

CHESHUNT TEAM MINISTRY
ST MARY THE VIRGIN
CHESHUNT



CHURCH NEWSLETTER

February 2026

Foreword from Revd Elizabeth Fellows



As February begins, we officially say goodbye to Christmas and Epiphany, having celebrated Jesus coming to earth as a human baby, and turn towards Lent and Easter, and the culmination of Jesus' ministry on earth. This part of the year is a time to make and break resolutions. I wonder if you were one of the many people over Christmas who committed to investing in the "spiritual you" in 2026 or if you have tried listening to God over the last month? If so, how is it going?

There will be lots of opportunities throughout Lent to explore faith alongside others. Over Christmas, 60-70 Bibles were given as gifts at St Mary's Christmas Services. There is a real appetite for Bible reading both in, and outside the church. Why not join with others at St Mary's to read the Bible, explore how people in the Bible heard God and to listen for God ourselves as we read and talk together? Each session stands alone, so you can dip in and out. Do you know anyone else who might like to come along? Please invite them!

You may also like to join with one of the Lent Groups in one of the other churches in the Cheshunt Team. Details of their Lent groups are shared later in this newsletter. Is there anyone that you know who might benefit from these groups? If so, please invite them. These groups would be great preparation for baptism or confirmation, if you are considering those things.

I am looking forward to beginning Lent with an Ash Wednesday Service at 7:30pm on Wednesday 18 February 2026 and then journeying with you all through Lent towards Easter. I pray it is a fruitful time for us all.

All good wishes,

Revd Elizabeth

News from January

Roy Lee Calling Time After 40 Years

After 40 years of winding the clock three times a week, and at the age of 81, I decided to call it a day on 18 January 2026, exactly 40 years after starting on 18 January 1986. I am now passing the job over to Ian Turner, to whom I am very grateful for filling in when we have been away. Over the years, holiday winding has been done by John Ellis, Ray Michael, Kevin and Andrew Lee, Geoff Parks and Patrick Flower to whom I am also very grateful for taking these pictures.



The clock was made and probably installed by Aynsworth Thwaites around 1750, according to parish records. It is believed the main works of the clock are original. In 2023, the clock maintenance engineers from James Jewellers of Saffron Walden were called in because of a problem with the ratchet or click as it is known on the winding drum of the clock. The engineer sent was a man who was the great, great, great grandson of Mr Thwaite and he was really excited to be working on his ancestor's handiwork.

The second picture is of the indicator face on the clock which shows the identical time as on the external face to enable the time to be corrected in the clock room to save going out on the roof. At the bottom of the picture, you can just see the maker's name.

I really hope Ian has as much enjoyment as I have winding St Mary's clock which is one of two still hand-wound in the Borough, the other being at St Augustine, Broxbourne.

Clock facts: outside face diameter 8ft (2.48 M); length of minute hand 5ft (1.52 M); length of hour hand 3ft (1 M); length of pendulum just under 8ft (2.4 M); pendulum takes 3 seconds to swing giving the characteristic tick-tock. The clock strikes the hour on the tenor bell which weighs 15 cwt 3 quarters and 3 lbs (801KG).

Roy Lee

A tribute to the Revd John Greenway

In the 1960s, my family were parishioners at St Mary the Virgin in Cheshunt. At the time, my father was a Fleet Street reporter working for the Press Association in London.

St Mary's played a huge part in our lives growing up. I was christened there by the Revd John Laird. The vicar, at the time, was Robin Osborne. We used to go on the parish holidays along with, it seemed, the entire congregation. My godfather was Peter Rooke who wrote many historic publications on local history.

While living in Cheshunt, my Dad decided to give up his job and train for the church. He started training when the theological college was still operating in Cheshunt, but finished his training at Queens College in Birmingham.

When I was about nine, my Dad's first job as a curate was in Luton (a bit of a culture shock for us as children). We moved to Pulloxhill and then Dad took on the parishes of Marston Moretaine (later made "famous" by Captain Tom) and Lidlington.

