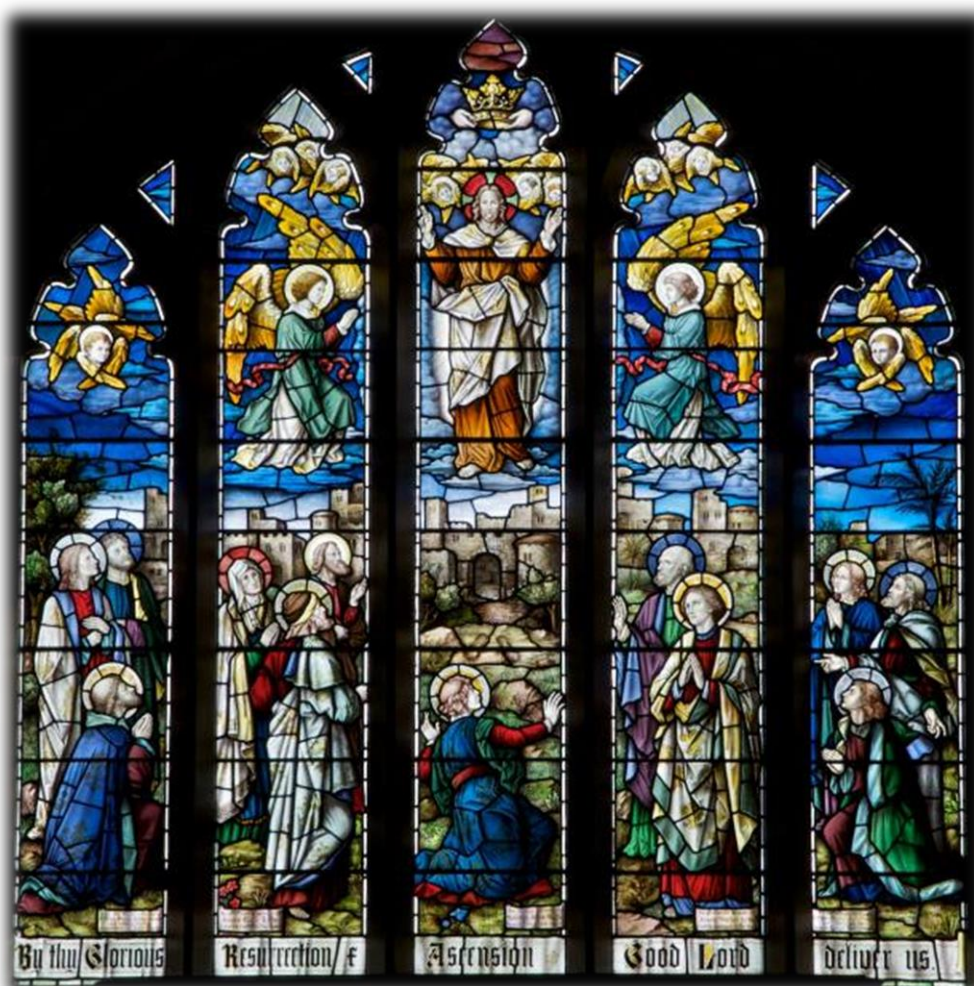


CHESHUNT TEAM MINISTRY
ST MARY THE VIRGIN
CHESHUNT



CHURCH NEWSLETTER

May 2026

Foreword from Revd Elizabeth Fellows



It was wonderful to journey with you through Lent, Holy Week and Easter. It is always encouraging to recount the events of Jesus' journey to the cross and be reminded that Christ entered into the worst that the world could offer, and turned the valley of trouble that he walked through into a doorway of hope (Hosea 2:15): a way to rescue the whole world. We continue to travel together through the Easter season, celebrating what Christ has done in the past (his life, death and resurrection) and what it has bought for us now and in the future: forgiveness, a fresh start, a relationship with God and the promise of a world to come in which everything sad

will come undone, and there will be 'no more death or mourning or crying or pain' (Revelation 21:4).

