

CHESHUNT TEAM MINISTRY

ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHESHUNT



CHURCH NEWSLETTER

November 2025

Foreword from Revd Elizabeth Fellows



Welcome to St Mary's Church, Cheshunt's new mailing list! A very special welcome to anyone who is receiving this newsletter for the first time and thank you very much indeed to long-time subscribers who have signed up again using the new system. It's great to be able to share news of what has happened and what is coming up at St Mary's.

I am always struck in autumn by the beauty of the colours on the trees. At times and in certain lights, they almost glow. I am reminded each year that the trees are really just showing their true colours, which were there all year, but hidden by the green chlorophyll. As the chlorophyll drains from the leaves, the trees' beautiful reds, golds and oranges are revealed – a hidden treasure! What other evidences of God's goodness, presence and creativity are you noticing this season? They might be in nature, in people, in our church.

October has been full of lovely things, from visits from other clergy and the Mayor of Broxbourne, to hearing from members of our congregation in sermons. We have marked Black History Month in worship and on a display on our railings. Dewhurst St Mary's Primary School came for a Harvest Service and made very generous donations to the Broxbourne Food Bank. We have also enjoyed several social events, including a very successful Quiz Night. Thank you to everyone who has contributed, organised and participated in these and other events.

November promises lots of highlights in St Mary's and at the end of the month, we will say goodbye to the season of the Church's Calendar called Ordinary time and begin a new church year with the season of Advent, the preparation and countdown to Christmas.

I invite you all to make space in the busyness of the run-up to Christmas, to spend time each day with God. I recommend the "O Come Emmanuel" resource which the Church of England has produced. There is a short devotional for each day with a Bible reading, reflection and prayer, along with a beautiful painting. These devotions are available free on the Church of England's Everyday Faith app, which you can download here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/exploring-faith/everyday-faith>, or you could purchase these devotions in a beautiful little book for £9.99. If you would like Revd Elizabeth to order you a copy, please give your name and money to Angela Dronyi by the end of Sunday 16 November so that an order can be placed and the book can arrive in time for the start of Advent. It will be lovely to journey together through Advent in this way.

Please look later in the newsletter for details of St Mary's special Advent and Christmas Services. We will soon have postcards available that you can use to invite friends, family and neighbours to join in the Christmas celebrations here at St Mary's.

Should you ever wish to know what is going on at St Mary's you can now check our calendar online. You might want to save the link: https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=c_26f51d0230dfcdec3d21f5e3033b098afd032e5b31874208c2c2ab1e6e6f1e81%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=Europe%2FLondon

I wish you every blessing for November,
Revd Elizabeth

News from October

Appointment of a New Archbishop of Canterbury



In October, it was announced that the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE is to become 106th Archbishop of Canterbury and will be the first woman to hold the office.

Sarah Mullally has been the Bishop of London since 2018, the first woman appointed to that role, and before that, was Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter. Prior to her ordination in 2001, she was the Government's Chief Nursing Officer for England, having previously specialised as a cancer nurse. Bishop Sarah has described nursing as "an opportunity to reflect the love of God".

The next stage of the appointment process is the Election by the College of Canons of Canterbury Cathedral which will take place before Christmas. On 28 January 2026, Bishop Sarah will legally become the Archbishop of Canterbury at a Confirmation of Election at St Paul's Cathedral.

Bishop Sarah's Installation will take place in March at Canterbury Cathedral, marking the start of her new ministry.

Team Rector Licencing

Revd Helen Bryan's Installation as Team Rector of the Cheshunt Team will take place as part of a Service of Evening Prayer on 9 November at 6.30pm at St Clement's Church, Turnford. The Team Wardens will present her to the Bishop. Everyone is welcome and there will be cake and prosecco afterwards.

If you would like to bring cake or wine to help the celebrations flow afterwards, that would be a lovely gesture.

St Mary's Quiz Night

The Quiz Night on 24 October was a fun-filled evening with hot dogs, cakes and brain-teasing questions with **£242** raised for Church funds.

Thanks to everyone who organised and helped out at the event, made cakes and provided raffle prizes.



Harvest Thanksgiving

A wonderful selection of foods was collected at St Mary's for the Broxbourne Food Bank by members of the congregation and Dewhurst St Mary's School.