My parents retired to Fareham, where I lived in the late 1990s. My Mum died in 2018 and during lockdown, my Dad went downhill. He spent the last five years living at The College of St Barnabas in Lingfield, Surrey, an alms house for retired clergy and lay people. Dad died on 6 December from a heart attack, on his way to hospital in an ambulance.

My Dad was a great supporter of women priests. Indeed, for his time, he was seen as a very radical vicar!

Ironically, Robin Osborne also spent his final years at The College of St Barnabas and John Laird (who christened me at your church) is still there. He used to sit next to Dad at the dining table! Such a small world.

Below is a link to Dad's tribute page, should anyone remember him and wish to share:

https://revjohngreenway.muchloved.com/?_gl=1*1u6zlqk*_up*MO.*_ga*NzOxMTcyNjUzLjE3Njc5NDE1NTY.*_ga_R0559FN1H6*czE3Njc5NDE1NTUkbzEkZzEkdDE3Njc5NDE1NzOkajOxJGwwJGgw

Christine Dyer

The Mothers' Union



Members of St Mary's Mothers' Union got together on a very miserable 8 January for a social meeting. However, inside was very festive as Phyllis Seeby celebrated her 90th birthday and the occasion was marked with a cake and candles. Congratulations to Phyllis.



The next meeting will be on **5 February** at 1:30 in church and will start with a short AGM when the committee for the coming year will be elected and the accounts approved. This will be followed by Ellie Perkins from Hoddesdon who will present her new talk "**How to Save the Planet**". Everyone is welcome and don't forget the Bring and Buy Table.



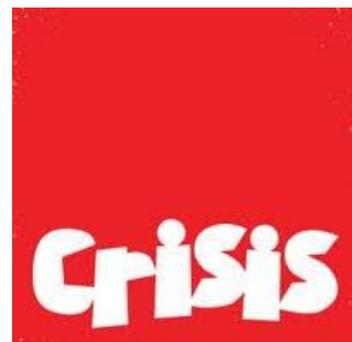
Fundraising events not only raise much needed cash for the church, they are also a great way of meeting people who don't normally come into the church. So, to plan events for 2026, there will be a meeting in church on **Saturday 7 February**, at **midday** after the church cleaning session. Please come along with ideas and offers of help.

Huge thanks to everyone who supported the Advent Lunch and the Big Christmas Card.

Due to your generosity, we were able to send **£524** to Crisis this year.

WELL DONE!

Vicky Clarke



Crafty Corner

Mothers' Union Handicrafts Group

Did you know there is a **Handicrafts Group** that meets on the third Thursday each month in the Portacabin at 1:30pm? Everyone is welcome, so please bring along your own project or enjoy working with others on a new one! The next meeting is on **Thursday 19 February**.



Blanket Request



The Palliative Care Team and Butterfly Volunteers at the **Princess Alexandra Hospital** in Harlow support terminally ill patients. They are asking if anyone can knit or crochet a blanket as their supplies are running low.

Blankets measuring 48 inches by 48 inches (122cm by 122cm) are requested. If you would prefer to knit or crochet squares, these can be then sewn together to make blankets.

For more information, please see:

<https://www.pah.nhs.uk/news/appeal-for-volunteers-to-knit-or-crochet-blankets-for-patients-receiving-end-of-life-care/>

Hats for The Falklands

The congregation of St Mary's Church and churches in the Cheshunt Team Ministry have always been very industrious with knitting colourful hats for seafarers who land in The Falkland Islands without warm clothing. These are still needed, so please continue to knit hats which will be sent over to The Falklands.