This is the story of the Bible and you're invited to explore it some more. The Bible Course is an opportunity for newcomers and old hands alike, to explore the Bible from beginning to end. You can do this in person at St Mary's at 10am on Saturdays, or on Wednesdays at 7:30pm online using Zoom. The dates and details can be found later in the newsletter. The course is free and open to everyone. Do please come along. Maybe there are others in church, or amongst your friends, family, co-workers or neighbours who would like to try it out too. Why not ask them? Should you choose to, there is an optional course book for £10. Please let me know if you would like me to order one for you.

You are also invited to a very important event on Sunday 17 May at 10am. In the context of worship, we will look back at, and celebrate all that God did for St Mary's in 2025. We will also look forward in faith and expectation for what is to come. We will weave into our worship service the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and the Meeting of Parishioners. It will be an opportunity to add people to the team who play a key role in shaping and leading the mission and ministry of St Mary's Church. We will be looking to add two Deanery Synod Representatives, four members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC), two new Churchwardens and some assistant Churchwardens. These people will join and work with the existing team. In the coming years, they will work together to help plan the future mission and ministry of St Mary's, care for its buildings, ensure compliance and develop policies and underpin all of this with prayer. Please continue to pray and discern whether God is prompting you to become involved in any of these roles, or whether there are people around you that you would like to encourage to take them on.

You are also invited to join in with Thy Kingdom Come, a worldwide, ecumenical prayer movement from Ascension Day to Pentecost (14-24 May). There are resources for adults, young people and children to use during this time, links to which are emailed with this newsletter.

I am looking forward to journeying on with you and discovering what our good God has in store for us all.

All good wishes and every blessing,
Elizabeth

Worship – Dates of Services at St Mary’s Church

- † **Sunday 3 May at 10am – Parish Eucharist**
- † **Thursday 7 May at 11am – Holy Communion**
- † **Sunday 10 May at 10am – All Age Eucharist**
- † **Thursday 14 May at 11am – Holy Communion**
- † **Thursday 14 May at 7:30pm - Ascension Day Praise, Word and Prayer**
- † **Sunday 17 May at 10am – Parish Eucharist**
- † **Thursday 21 May at 11am – Holy Communion**
- † **Sunday 24 May at 10am – Family Service (with sausages)**
- † **Thursday 28 May at 11am – Holy Communion**
- † **Sunday 31 May at 10am – Trinity Sunday Team Service at St James’, Goffs Oak**
Please note there will be no service at St Mary’s on 31 May

Confirmation



The Confirmation Service will take place on Saturday 6 June at 6:30pm at St Mary’s Church.

Preparation sessions for young people will be on 3, 10, 17 and 24 May from 11am to 12pm in St Mary’s Church.

A rehearsal for all candidates will be on 31 May from 2-3pm in St Mary’s Church.

Our Journey with Jesus

The Bible Course will be led by Revd Helen and Revd Elizabeth:

- On Saturdays in person at St Mary's Church, from 10-11:30am
- **Repeated on** Wednesdays on Zoom at 7:30pm
Meeting ID: 812 0236 3201, Passcode: 602015



Course book (optional): cost £10, available to order from Revd Elizabeth.

25/29 April	Session 1:	Introduction to each other and to the Bible
<i>2/6 May: no Sessions</i>		
9/13 May	Session 2:	The Story begins
16/20 May	Session 3:	The story of freedom
23/27 May	Session 4:	The story of power
30 May/3 June	Session 5:	The story of loss
10 June: on Zoom only		Church seasons and structure
13/17 June	Session 6:	The story of Rescue
20/24 June	Session 7:	The story of Mission
27 June/1 July: to be confirmed	Session 8:	The story completed

Thy Kingdom Come 2026

The theme of this year's Thy Kingdom Come is "God with us" and is from the day of Jesus' Ascension celebrated on 14 May, through to 24 May.



Novena 2026

This year's Thy Kingdom Come novena is written by Archbishop Sarah Mullally and is all about the presence of God through His spirit.