This feast of goodies was also supplemented when a group of tiny tots with their nursery teachers and helpers arrived unexpectedly at St Mary's. Luckily, Churchwarden Vicky was inside the church waiting for the gasman to call when she heard children chattering outside. She was surprised to see them,



but invited them in, sang songs with them, thanked them for their harvest gifts and they happily went on their way. Meanwhile, Revd Helen was awaiting the arrival of the children who were supposed to be going to St Clements!



Over **£600** was donated to the Bishops' Harvest Appeal at St Mary's Harvest Festival Service, so a huge "thank you" to everyone for their generous food and monetary donations.

The Mothers' Union

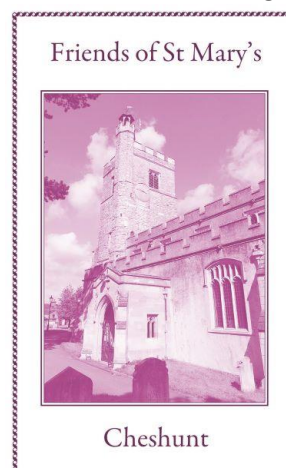


Revd Tom Lilley attended the meeting in October to talk about his journey into the ministry from his schooldays up to his current position at St James' Church in Goffs Oak. It was no easy ride, with different roles in various parts of the country. Spiritual guidance played a big part in bringing him to where he is now.

The next meeting is on **Thursday 6 November** at **1.30pm** in Church. Chris Foster will give an illustrated talk "On the beat in Kings Cross" and all are welcome. MU members are kindly requested to bring items for the Christmas hampers raffle.

On **Thursday 20 November** at **11am**, there will be a MU Corporate Communion followed by light lunch and handicrafts in the portacabin.

Finally, here is an ideal Christmas gift! A Friends of St Mary's tea towel is just **£5**. Please see Vicky if you would like to buy one (or more).



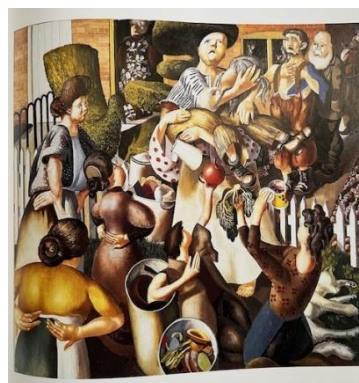
Launde Abbey Retreat



Launde Abbey, near Leicester, has been a place of worship for over 900 years. Early in September, I attended a four-day retreat based on the art work of Sir Stanley Spencer and led by Revd Susannah Underwood and Archdeacon Janet. The 12 attendees included priests, deacons and readers. Three daily services were held in the splendid chapel and the Archdeacon led Compline each evening using a service order based around one used by churches in New Zealand.

In between worship (and food), we considered six paintings by Spencer, an English artist who painted during both world wars. He served initially as a hospital orderly in WW1 and then as an infantry man overseas. In WW2, he was an official war artist sent to paint shipbuilders in Glasgow.

He was a man of great Christian faith who reflected this in many of his paintings. Susannah Underwood has written some fascinating reflections based on several of his works which are on line. He saw good, love and God in everything, especially in everyday things and people who might seem ordinary, such as a dustman and the rubbish he is collecting. To him heaven is all around us; we are living in it.



Spencer is perhaps best known for a memorial chapel at

Burghclere, built to his design and filled with depictions of war as a memorial to the son of the couple who commissioned it. In the paintings, there is no fighting or



suffering. Instead, we see depictions of his work as a hospital orderly (making tea, tending the feet of men with frostbite, serving sandwiches and making beds) and, in the altarpiece, the resurrection of the soldiers (and their horses) who emerge cheerfully from their graves in uniform. In all, he painted eight resurrection pictures featuring people he knew. As in many of his other pictures, Christ appears, sometimes with his disciples; he is not the focus of the painting, but often a small figure, hidden (at Burghclere by the crosses which the resurrected have piled on and around him).

It was thought-provoking and challenging for us to consider and discuss our own faith in the light of Spencer's experiences, to see God in everyday things and to find how God might see value in things that we often ignore, or discard. We were guided to produce a piece of art of our own. My collage was produced by cutting out parts of the sheet of newspaper used to protect our work table, with words taken from Spencer's writings. The hands are a response to his depictions of them.

Andrew Clarke



Book Review: The Sixteen Trees of the Somme by Lars Mytting



This is an interesting story about the love of wood and finding your own self.