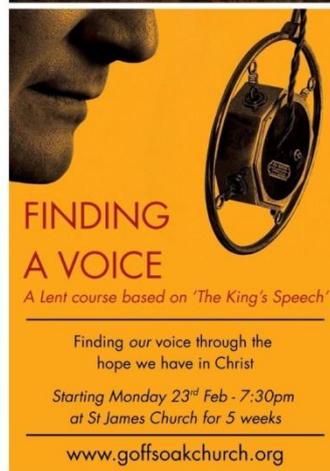
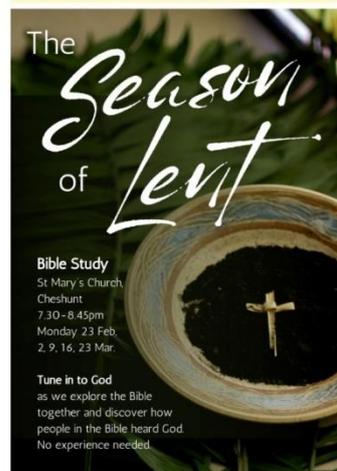
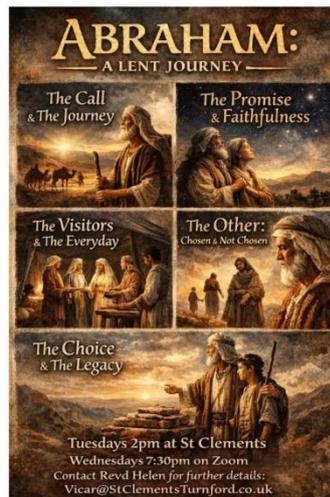
Lent Courses in the Team Ministry

Christ Church, Waltham Cross:

A Lent course based on “**The Greatest Showman**” will be held at Christ Church on Wednesdays after the 10:15 Mass and on Sundays after the 5pm Mass. For more information, please contact Fr Jake on 07990 148491 or email [Fr Jake on 07990 148491 or email \[FrJakePass@outlook.com\]\(mailto:FrJakePass@outlook.com\)](mailto:FrJakePass@outlook.com)

St Clements, Turnford:

Abraham: A Lent Journey will be held at St Clements Church on Tuesdays at 2pm and Wednesdays at 7:30pm on Zoom. Contact Revd Helen for further information: Vicar@StClementsTurnford.co.uk



St Mary's, Cheshunt:

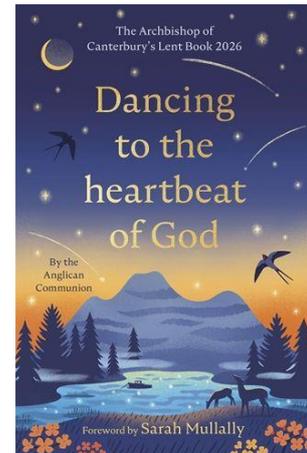
The Season of Lent Bible Study sessions will be held from 7:30pm to 8:45pm on Monday 23 February and Mondays 2, 9, 16 and 23 March at St Mary's. These are standalone sessions, so please join us for any on any of the evenings listed.

St James, Goffs Oak:

“Finding a Voice” is a Lent course based on “**The King's Speech**”, is being held at **St James** for five weeks starting on Monday 23 February at 7:30pm.

Other Resources and Ideas for Lent

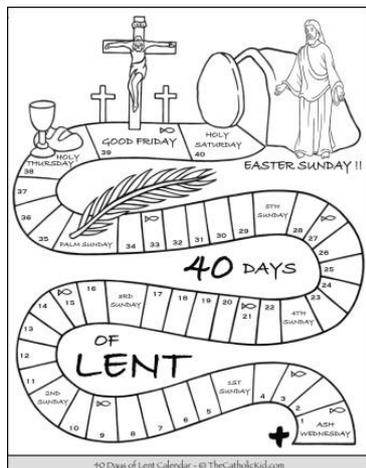
Dancing to the Heartbeat of God is the Archbishop of Canterbury's 2026 Lent book and draws together stories across the global Anglican Communion. It offers an honest, confident and hopeful vision of faith lived out in everyday life, and aims to be rooted in real experience rather than abstract theory. If you would like Revd Elizabeth to order you a copy, please give her your name and £10 by the end of Sunday 8 February.



