

CHESHUNT TEAM MINISTRY ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHESHUNT



CHURCH NEWSLETTER

August 2025

Foreword from Revd Elizabeth Fellows



Jesus taught that the kingdom of God was breaking in on earth. He described it like treasure hidden in a field. I have found a lot of treasure in my three months at St Mary's Church. I'd like to share just some of it with you.

On a number of Sundays this month, we have had 15 children and young people in church! Did you know that an average Church of England congregation has fewer than three children and young people? St Mary's is wonderfully bucking that trend! That will be in large part due to two things; firstly, the way that children and young people and prayed for by St Mary's and secondly, the way

they are welcomed, provided for, and their spiritual growth is nurtured in this church community. Can I encourage you to be praying for children and young people both within, and outside our church over the summer holidays; for their safety and blessing, and for them to get to know God and the great purpose he has for each of their lives? Please ask God to guide us as we plan for the future of Junior Church and ask God to call new team members. While Junior Church is on pause, we are excited to have an All Age Eucharist on the second Sunday of the month, so that we do not reduce our provision for under 18s.

Confirmations

Confirmation is a special church service in which a person confirms the promises that were made when they were baptised. If you were baptised when you were a child, your parents and godparents made these promises on your behalf. As a young person or adult, you may be ready to affirm these promises for yourself and commit your life to following Jesus Christ. If you, or someone you know, is interested in being confirmed, please let me know.

Safeguarding

St Mary's Church is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of its ministry and mission. Should you have a concern about the welfare of any child, young person or adult, please let me or Vicky Clarke (Parish Safeguarding Officer) know, or contact the St Albans Diocese Safeguarding Team.

Every blessing,

(Revd) Elizabeth

Summer Reading and Time with God

In case you are looking for ways to spend time with God over the summer, here are some recommended resources.

Apps for a daily time with God



[Pray As You Go](#)



[Time to Pray](#)

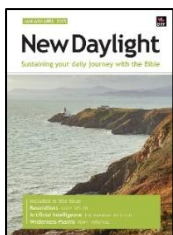


[Daily Prayer](#)

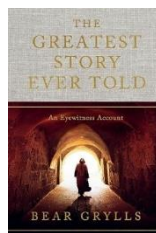


[Lectio 365](#)

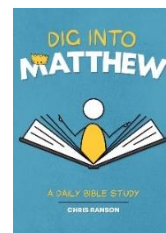
Books



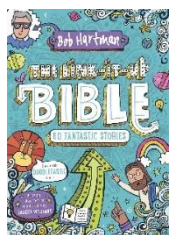
[New Daylight](#): your daily Bible reading, comment and prayer



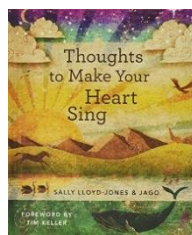
A brand new retelling of the life of Jesus by adventurer Bear Grylls for older teens and adults



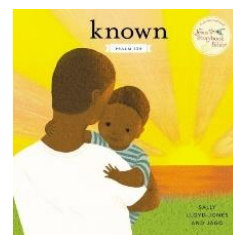
A Daily Bible Study for tweens and younger teens



The Link-it-up Bible by Bob Hartman for 8-11 year-olds



Thoughts to Make Your Heart Sing by Sally Lloyd-Jones for 4-11 year-olds (suitable for everyone up to adult)



Known by Sally Lloyd-Jones for under 5s

Website



[Lectio for Families website](#)

News from July

Day of the Deacon

My name is Bev, a former member of St Mary's and married to Reverend Eugene, the previous incumbent.

As many of you will know, I was thrilled to have been recently ordained Deacon at St Albans Cathedral on 29 June. Ordination day is an important, spiritual and celebratory culmination of a number of years' theological study and practical formation ending one chapter and entering the next. For me, this is a three year curacy in the Kingswood Benefice (five rural churches near Baldock).

The Cathedral was full, with 14 of us being ordained following seven priests the day before. The choir was fabulous, the vestments were beautiful and the temperature was hot! A few days before, we had been on pre-ordination retreat led by the Archdeacon of Ludlow, where the focus was the paradoxes of



ministry. Ordination training is one of the toughest, but most rewarding accomplishments of my life and I am really excited about what God has for me next. It would not have been possible without the support of all of you at St Mary's. I thank you for your prayers, well-wishes and cards and perhaps one day in the future, after I am priested, you might invite me back to cover one of your services.