Edvard grows up on his grandfather's remote farm in Norway. His parents died near the Somme battlefield when he was three years old and their deaths had always been shrouded in mystery. When his grandfather dies, he sets out on a quest to find the truth, which takes him from Norway to the Shetlands and the battlefields of France.

There is a fascinating description of how the growth rings inside the bark of a tree are affected by damage to the bark or doctoring. This particularly applies to flame birch, the finest cabinet-making material there is in Norway. The patterns are unpredictable and only when the tree is felled and sawn can you see the patterns created. It is an intriguing story and Edvard eventually discovers a very unusual inheritance.

Elsbeth Ellis

What's in St Mary's?

On Bible Sunday, Revd Elizabeth invited the children to see what was inside a "treasure chest".



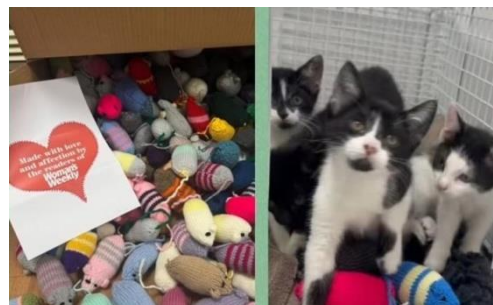
Do you know the approximate age of the chest and for what purpose it was built?



The Mouse Tale Goes On

In the summer, members of the congregation were invited to knit or crochet toy mice to help Women's Weekly break a world record.

As my daughter recently adopted an abandoned cat in Devon from "Hector's House Cat Rescue", she noticed a post on their social media site: "Today's mail was a bit of a surprise! We received a large parcel that was deceptively light, but when we opened it, we were blown away! Inside were hundreds of adorable knitted and crocheted mice, all lovingly handmade by the talented readers of Women's Weekly."



It's so nice to know our mice are going to good homes.

Marian Coombs

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

Total Income for September	£12,854
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Total Expenditure for September	£6,768
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Budget Surplus/Deficit for September	£6,086
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Total Income Year to Date	£80,490
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Total Expenditure Year to Date	£79,748
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Budget Surplus/Deficit Year to Date	£743
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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	£57,862
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of Team Vicar

8 monthly payments of £4,965 + 1 of £4,963

Parish Share Payment September	£4,965
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Parish Share Bill Year to Date	£42,969
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Total Contribution Year to Date	£42,969
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Events in November



St Mary's Autumn Fayre is on **Saturday 8 November** from **11am to 2pm**.

If you would like a stall for just **£10**, please call **Michele Perry** on **07932 700069**.

Can you provide any of the following?

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| ❖ Raffle prizes | ❖ Bric-a-brac |
| ❖ Cakes | ❖ Clothes |
| ❖ Books | ❖ Toys |
| ❖ Tombola prizes | ❖ DVDs |

Please leave items at the back of the church before the Fayre.

Perhaps you could help out on a stall or serving refreshments? Please see the churchwardens if you are free to help.

It would be great to see you on the day.



Regular Events

Saturday 1 November 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 7 and 21 November at 6pm – **Chaps, Chips and Chat**

Thursdays 14 and 28 November at 7pm – **Handbells**

Friday 20 November at 7pm – **Puddings and Prosecco**

Sunday Services in November

✝ **Sunday 2 November at 10am**

All Saints Day is when we honour all saints and martyrs, both known and unknown.

✝ **Sunday 2 November at 4pm**

All Souls Service to give thanks for, and remember those we love who are no longer with us. A special invitation has been sent to the families of people who have had a funeral at St Mary's in the last six months. Names of people to be remembered will be part of the service.

✝ **Sunday 9 November at 10am**

Remembrance Sunday when we will remember those who have given their lives in conflict, especially those whose names are on the War Memorial in St Mary's Church.

✝ **Sunday 16 November at 10am**

Safeguarding Sunday

✝ **Sunday 23 November at 10am**

Family Service with sausages

✝ **Sunday 30 November at 10am**

Parish Eucharist marking the start of Advent

✝ **Sunday 30 November from 6 to 7.30pm**

You may wish to mark the start of Advent by attending the Advent Procession Service at St Albans Cathedral.

See: <https://www.stalbanscathedral.org/Event/advent-procession>.



Other November Events in the Cheshunt Team Ministry



Looking ahead

Date	Event	Time	Contact(s)
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: marian.coombs@cheshunt.church

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/>

Front cover:

Mayor Patsy Spears speaking at St Mary's during Black History Month.