You can download it here:

https://www.thykingdomcome.global/sites/default/files/2026-03/TKC%20Novena%202026%20DIGITAL_0.pdf

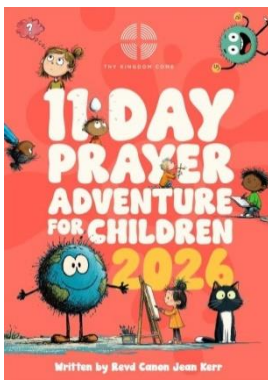


Digital Detox Journal

Join in with young people all over the world in a digital detox during Thy Kingdom Come.

You can download it here:

https://www.thykingdomcome.global/sites/default/files/2025-04/DigitalDetox_YouthJournal_A5_DIGITAL.pdf



11-Day Prayer Adventure for Children

The Prayer Adventure for Children is a resource designed for children to use with those who care for them. They could be used at any time of the day throughout Thy Kingdom Come and beyond.

You can download it here:

https://www.thykingdomcome.global/sites/default/files/2026-04/TKC_KidsPrayerAdventure_DIGITAL%20%282%29.pdf

If anyone would like a printed copy of any of these resources, please contact Marian Coombs on 07981 879969.

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> or by download the Everyday Faith app: <https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/exploring-faith/everyday-faith>

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>



News from April

A Big Birthday Celebration



Members of the congregation joined Elizabeth Sugg for a “bring and share” lunch to celebrate her 90th birthday. A beautiful cake was made by Frances in Elizabeth’s honour and she thanked everyone for her cards, presents and a wonderful lunch.

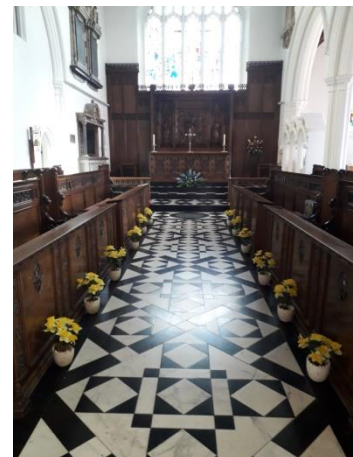


We wish Elizabeth many happy returns and pray for God’s blessing on her always.

Easter Blooms in St Mary’s Church



A huge “thank you” to everyone who created the Easter Garden in St Mary’s and for decorating the church so beautifully.



Mothers' Union



In April, members of St Mary's Mothers' Union attended the Chrism Service at St Albans Cathedral.



As usual, it was a very uplifting occasion, as well as a chance to catch up with some old friends among the clergy.

We were also joined by friends from Christ Church

Coming up

On **Thursday 30 April at 7:30pm** in church, everyone is welcome to "Rejoice" with the **Mothers' Union Prayer, Praise and Pimm's evening**.

On **Thursday 7 May at 1:30pm** in church, Fr Jake Pass from Christ Church Waltham Cross will be talking about "Chaplaincy in the Royal Navy". Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be served. There will be a collection for the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity.



Thursday 14 May is Ascension Day and Mothers' Union members are invited to join the 11am Service for Corporate Communion. This will be followed by a light lunch.

Looking ahead



Thursday 4 June is our "Poems and Strawberries" meeting. Get your thinking caps on for poems or readings on the theme of "A Good Day Out" which could be a holiday, leisure activity etc.

Vicky Clarke

A Thank You from The Children's Society



At the Lent Lunch in March, **£250** was raised and donated to the Children's Society who sent this response:

The Children's Society

Thank you to the members of St Mary the Virgins Church Cheshunt for your very kind donation of £250.00

Dear Mrs Coombs,

Thank you so much for helping in our mission to change the lives of vulnerable children by donating **£250.00** in support of our work. We hope you all had a lovely Lent Lunch! Your kindness and generosity will make a significant difference to our work and I want you to know how grateful we are for your dedication and support – we really don't take it for granted.