Lent reflections will be available free on the Church of England Everyday Faith app and via the Church of England's new WhatsApp channel: <https://ow.ly/Lp8T50XGjGz>

Children's Lent Sheets

Children and young people might like to read a Bible verse a day and reflect with other members of their household:



What does it say about God? What does it show about other people or yourself?

What are you going to do in response? You might want to try memorising some of the Bible verses.

There is a sheet of [Bible verses](#) sent with this newsletter and a [colouring sheet](#) so that you can track your progress each day or you could read through the story of Jesus' life in the Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd Jones.

1 "Let it be this way for now. It is right for us to do this. It carries out God's holy plan." Matthew 3:15	2 "People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4	3 "Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should serve." Matthew 4:10	4 "The Kingdom of God is near! Turn away from your sins and believe the good news!" Mark 1:15
5 "Come, Follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" Mark 1:17	6 "Let your light shine... Live so that others will praise your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16	7 "Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you." Matthew 5:44	8 "Your Father knows the things you need before you ask him." Matthew 6:8
9 "Don't store treasures for yourselves here on earth." Matthew 6:19	10 "Whatever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be." Matthew 6:21	11 "Do not worry about your life." Matthew 6:25	12 "He will certainly care for you." Matthew 6:30
13 "Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness." Matthew 6:33	14 "Ask, and it will be given to you. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7	15 "Do to others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:31	16 "Take heart, Son, your sins are forgiven." Matthew 9:2

www.happyhomefairyt.com

February Events

Services at St Mary's

- ✠ Sunday 1 February at 10am - Parish Eucharist
- ✠ Thursday 5 February at 11am - Midweek Eucharist
- ✠ Sunday 8 February at 10am - All Age Eucharist
- ✠ Thursday 12 February at 11am - Midweek Eucharist
- ✠ Sunday 15 February at 10am - Parish Eucharist
- ✠ Wednesday 18 February at 7.30pm - Ash Wednesday
Communion with the Imposition of Ashes
- ✠ Thursday 19 February at 11am - Midweek Eucharist
- ✠ Sunday 22 February at 10am - Family Service (with sausages)
- ✠ Thursday 26 February at 11am - Midweek Eucharist

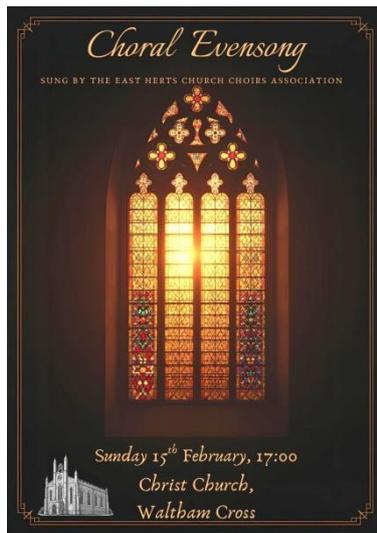
Regular events

- * **Mothers' Union meeting** on **Thursday 5 February** at 1:30pm in church. All welcome.
- * **Church Cleaning and Gardening** from 10am on **Saturday 7 February**, followed by a **Fundraising Events Meeting** at midday in church. All welcome to either, or both.
- * **Coffee Mornings every Wednesday** from 8.45 to 10.30am (in term time), all welcome and no charge.
- * **Chaps, Chips and Chat** at 6pm on **Thursdays 5 and 19 February**.
- * **Handbells** at 7pm on **Thursdays 12 and 26 February**.
- * **Mothers' Union Handicrafts Group** on **Thursday 19 February** at 1:30pm in the Portacabin. All welcome.
- * **Ladies' Puddings and Prosecco** at 7 pm on **Friday 20 February**.

Looking Ahead

- ✠ **Cheshunt Team Confirmation Service** on **Saturday 6 June 2026** at 6:30pm.

