

CHESHUNT TEAM MINISTRY ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHESHUNT



CHURCH NEWSLETTER

October 2025

Foreword from Revd Elizabeth Fellows



September has been a lovely month of getting back into the school year, special services, and welcoming the community into the church for a very successful Open Day for Bike and Hike and Heritage Week.

As we move into autumn, October holds more special services and events. In our worship, we will be marking Black History Month, an annual observance to celebrate and honour the history, achievements, and contributions of Black people. Later in the newsletter, I share recommendations of books and a podcast that I have really appreciated recently.

There are also details of social events and services for the rest of the year, through All Saints, All Souls, Remembrance, Advent and Christmas. I'm looking forward to journeying with you through it.

I would also draw your attention to the importance of updating and protecting your personal data in line with St Mary's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) responsibilities. By updating personal records, we can be sure we have your correct contact information and keep you advised of news and events in St Mary's. We are therefore asking you **to put your contact details on a new form**. There are **optional** sections on the form where you can choose to give us an emergency contact which we could use if you were taken ill or had an accident at church, and another section where you can share skills and ideas, if you wish, which could feed into the life of the church.

Options for the new form to complete

- There are paper forms available at church. Please return them to the labelled box, or give them to Michele.
- There is an electronic form sent with this newsletter email which you can print off, complete at home and place in the labelled box in church, or give to Michele.
- There is an online form which can be found at:
<https://forms.gle/67nxpyUx4rG5hPu98>

In the next month or two, the old mailing list for the newsletter will be retired, so don't delay in completing a new form. Please speak to me, Michele, or our Churchwardens Vicky or Angela if you have any questions.

A Privacy Policy and Media Use Policy document is also sent with this newsletter to explain what personal data is and how it is used at St Mary's.

All good wishes,
(Revd) Elizabeth

News from September

Announcement of the Appointment of Team Rector

Archdeacon Janet is delighted to announce that The Revd Helen Bryan has been appointed Team Rector of the Cheshunt Team, subject to the completion of legal formalities. Information about her licensing will follow in due course. Meantime we give thanks for Revd Helen's work as Acting Team Rector and continue to pray for her and for the Team as she takes on the permanent role.



With my prayers and good wishes,
Archdeacon Janet

Harvest Festival



St Mary's was beautifully adorned in autumnal splendour for the Harvest Festival Family Service. Sincere thanks to everyone who helped to make the church look amazing, especially to all the children whose enthusiasm and energy filled the church with harvest thanksgiving.

Members of the congregation were invited to donate goods for the Broxbourne Food Bank and as usual, were so generous with their offerings.



Sausages were enjoyed after the Service, with donations contributing to the Bishops' Harvest Appeal. Entitled "Re-Write Their Future", this project is being run in partnership with Mission Direct working towards increasing access to education for some of the world's most under-

resourced communities. For more information, please see:

[Bishops' Harvest Appeal - The Diocese of St Albans.](#)

Raising the Flag



A beautiful new flag was hoisted in September, thanks to Marion and Terry Hoare as a parting gift to St Mary's before their move.



Greetings from Dorset



We have now been here in Dorset about nine weeks! We are quite settled in our bungalow and getting used to a slightly slower pace of life. I am sure that there is an extra hour in the day down here.

We are attending the Priory Church of Lady St Mary in Wareham which sits in Church Green, a sort of village square containing some very old and interesting buildings. That's the first similarity - St Mary's! The second similarity is that there are no toilets in the church. The church has recently come through a longish vacancy - third similarity! Lady St Mary's is a team ministry of five churches and husband-and-wife, Neil and Deborah, have recently been appointed joint Team Rectors.

The original church was founded by St Aldhelm (c. 639-709), but by 1841, the church roof had fallen into dangerous disrepair and the decision was taken to demolish the main body of the building and replace it with a lighter and larger nave and aisles. This work has resulted in a sixteenth-century tower containing ten bells, a Victorian nave and a Norman chapel at the east end. Just inside the nave is a 12th century hexagonal font, thought to be the only one in existence, made of lead and cast somewhere in Dorset.



The 'church' is really the people rather than the buildings and we were delighted at the very warm and friendly welcome they gave us. Terry has already joined the choir, I'm on the rota for Parish Breakfast, we belong to a house group and I'm about to go to my first handbells practice. Also, Terry has gone to his first Men's Breakfast held monthly at Wareham's Bear Hotel.

We still miss you all and are enormously thankful for the friendship and all that life gave us at St Mary's. We left with some sadness but hope that life here, in Dorset, will be as good and rewarding as it was in the Cheshunt area and, especially, St Mary's.