Your valuable donation will allow us to continue reaching out to thousands of vulnerable children who are dealing with issues of hardship, abuse and neglect – often without anyone to support them. By choosing to support us, you've done something truly life-changing for thousands of children. Across the country we are all working together to ensure that more children have the care and support they need and deserve.

In the United Kingdom 4 million children live in poverty, 1 in 20 children have been sexually abused and more than 100,000 children run away from home or care every year. Without your help, so many of these children would continue to face the tragic effects of these issues without anyone to listen to or support them. Thanks to you, now more of them will.

On behalf of everyone at The Children's Society and the young people we work with, thank you for helping to make children's lives better.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Moran
Head of Supporter Experience

Children's Society Box Collections

In St Mary's Church, a number of our congregation save money throughout the year in aid of the Children's Society. It's now time to empty these boxes, bank the money and return the boxes to holders. Boxes can be brought into church and given to Marian Coombs or the Churchwardens or Marian will arrange a home collection.



Lottery Bonus Ball

We need someone to take over running the Lottery Bonus Ball as Roy and I will be moving away from Cheshunt shortly. It is based on the National Lottery draw on a Saturday night and the winning number is the National Lottery Bonus Ball.



It is not a difficult task. It involves reminding people when their lottery money is due, usually by email; keeping a check on the monies; paying £20 to the lucky winner; when there is a reasonable amount, passing the collected money to Geoff or Vicky for banking and looking at the National Lottery Bonus ball number drawn on a Saturday night.

It's raised over £16,000 for the Church so far, and it would be a shame for it to fold. If you think you might like to take this on and for more information, please speak to me or call me on 07743 135535.

Carol Lee

Regular Events in May

- * **Church Cleaning and Gardening** from 10am on **Saturday 2 May**. All welcome.
- * **Mothers' Union meeting** at 1:30pm on **Thursday 7 May** with **Fr Jake Pass**. 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 7 and 21 May**.
- * **Handbells** at 7pm on **Thursday 28 May**.
- * **Mothers' Union Handicrafts Group** on **Thursday 21 May** at 1:30pm in the Portacabin. All welcome.
- * **Ladies' Puddings and Prosecco** at 7 pm on **Friday 15 May**, at 7pm.

Looking Ahead

- * **St Mary's Summer Fayre** is on **Saturday 20 June** from 11am to 3pm.

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

Total Income for March	£36,729
Total Expenditure for March	£9,104
Budget Surplus/Deficit for March	£27,624
Total Income Year to Date	£57,180
Total Expenditure Year to Date	£36,429
Budget Surplus/Deficit Year to Date	£20,752
Total Parish Share Annual Request 2026	£59,259
11 monthly payments of £4,938, plus a final Payment of £4,941	
Parish Share Payment March	£4,938
Parish Share Bill Year to Date	£14,814
Total Contribution Year to Date	£14,814

Angela's May Gardening Tips

- Watch out for late frosts and protect tender plants and vegetables.
- Tie in new shoots of climbing roses and summer clematis.
- Prune shrubs that have flowered in late winter and early spring if necessary.
- Start to liquid-feed pots and containers to encourage strong summer blooms and healthy growth.
- Check for nesting birds before pruning hedges and large bushes.
- Mow lawns if not waterlogged, but consider leaving areas uncut for wildlife or mow less often so wildflowers can bloom for bee nectar.
- Be on guard for pests as weather warms up and catch problems early with sprays or other methods.
- Keep on top of weeding.
- Plant out early vegetable seedlings in warm ground, but protect from frost!
- Open greenhouse vents on sunny days to prevent humidity build-up.
- Deadhead last of spring flowering bulbs, leave greenery to die down naturally.
- Protect soft fruit with netting now to prevent birds from pecking at buds and fruit.
- Check out new plant varieties showing at the Chelsea Flower Show (19-23 May).



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:

"By thy Glorious Resurrection and Ascension Good Lord Deliver us."
Christ Church, Prestatyn, Flintshire

