

CHESHUNT TEAM MINISTRY
ST MARY THE VIRGIN
CHESHUNT



CHURCH NEWSLETTER

March 2026

Foreword from Revd Elizabeth Fellows



I am so enjoying journeying through Lent with you. It was lovely to begin Lent with so many at the Ash Wednesday Service and to be reminded that we are loved by God who is gentle with us, as God “remembers that we are dust” (Psalm 103:14). It was wonderful to read the Bible together in the first Season of Lent Bible Study on Monday too. It was a delight to hear the insights each person brought to the session.

If you haven't already, this is a great time to decide how you are going to mark Lent this year. I wonder what might help you invest in your spiritual life and to draw nearer to

God? Opportunities that are being offered at St Mary's and across the Cheshunt Team include joining in Sunday 10am Services or Thursday 11am Services, attending a Season of Lent Bible Study to read the Bible with others on Mondays at 7:30-8:45pm at St Mary's, or joining in with one of the Lent Groups across the Team, reading or listening to a daily reflection from the Church of England via the Everyday Faith app or the Church of England's Whatsapp channel, spending time with God each day using a Bible verse (see sheets sent with this newsletter) or tracing your journey through Lent with the colouring sheet.

There are postcards and posters available with information about Services in Holy Week. Please use these to invite others to join in, or leave some in your local GP waiting room, pub or shop (with permission, of course) for others to find, or take a poster to put in a window or on a lamp post or noticeboard near you.

I am praying that Lent will be a time when you hear from God, and experience God's love for you in a deeper way. I also pray that it will be a time when new people are drawn into St Mary's Church, Cheshunt and experience God's love and welcome there.

All good wishes,
Revd Elizabeth

Mothers' Union

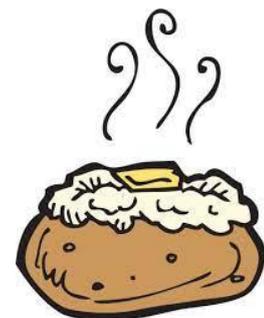


After a brief AGM in which the Annual Report and the Accounts were approved and two new committee members (Carole Parks and Ines Lees) elected, the members heard “How to Save the Planet” from Ellie Perkins.

Ellie started by reading from Genesis, how God created the world, gave humankind dominion over all living things and how He saw that it was very good. However, Ellie pointed out, things are not so good anymore, citing flooding and wildfires. How can we make a difference? Even if we feel that our contributions can't have any effect, if everyone makes some small changes there will be an impact. Ellie took us through the 3 “Rs”, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. She suggested that even by eating one less portion of beef per week could save 400 kilos of methane. Ellie also explained that if you are recycling foil, it needs to be scrunched into a ball at least as big as a golf ball, otherwise recycling machines can't detect it. We all learnt a lot and will try harder!

The next meeting is on **Thursday 5 March** at 1:30pm in church in which Revd Elizabeth will lead us in a Lent reflection. All welcome, no charge, refreshments.

On **Thursday 19 March** at 12pm, there will be a **Lent Lunch**. For just £7, you can enjoy a jacket potato with a choice of fillings, home-made desserts and tea or coffee. **Pre-booking is essential**, so please sign the list in church or call Vicky on 07803 203 438. Pay on the day. Proceeds will be donated to the **Children's Society**.



There will be no meeting on 2 April, but as it is Maundy Thursday, a coach has been booked for members who wish to attend the **Chrism Service in St Albans** at a cost of £15. Please let Jill Barkway know if you wish to attend. Cash on the day please.

As part of the celebrations of its **150th anniversary**, Mothers' Union will be featured in *Songs of Praise* on Mothering Sunday 15th March.”

Lady Day (25 March, the Feast of the Annunciation) has been the Mothers' Union's primary global day of prayer, thanksgiving and intercession since 1897. It celebrates Mary's "yes" to God, aligning with the organisation's mission to support families, nurture faith and empower women. There will be a **Lady Day Service on Wednesday 25 March** at 2pm at **Christ Church, Waltham Cross**. If any members would like to attend but need a lift, please speak to Vicky.