Once again, we extend to all of you an invitation to visit us if you are in this part of the world.



With our love and prayers,
Marion and Terry Hoare

Heritage Open Day and Bike and Hike

St Mary's opened its doors on Heritage Open Day for bikers, hikers and anyone interested in the fascinating artefacts in the church and history behind them.



Brasses normally kept under wraps to preserve their beauty were revealed and silverware from centuries gone by were proudly on display.



What a treat it was also to see baptism, marriage and burial registers with beautifully-scribed records dating back to the 17th century from the Herts Archives.



Display boards showed naval stories linked to people listed on St Mary's Church War Memorial and there were medals awarded to



Private Charles Edward Quarman who is listed on our Roll of Honour.

People were able to look at old photos and books and learn about the history of St Mary's Church bells.

It was wonderful to delve into so much history and take time to enjoy the church's many treasures and artefacts.

Proms in the Pews

The Enfield Brass Band treated us to a wonderful "Proms in the Pews" concert on 14 September.



The Band started with a selection of music from screen and stage, including themes from Superman and Brassed Off, a Pirates of the Caribbean medley and Grease compilation.



Then Union flags were waved and there was singing to proms classics including Thine be the Glory, Jerusalem, Rule, Britannia! and with some Pomp and Circumstance finishing the concert off in true promenade concert style.

The Mothers' Union



Māori music greeted everyone who arrived in Church on 4 September to hear about Vicky and Andrew Clarke's trip to New Zealand in March. They enjoyed the scenery, wildlife and wine, learned more about the history and culture and met some fascinating people.

Working their way from North Island down to South Island, they started their adventure in Auckland. New Zealand's Māori history and culture was evident throughout their trip. Some churches held Māori services only, whilst others were multi-denominational.



Vicky and Andrew saw the site of the Cathedral in Christchurch which was sadly devastated by earthquakes in 2010 and 2011. The Cathedral is being reinstated, but vastly increasing costs may jeopardise the ambition to rebuild it to its original state.



St Faith's Church,
Lake Rotorua,
North Island

Visiting vineyards and sampling the local wines were much enjoyed with a few bottles sent back to the UK for future consumption! Indeed, Vicky and Andrew treated us all to a delicious glass of Sauvignon Blanc at the meeting.



On South Island, rain might have deterred some potential whale-watchers in Kaikura, but not intrepid explorers Vicky and Andrew! They were rewarded when they saw an enormous sperm whale and schools of dolphins showing off their acrobatic and diving skills.



The final highlight of the trip was a helicopter ride to Mount Cook, the highest mountain in New Zealand with spectacular views.

Many thanks to Vicky and Andrew for their illuminating talk, interesting photos and lovely wine.



The Mothers' Union Summer of Hope 2025



The focus of this project was to support families affected by conflict, particularly in the Democratic Republic of Congo, through community resilience and educational programmes.

As a symbol of hope and growth and a visible reminder of the support for those in need, MU members were invited to plant sunflower seeds in gardens, window sills or church space.



Next Meeting

On Thursday, 2 October at 1.30pm, Revd Tom Lilley from St James' Church, Goffs Oak, will join us for a second time to talk about his journey into priesthood. All welcome.

Nice Mice!

A big "thank you" to all who took part in the "knit-a-mouse" challenge. I was able to send 87 mice to the organisers of this event. The mice will be distributed to charities which care for abandoned cats and providing toys for them to enjoy.

The aspiration is to get into the Guinness Book of Records for the most knitted toys made at any one time, so I hope lots of knitters took part!



Well done St Mary's!
Maureen Gedge



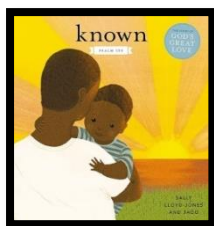
St Mary's Autumn Fayre

Please save the date of **Saturday, 8 November** from 11am to 2pm for the Autumn Fayre.

If you would like a stall for just **£10**, please call **Michele Perry** on **07932 2700069**.

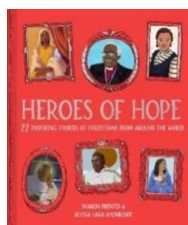
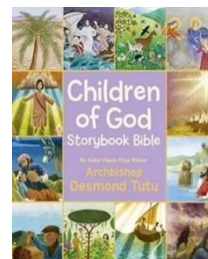
Cakes, other goodies and help will be also needed on the day, so please keep **8 November** free in your diary!