Bev Hanshaw

Fizz and Chips

The chaps from Chips, Chaps and Chat and the ladies from Puddings and Prosecco invited everyone to a Fizz and Chips evening on Thursday, 17 July. The fish and chips were delicious and it was a final farewell to Marion and Terry Hoare.



Marion and Terry kindly bought a new flag for St Mary's which will be hoisted in September. We continue to pray for them as they start their new life in Dorset.



A Visit to Puttenham



In July, I attended a Quiet Day for Church Wardens at the church of St Mary at Puttenham, near Tring. I was surprised that we were still in Hertfordshire and St Albans Diocese. It is a village in the middle of nowhere. The church is small, ancient and beautifully maintained. It is part of the Tring group of parishes, and has 16 people on its electoral roll and the only regular service is Evensong once a month.

The large churchyard has mature trees and is still in use. There were recent graves, which felt odd to me as our graves are very old.

There is also a very well-equipped hall, so they try to use the facilities for quiet days and retreats as much as possible.

It was an interesting day on many levels. We had a service of Lauds, which is a monastic service with many psalms and then reflections on Calling (Isaiah 6) and Working in the Vineyard (Matthew 20). There was an opportunity to chat with other church wardens or not, as you wanted. In the afternoon, we considered the power of words and were invited to write a poem. Everyone shared what they had written, which varied in subject and style, but was very powerful. Finally, thinking about the pearl of great price, we were encouraged to choose a button from a button box which we thought represented ourselves – not an easy thing to do. The day finished with vespers. It was all very thought provoking in a restful way.

The second thing that I found out was that with the Church of England, there will always be connections. The woman priest who led our Eucharist turned out to be Martin Bannister's daughter. Martin was the Vicar at Waltham Cross back in the 1980s. So, we were able to chat about Christ Church. While talking to her, I noticed on their incumbents board the name of Frank Mercurio, who I am sure many of you will remember, was our curate in the time of Father Tim. The Church Warden there remembered him very fondly, so we were able to swap reminiscences about his time at Cheshunt.

Puttenham is one of 53 "Thankful Villages". These are villages that sent young men to the First World War and they all came back. Thus, there is no war memorial, but a plaque giving thanks. Of a village of 71 people, 12 went off to war (three with the same surname and two pairs with the same surname) and they all came home. It was very moving to see.

Finally, they had a wonderful pulpit with carvings which represent the "whale" that swallowed Jonah. The Church Warden, Christine, said they called in "Hissing Sid".

Vicky Clarke



The Mothers' Union Garden Party



At the garden party on 3 July, Marion Hoare was presented with a voucher and flowers to say thank you for all the years of leading St Mary's Mother's Union. She will be much missed after her move to Dorset, not just for her sandwich-making skills, but for all the different ways she contributed to the branch. However, the committee is determined to keep the branch going, so the usual programme of monthly afternoon meetings and occasional fifth Thursdays will continue.

We rely on your support as we move forward.

Thank you

Vicky and the Committee



Happy Hats in the Falklands



Thank you so much to everyone who knitted hats for seafarers travelling to the Falkland Islands. People working on the ships often arrive in freezing temperatures without any warm clothing.

The Lighthouse Seafarers Mission collects and distributes old clothes, but knitted hats are invaluable and are always greatly appreciated.



**PCC of St Mary Cheshunt
Church Income/Expenditure
June 2025**

Total Income for June	£4,862
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Total Expenditure for June	£9,870
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Budget Surplus/Deficit for June	-£5,008
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Total Income Year to Date	£53,900
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Total Expenditure Year to Date	£57,454
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Budget Surplus/Deficit Year to Date	-£3,554
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Total Parish Share Initial Request 2025	£57,703
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3 monthly payments of £4,393 initially

Then adjustment following appointment
of Team Vicar

8 monthly payments of £4,965 + 1 of £4,963	£57,862
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Parish Share Payment June	£4,965
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Parish Share Bill Year to Date	£28,074
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Total Contribution Year to Date	£28,074
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Church Services in August

On Sunday 3 August, the 10am Service will be a Service of the Word led by Angela Corlett and with Mark Warner speaking. (Rev) Elizabeth will be away. A huge thank you to Angela and Mark and all those who will help to cover. The other Sundays in August will follow our current normal pattern:

Second Sunday (10 August) – All Age Eucharist (Junior Church staying in the Service)

Third Sunday (17 August) – Parish Eucharist

Fourth Sunday (24 August) – Family Service

Fifth Sunday (31 August) – Team Service **at 9.15am** at Christ Church Waltham Cross

On Thursday 31 July and Thursday 7 August, there will be a Service of the Word at 11am led by a member of the congregation, as (Rev) Elizabeth will be away. Please come along and support these willing volunteers. The weekly Midweek Communion is set to resume at 11am on Thursday 14 August.