Kathleen Snow, Mothers' Union World Wide President, is planning to run 15 separate 10km runs in 15 of the dioceses she will be visiting during the year. If any members would like to sponsor her, they can find out more on her just-giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/kathleen-snow-1> She is planning to be in the UK to run in London and in Wales at Easter.

On Thursday 19 March (after Lent Lunch), the **Handicraft Group** will meet in the portacabin. We are currently knitting hats for seafarers and blankets for patients in palliative care.

WOOL NEEDED! If anyone has any odds and ends of yarn (preferably double knitting) that they no longer want, please can you bring into church or call Vicky on 07803 203 438.



Vicky Clarke

Events in March

World Day of Prayer – Friday 6 March 2026



World Day of Prayer Friday 6 March 2026

“I Will Give You Rest: Come”, Matthew 11:28-30

What are Nigeria’s concerns and hopes for 2026?

We shall find out at:

- ❖ **11am at the Methodist Church, Middlefield Road, Hoddesdon, EN11 9ED, followed by coffee and lunch**
- ❖ **7:30pm at Wormley Community Centre, Fairfield Drive, EN10 6DX, followed by refreshments**

Everyone is welcome

The Lion King – Friday 6 March 2026



Table Top Sale – Saturday 14 March 2026

St. Mary's Church, Cheshunt

11am to 1pm
Saturday 14th March 2026

Table Top Sale

Tea and coffee Bric-a-Brac
Cakes Games
Stalls Tombola

Join Us!

If you would like a table, please
contact 07932 700069.

Free entry www.cheshunt.church

Bunny Fun – Saturday 28 March



The King of Kings – Saturday 28 March

The King of Kings (PG), an animated film about the life of Jesus Christ, loosely inspired by the children's book, "The Life of our Lord" by Charles Dickens, is being shown at **BEAM, The Wash, Hertford SG14 1PS** on **Saturday 28 March** at **11am**. Tickets are £3.50.

Book online via:

<https://beamhertford.co.uk/whats-on/x8-childrens-corner-the-king-of-kings/>



Lent Courses

There are still opportunities to take part in Lent Sessions across the Cheshunt Team Ministry:



LENT COURSE 2026

FROM NOW ON

A LENT COURSE BASED ON THE GREATEST SHOWMAN

Join us as we reflect on the themes of Hope and Redemption this Lent.

All are welcome

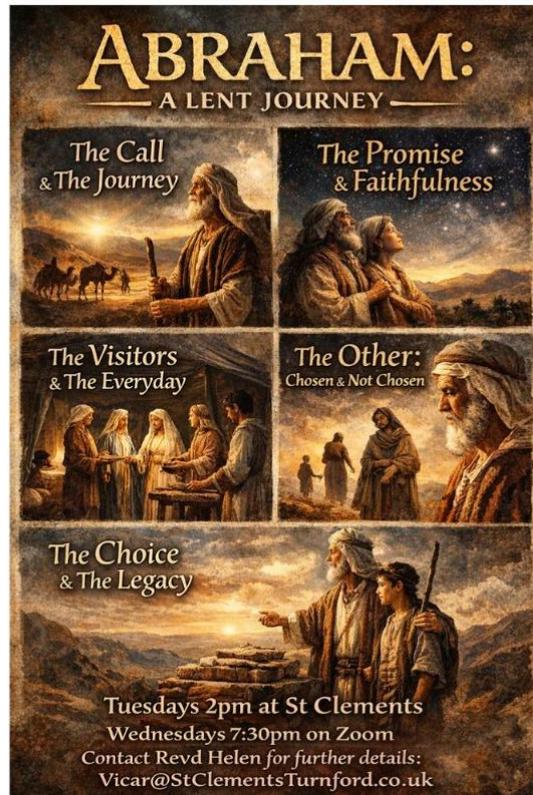
WEDNESDAY MORNING AFTER 10:15 MASS
SUNDAY EVENING AFTER 17:00 MASS

For more details speak to Fr Jake:

07990148491
 FrJakePass@outlook.com

CHRIST CHURCH WALTHAM CROSS

www.christchurchwx.com



ABRAHAM:
 — A LENT JOURNEY —

The Call & The Journey

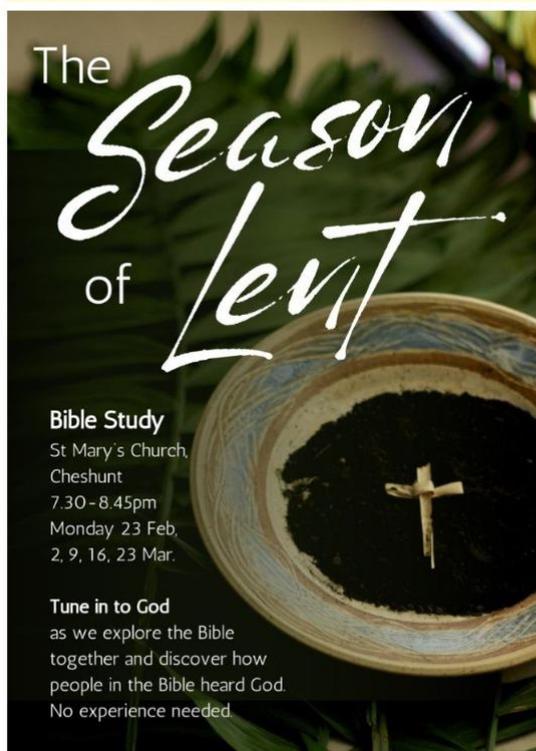
The Promise & Faithfulness

The Visitors & The Everyday

The Other: Chosen & Not Chosen

The Choice & The Legacy

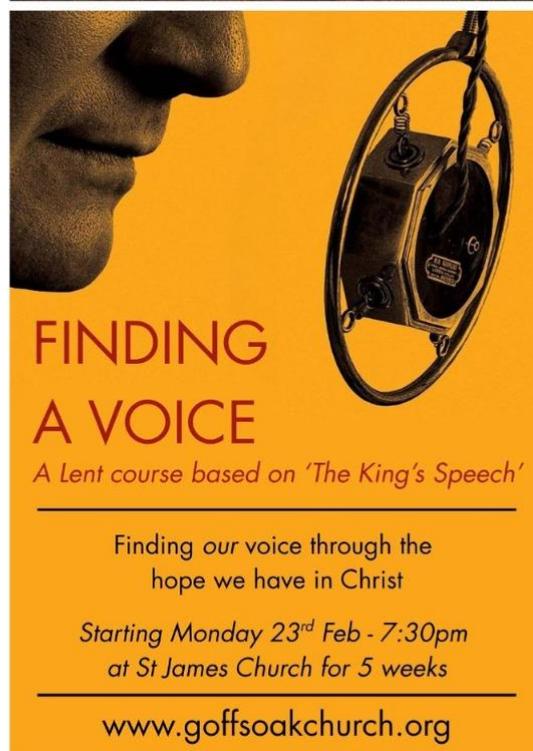
Tuesdays 2pm at St Clements
 Wednesdays 7:30pm on Zoom
 Contact Revd Helen for further details:
 Vicar@StClementsTurnford.co.uk



The
Season
 of
Lent

Bible Study
 St Mary's Church,
 Cheshunt
 7.30 - 8.45pm
 Monday 23 Feb,
 2, 9, 16, 23 Mar.

Tune in to God
 as we explore the Bible
 together and discover how
 people in the Bible heard God.
 No experience needed.



**FINDING
 A VOICE**

A Lent course based on 'The King's Speech'

Finding our voice through the
 hope we have in Christ

Starting Monday 23rd Feb - 7:30pm
 at St James Church for 5 weeks

www.goffsoakchurch.org

Services in March

- † **Sunday 1 March at 10am - Parish Eucharist**
- † **Thursday 5 March at 11am - Midweek Eucharist**
- † **Sunday 8 March at 10am - All Age Eucharist**
- † **Thursday 12 March at 11am - Midweek Eucharist**
- † **Sunday 15 March at 10am - Mothering Sunday All Age Eucharist**
- † **Thursday 19 March at 11am - Midweek Eucharist followed by a Lent Lunch at 12pm and Handicrafts at 1:30pm**
- † **Sunday 22 March at 10am - Family Service (with sausages)**
- † **Thursday 26 March at 11am - Midweek Eucharist**
- † **Sunday 29 March at 10am - Palm Sunday Service**
- † **Monday 30 March at 7:30pm - Compline**