Other Events in February

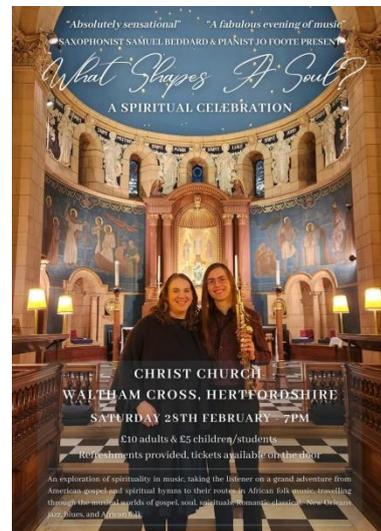


A Choral Evensong with the East Herts Choir is being held at Christ Church Waltham Cross on Sunday 15 February at 5pm. All welcome.

“What Shapes a Soul?” is a spiritual celebration concert at Christ Church Waltham Cross on Saturday 28 February at 7.30pm.

£10 for adults and £5 for children and students.

Tickets available on the door.



Friends of St Mary’s Film Night - POSTPONED



Unfortunately, due to technical problems, the Film Night has been postponed, but will be rescheduled when the equipment is fully working.

St Mary’s Church Cheshunt All Age Songs

You can now listen to all your favourite St Mary’s Cheshunt All Age songs on Spotify. Use the QR code or use the link here:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0HXDMSdphUGw2AqrEcRfVh?si=9360889c305b42f1>



Angela's February Gardening Tips

- Prune shrubs like rhododendrons and clematis now, and also mahonia, winter jasmine and forsythia after flowering.
- Prune roses, if not already done so, to encourage strong bushy growth. Mulch at the roots with a good layer of compost.
- Cut back non-evergreen ornamental grasses as new shoots will be emerging soon.
- Fruit trees such as apple and pear (but not cherry, plum or stone fruits) should be pruned now while still dormant. Take out any damaged or crossing branches and prune to improve shape.
- Divide roots of mint, tarragon and other herbs, re-pot inside and plant out when all danger of frost has passed.
- Plant a carpet of spring bulbs. Pot-grown tulips, daffodils, narcissus and muscari will continue to flower in the garden if planted now.
- Get a head start on vegetables and flowers. Sowing seeds now on a sunny windowsill or heated propagator will encourage extra growth before planting out. Sweet peas, lettuce, cabbage and leeks are a must.
- Chit potato tubers. Place one tuber in each section of an empty egg box and place in a cool indoor location until tiny new shoots appear, but don't plant in the ground until March or the danger of frost has passed.
- If you don't have a compost bin, then start one! This is the best way to reduce your carbon footprint with minimal effort and create wonderful compost for your own garden.



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

Total Income for December 2025	£6,569
Total Expenditure for December 2025	£8,150
Budget Surplus/Deficit for December 2025	-£1,581

Total Income Year to Date	£99,325
Total Expenditure Year to Date	£101,081
Budget Surplus/Deficit Year to Date	-£1,756

Total Parish Share Initial Request 2025	£57,703
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

Parish Share Payment December 2025	£4,963
Parish Share Bill Year to Date	£57,862
Total Contribution Year to Date	£57,862

Donations collected from 30 September to 31 December 2025

Card Reader	£1,036.23
Charity Bucket	£858.14
Wall Safe	£17.00
Candle Stand	£239.00
Total Collected	£2,150.54

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

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor:

Jez Hurst: 01727 818107, safeguarding@stalbans.anglican.org

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 Calendar with all forthcoming events:

https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=c_26f51d0230dfcdec3d21f5e3033b098afd032e5b31874208c2c2ab1e6e6f1e81%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=Europe%2FLondon

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/>

Church of England on WhatsApp

A sharing of prayers, reflections, uplifting stories, news and more. Follow the link to subscribe: <https://ow.ly/Lp8T50XGjGz>