Where in St Mary's?



In the July newsletter, the photograph on the left was shown. Did you recognise it as part of the monument dedicated to Lady Margaret Wharton in the College Chapel? Sadly, Lady Margaret died in childbirth at the age of just 24.



Dates for your Diary

Cream Tea at Christ Church



Everyone is invited to a Cream Tea at Christ Church on **Saturday, 9 August** at 3pm. Tickets are £7 or £10 with a glass of prosecco.

If you wish to attend, please contact Fr Jake on 07990 148491.

Heritage Open Day and Bike and Hike

On **Saturday 13 September**, the church will be open from 9am-4pm for people taking part in the Bike and Hike. Local history will also be revealed with display boards about some of our memorials, the brasses uncovered and some early registers from the Herts Archives.



Help needed for stewarding. Please sign up if you can spare an hour or so on the day (list in church in September).

Bike and Hike



BEDS & HERTS
Historic Churches Trust

If anyone is interested in walking or cycling round as many churches as possible on Saturday 13 September, sponsorship forms and more information are now available in church or on line at

<https://bedshertshct.org.uk/bike-n-hike/>

Last Night of the Proms comes to St Mary's!



The Enfield Brass Band will be presenting their "Proms in the Pews" on **Sunday, 14 September** at 3pm. Tickets are £5 and free for under 11s. Please bring your own flags!



Refreshments will be served afterwards.



Looking ahead

Date	Event	Time	Contact(s)
August			
Saturday, 9 August	Cream Tea at Christ Church	3pm	Fr Jake
Thursday, 28 August	ROCCS Service at St Catherine and St Paul's Church, Hoddesdon	1.30-2.30pm	Revd Elizabeth
September			
Thursday, 4 September	Mothers' Union meeting (all welcome)	1.30pm	Vicky Clarke
Saturday, 13 September	Bike and Hike	9am to 5pm	Vicky Clarke
	Heritage Open Day	9am to 4pm	Vicky Clarke
Sunday, 14 September	Concert with Enfield Brass Band	3pm	Vicky Clarke
Friday, 19 September	Puddings and Prosecco	7pm	Pat Higgins
Wednesday, 25 September	ROCCS Service at St Catherine and St Paul's Church, Hoddesdon	1.30-2.30pm	Revd Elizabeth
October			
Saturday, 18 October	Quiz evening with Hot Dogs	7pm	Pat Higgins
Wednesday, 29 October	ROCCS Service at St Catherine and St Paul's Church, Hoddesdon	1.30-2.30pm	Revd Elizabeth
November			
Saturday, 8 November	Autumn and Christmas Fayre Day	11am to 3pm	Various
Wednesday, 26 November	ROCCS Service at St Catherine and St Paul's Church, Hoddesdon	1.30-2.30pm	Revd Elizabeth
December			
Thursday, 11 December	Tea with Santa	4pm	Angela Corlett

Regular Events

Saturday, 2 August from 10am – **Church Cleaning and Gardening** – all welcome

Every Wednesday from 8.45 to 10.30am (in term time) - **Coffee Mornings** - all welcome and no charge

First and third Thursdays at 6pm - **Chaps Chips and Chat**

Second and fourth Thursdays at 7pm from September - **Handbells**

Friday, 19 September at 7pm – **Puddings and Prosecco**

Contact Information

Clergy:

The Revd Elizabeth Fellows: 07352 324584, revelizabethfellows@outlook.com
(usual day off is Friday)

Church Wardens:

Mrs Vicky Clarke and Mrs Angela Dronyi

Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Vicky Clarke: 07803 203 438, vickyclareclarke@aol.com

Parish Office: 01992 635190 (messages picked up regularly)

Email: cheshunt.church@stmary1418.onmicrosoft.com (emails checked regularly)



Front cover: “The Parable of the Hidden Treasure” by Rembrandt or Gerard Dou, circa 1635.