Regular Events

- * **Mothers' Union meeting on Thursday 5 March at 1:30pm in church. All welcome.**
- * **Church Cleaning and Gardening from 10am on Saturday 7 March. All welcome.**
- * **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 March.**
- * **Handbells at 7pm on Thursdays 12 and 26 March.**
- * **Mothers' Union Handicrafts Group on Thursday 19 March at 1:30pm in the Portacabin (after the Lent Lunch). All welcome.**
- * **Ladies' Puddings and Prosecco at 7 pm on Friday, 20 March at 7pm**

Lent and Easter



Experience the hope and joy of Easter at church.

Lent Bible Study: Tune in to God

Every Monday until Monday 23 March
7.30–8.45pm
College Chapel at St Mary's Church.
Beginners welcome.

Mothering Sunday

All Age Eucharist Service

Sunday 15th March 10.00am

Palm Sunday Service

Sunday 29th March 10.00am

Compline (Evening Prayer)

Monday 30th March 7.30pm

Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday 2nd April 7.30pm

Good Friday Services

Friday 3rd April

12.00pm: All Age Service

1.00pm: Open Church for Private Prayer

2.00pm: Good Friday Service

Easter Day – Dawn Service

Sunday 5th April 6.00am

Easter Day Celebration Service

Sunday 5th April 10.00am

St Mary's Church, Churchgate, Cheshunt. EN8 9NB
www.cheshunt.church • hello@cheshunt.church • 07352324584

Let's Pray:

- That Lent will be a time when everyone at St Mary's Church, Cheshunt hears from God, and experiences God's love for them in a deeper way.
- That it will be a time when new people are drawn into St Mary's Church, Cheshunt and experience God's love and welcome here.
- For God to draw new members onto the Parochial Church Council and to be the new Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens.



Church Hymn Book Dedications – Can you help?

We are currently disposing of old hymn books. Some of them have dedications in them. It would be nice to contact any family who might want to keep the book. If anyone knows the following or how to contact them, please speak to Vicky:

- Violet Fitzjohn
- Joy Clark from Eddie, Ian and Sue
- Edward Lawton from Carol Sharp
- Lilian Brown from Thelma Pottle
- Elsie Blackshaw, Lloyd Blackshaw
- Edith Dighton from Michael and Frances Cracknell
- Joyce Little from Brian Little
- Margery Tackley from Roger and Esme Tackley

A Reflection on the Church of England's Daily Devotional Resources from a member of our midweek congregation

"I am Naeomi, born and bred Enfieldian, but have resided in Cheshunt for three years now. I wished for a church close to home and St Mary's is ten minutes' walk away, which is ideal. I fell in love with the church on my first visit and have tried to get there as much as possible ever since.

I heard about the Everyday Faith app during a service leading up to Advent. I usually read the reading and reflection over breakfast, at around 10am. I pray in the morning and in the evening, the everyday pray app offers another opportunity of reflection during the day. I particularly like how it makes us think of the reading in a modern day world. Some may say 'the Bible is out of date, not relevant in today's world'. The app proves that this is very much not the case!"



You can receive daily inspirational reflections year-round on the Church of England's Whatsapp channel: <https://ow.ly/Lp8T50XGjGz> or by downloading the Everyday Faith app: <https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/exploring-faith/everyday-faith>

Summertime is Coming!

Please be reminded that British Summertime begins on Sunday 29 March so remember to put your clocks forward at 2am!



Additional Resources

Church of England on WhatsApp

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

Sung Worship at St Mary's Church, Cheshunt

Listen to St Mary's, Cheshunt All Age songs on Spotify:



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



Sung Liturgy in Eucharist Services

Be an expert in the sung liturgy in Eucharist Services by the time we use it all again at Easter. Listen to it here:

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/4ju5s9BNxdGhfaBZigI5JM?si=Xe1n5iU5ROiqVKsihOXAvw&pi=FFyaWSb9Rl-_g



Looking Ahead

The Church Annual General Meeting is on **Sunday 17 May** at 12pm.