Black History Month Recommended Reading and Listening



Known: Psalm 139 (The Jesus Storybook Bible) by Sally Lloyd-Jones. A board book inspired by Psalm 139, this gentle, lyrical picture book reassures very young children (0-4) that God sees them, knows them intimately, and loves them completely. The text is simple but poetic, and the illustrations (by Jago) are colourful and engaging. It's ideal for babies and toddlers as a comforting reminder of God's presence.

Children of God Storybook Bible by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. This book gathers over fifty favourite Bible stories retold by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, illustrated by artists from around the world. It brings together Old and New Testament stories, ending each with a short prayer, and highlights God's love, forgiveness and reconciliation in a globally inclusive style aimed at children aged about 4-8.

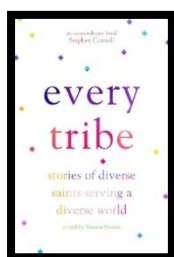


Heroes of Hope: 22 Inspiring Stories of Christians from Around the World by Alysia-Lara Ayonrinde and Sharon Prentis.

A children's book showcasing 22 Christian figures of global majority heritage - people from diverse cultures, eras and contexts - whose lives of faith made a difference. It uses accessible narrative and vibrant illustrations to help readers see role models in Christians like

St Monica, Rosa Parks, Desmond Tutu, and others, inspiring young people to understand that faith and service can cross cultural, racial and historical boundaries.

Girl from Montego Bay: The Autobiography of Britain's First Black Woman Bishop by Rose Hudson-Wilkin. This is the memoir of Rose Hudson-Wilkin, tracing her journey from a childhood in Jamaica through her calling to ministry in the UK, including her experiences of racism and sexism, and culminating in her becoming Britain's first Black woman bishop. Her autobiography is candid, warm, and spirited. She shares both hardship and joy, offering reflections on faith, identity, leadership, and hope.

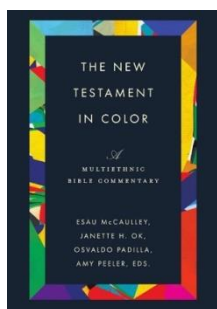


Every Tribe: Stories of Diverse Saints Serving the Global Church by Sharon Prentis. This collection shares the stories of saints from around the world, spanning cultures, traditions, and time periods. Each life illustrates how faith is lived out in different contexts, offering role models who reflect the global and diverse nature of Christianity.

Tarry Awhile: Wisdom from Black Spirituality for People of Faith by Selina Stone. In this reflective work,

Dr Selina Stone draws on Black spiritual traditions to invite Christians to pause, rest, and renew their faith. Blending theology, prayer practices, and lived experience, it encourages deeper discipleship and a more inclusive vision of the church.





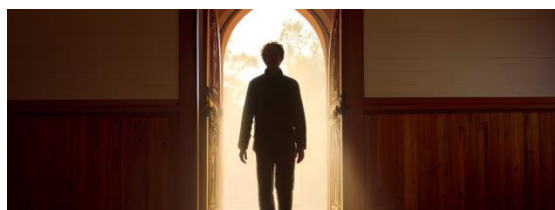
The New Testament in Colour: A Multi-ethnic Commentary on the New Testament edited by Esau McCaulley, Dennis R. Edwards, and others. This commentary brings together a diverse group of scholars who interpret the New Testament through multi-ethnic and global perspectives. It highlights how cultural context and lived experience enrich biblical understanding, making it a valuable resource for pastors, students, and lay readers.

Sunday School for Misfits ([Podcast](#)) with Dr Selina Stone. This podcast explores faith, theology, and social issues through conversations that challenge stereotypes and highlight diverse voices. The first half of Season 5, Episode 1 gives a good introduction to both the podcast and Dr Stone's book *Tarry Awhile*, making it a great place to start.



Events that Might Interest You

Speak Life online



Across the UK, interest in the spiritual is rising again. There's a surprising rebirth in belief in God. And it's time to respond...

Don't miss ***Responding to the Rebirth***—a one-day conference that will be relayed on the internet from central London with Glen Scrivener and Justin Brierley.

Date and time: 22 November 2025 from 9am to 4.30pm

Join online and be part of the conversation.

- Trailer: <https://youtu.be/XWMtfCR2qgE>
- Booking and more information: <https://speaklife.org.uk/rebirth/>

Left to Their Own Devices

Our kids are facing a whole new level of complex as they grow up in a turbulent digital world. The live event, *Left to Their Own Devices?* will equip you with practical skills and knowledge so you can stay ahead of the curve and help your children navigate the online world safely and to their advantage.



