give thanks for God's provision, we are also reminded that many families and individuals in our community may be facing difficult times. A small gift from each of us can make a real difference.

Give what you can
Donate non-perishable food, essential household items or make a financial contribution.

Share what you have
Your generosity will help local people and families throughout our community.

Help bring hope
Let's be the hands and feet of Jesus, showing love and kindness this season.

Together, we can make a difference.
Every donation matters. Every gift helps. Every act of kindness brings hope.

Foods to Donate

- Tinned soup
- Tinned baked beans
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned meat (corned beef, chicken, ham)
- Tinned fish (tuna, sardines, mackerel)
- Tinned pasta
- Tinned rice/potatoes
- Pasta and pasta sauces
- Rice
- Dried noodles
- Couscous
- Breakfast cereals
- Porridge/oats
- UHT milk
- Long-life fruit juice
- Tea and coffee
- Sugar
- Cooking oil
- Flour
- Biscuits/crackers
- Jam, honey or spreads
- Instant mashed potato

Baby Items

- Baby formula
- Baby food
- Nappies
- Baby wipes

Non-food Essentials

- Toothpaste & toothbrushes
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Soap/shower gel
- Deodorant
- Toilet paper
- Washing-up liquid
- Laundry detergent
- Sanitary products
- Razors & shaving products
- Tissues

Please choose items with a long shelf life and donate unopened and within their use-by/best-before dates.

Thank you for your support!

The Olive Tree Church - Luton

The church will be open at 10.30am on Saturday 10th October for anyone to bring up plants, flowers fruit and veg to add to the display.

All the food donations will be taken to the Luton Food Bank. Please make sure the food is in date.

Everyone is invited to stay for lunch after the Harvest service on Sunday 11th. If you can contribute food for the meal please sign the list at the back of the church or you can give Claire money to buy food to share.

BMS World Mission sent this message to the church:

We were sorry to hear of the passing of Barbara Bond. Please accept our sincere condolences. Our prayers are with you at this time.

We are so grateful for Barbara's years of generous support for BMS, her faithful prayer and the gifts she gave to help some of the world's most marginalised people. Because of her support, children in Nepal have had access to life changing education, mothers in Chad have been able to safely deliver their babies, men and women in India and Bangladesh have heard the good news of Jesus for the first time, and people across the globe have received help, health and hope.

Barbara's life blessed so many people around the world, who she never met but whose lives she changed for the better. We are so grateful.

We are grateful for the gift of £70 given in Barbara's memory at her funeral. This gift will ensure the work she faithfully supported in her lifetime will carry on long into the future – sharing the transforming love of Jesus in words and action with people who desperately need help.

This poem written by Barbara was found in her flat. 11th – 18th October is the Week of Prayer for World Peace.

Peace

Where is this peace
that passes all understanding?
The peace which the world
cannot give?

It is there, between us –
Flowing from you to me.
In the warmth of the touch,
In the sympathetic look.
In the heartfelt prayer.

It is there, as we meet
together for worship.
As we draw closer to the heart of our faith;
as we share around the table.
It is the peace of the Lord.

Volunteers required for Sundays.

- 1.Overseeing refreshments.
- 2.Welcome team (door duty)
- 3.Communion preparation support
- 4.Support in Sunday's Children and young people's work.

They all only involve once a month, less if more people volunteer.

Please speak to Elaine Sharpe if you can help.