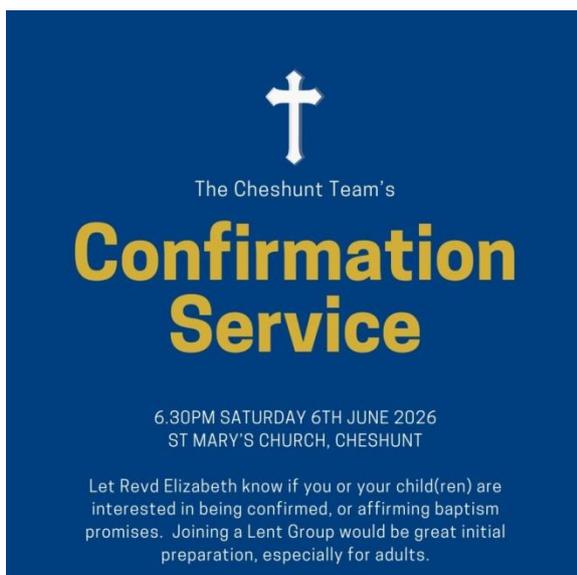
Nomination of New Officers

In the coming months, St Mary's Church will be nominating new members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and nominating new Churchwardens. Could God be inviting you to play a part in the church's life in one of these roles, and to help the church as it seeks to both lay good foundations for mission and ministry (including through adopting and implementing policies) and to plan the next season of the church's mission and ministry (including by developing a

Mission Action Plan)? Is there someone else you would like to encourage to consider these roles? Please take time to think and pray about these things. Get in touch with Revd Elizabeth if you would like more information.



Team Confirmation Service – Saturday 6 June



Is God inviting you to engage with your faith and church in a new way? Lent is a great time to discern this. Perhaps you have never been baptised and would like to be? With the Team Confirmation Service at St Mary's Church in June, you might want to consider if this is a good time for you to be confirmed in the Church of England, or to affirm the promises that were made at your baptism.

**PCC of St Mary Cheshunt
Church Income/Expenditure
January 2026**

Barclays general account	£1000.00
Barclays business account	£34,390.92
Barclays Fee account	£500.00
Total	35,890.92

Total Income for January	£15,203
Total Expenditure for January	£19,874
Budget Surplus/Deficit for January	-£4,670

Total Income Year to Date	£15,203
Total Expenditure Year to Date	£19,874
Budget Surplus/Deficit Year to Date	-£4,670

Total Parish Share Annual Request 2026	£59,259
11 monthly payments of £4,938, plus a final payment of £4,941	
Parish Share Payment January	£4,938
Parish Share Bill Year to Date	£4,938
Total Contribution Year to Date	£4,938

Angela's March Gardening Tips

- Pick off any developing seed heads on daffodils and other spring bulbs, but leave foliage to die back naturally.
- Prune dogwoods and cotinus down to the base to promote new growth.
- Plant lilies, begonias, agapanthus and other summer flowering bulbs in pots and borders with a gritty compost to aid drainage.
- Feed ericaceous shrubs such as rhododendrons, azaleas, camellia and pieris with ericaceous fertilizer.
- Weed flower beds and mulch generously with compost.
- Plant new roses, shrubs and climbers.
- Sow tomatoes, chillies and sweet peppers indoors as they need some warmth.
- Plant onion and shallot sets and first outdoor sowings of hardy vegetables, but cover with cloches or fleece until all danger of frost has passed.
- Plant early potatoes.
- If you have a greenhouse, make sure glass is clean to let in more light and start early vegetables, annual climbers, summer flowers and bedding plants.
- Open greenhouse vents on sunny days to prevent humidity build-up.
- Put slug barriers around hostas and other tender perennials now.
- Prune any wind damaged branches on trees and shrubs to prevent disease.



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

St Mary's Calendar:

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/>

Front cover:

"The Annunciation" by Philippe de Champaigne (circa 1640)