Date: 13 November at 7.30pm

Location: Lyon Way, St Albans, AL4 0LB

[Book here](#)

Angela's Autumnal Gardening Tips

- Clear leaves from the lawn with a rake, and from pathways and patios to prevent them from becoming slippery in wet weather. Compost the leaves.
- Clean greenhouse glass to allow more light in thus preventing overwintering plants becoming tall and spindly in their search for light.
- Weed and mulch vegetable beds with a 3-5cm deep layer of compost which protects and feeds soil organisms and improves soil structure.
- Plant garlic bulbs and overwintering onions for a good crop next year.
- Plant containers, borders and beds with spring bulbs for a wonderful early display of colour.
- Remove summer bedding plants and plant up for autumn and winter with cyclamen, heathers, violas and pansies etc.
- Bring tender plants such as canna under protection and keep on the dry side.
- Dead head dahlias and any late flowering perennials to enable them to continue to bloom until the first frosts.
- Plant indoor bulbs such as hyacinths for Christmas flowering. Leave in a cool, dark place until the shoots are 5cm before bringing them indoors.
- Clean out cold frames and greenhouses when summer crops such as tomatoes have finished.



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

Total Income for August	£4,843
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Total Expenditure for August	£6,459
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Budget Surplus/Deficit for August	-£1617
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Total Income Year to Date	£67,637
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Total Expenditure Year to Date	£72,980
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Budget Surplus/Deficit Year to Date	-£5,343
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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 August	£4,965
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Parish Share Bill Year to Date	£38,004
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Total Contribution Year to Date	£38,004
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October Events

Sunday Services

- ✝ **Sunday 5 October, 10am**
Revd Atalie Gaines will preside and preach at the Parish Eucharist.
- ✝ **Sunday 12 October, 10am**
Revd Teresa Wynne will preside and preach at the All Age Eucharist.
- ✝ **Sunday 19 October, 10am**
Revd Elizabeth will preside at the Parish Eucharist using the Church of England's Black History Month liturgy. We will welcome Mayor Patsy to the service.
- ✝ **Sunday 26 October, 10am**
Family Service marking both Black History Month and Bible Sunday.

Please note there will be no ROCCS Services during October.

Other October Events

Thursday, 2 October, 1.30pm

Mothers' Union meeting with speaker, Revd Tom Lilley from St James'. All welcome.



New date: Friday, 24 October, 7pm

St Mary's Quiz Night. Come along with your thinking caps, have some fun and enjoy hot dogs and cake.

Teams of no more than six players please.

£5 per person.

Regular Events

Saturday, 4 October 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.

Thursdays, 9 and 23 October at 7pm from September - **Handbells**

Thursday, 2 and 16 October at 6pm - **Chaps Chips and Chat**

Friday, 17 October at 7pm – **Puddings and Prosecco**

Looking ahead

Date	Event	Time	Contact(s)
November			
Sunday, 2 November	All Saints Day Parish Eucharist	10am	Revd Elizabeth
	All Souls Service. Everyone is welcome. A special invitation will be sent to the families of people who have had a funeral at St Mary's recently. Names of people to be remembered will be part of the service.	4pm	
Saturday, 8 November	Autumn and Christmas Fayre Day	11am to 2pm	Various
Sunday, 9 November	Remembrance Day All Age Eucharist	10am	Revd Elizabeth
Sunday, 16 November	Safeguarding Sunday	10am	Revd Elizabeth
Sunday, 30 November	Start of Advent (no Team Service)	10am	Revd Elizabeth
	Parish visit to St Albans Cathedral Advent Procession	6 to 7.30pm	
December			
Thursday, 11 December	Tea with Santa	4pm	Michele Perry
Sunday, 14 December	Carol Service	4pm	Revd Elizabeth
Wednesday, 24 December	Crib Service	4pm	Revd Elizabeth
	Midnight Mass	11.30pm	
Thursday, 25 December	Family Eucharist	10am	Revd Elizabeth
Sunday, 28 December	Team Service at St Mary's	10am	Revd Elizabeth

Contact Information

Clergy:

The Revd Elizabeth Fellows: 07352 324584, elizabeth@cheshunt.church (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)

Newsletter: macoombs2020@gmail.com

Find out more about St Mary's:

St Mary's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StMaryCheshunt>

Please follow it and interact with posts.

Information about St Mary's is available on a page on "A Church Near You":

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7854/>

