

St Hugh



St John

Chells

An Anglican/Methodist local ecumenical partnership

Notices July/August 2026

Safeguarding is important here - your children under 18 remain your responsibility at all times

"Listen! A sower went out to sow." (Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23)

I no longer think of the thorns, the rocks, the pathways, the birds as "others" with us nice Christians as the fertile soil. I embody the infertility, the leaving to chance, the impossibly stubborn thorns, the immutable rocks, the shallow soil, the unprotected ground, the carelessly trodden pathways wide open for winged robbers and burrowing thieves.

But some patches of good rich soil receive the grace the Sower scatters with such playful abandon. And maybe that little bit is enough to multiply one hundred fold. I need not hoard grace - so you birds of the air, you little mice, feed your families, eat your fill. Plenty of grace for all.

-Suzanne Guthrie

Thanks

- To everyone who came and helped at the maintenance morning
- To those who gave to the retiring collection for Methodist Homes
- To those who came to quiz night - £180
- Money from Norma Coopers funeral was £177 and Cyril Atkinson's funeral was £184. Thanks to all who gave

Say a prayer for me. Have you seen our prayer box, on the left as you come into church. Please encourage your friends and neighbours to use it to ask for prayer. It is very confidential

Easy fundraising - <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

If you shop on line, you could raise money for our church if you're not doing it for anyone else. Download the app, sign up with your email and shop through the Easyfundraising site. No cost to you - dosh for us! Search for St Hugh And St John's Church

Gift day 13th September 2026

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you. Amen

Generosity is at the heart of our faith, we believe in a generous God and our own generosity is a testament and hallmark of our faith in action. The ministry and mission of The Church of England and the Methodist Church is largely funded through the incredible generosity of those who give to it.

The 14th September is an opportunity for you to make a one off specific gift towards the work of this church. Those on email will receive a letter and those without there will be a letter. If you aren't around on the 13th, you can still take part by giving either before or after. If you are a tax payer, please fill out a Gift Aid form and return it with your donation.

Each month, we fall short by £1 300. By the end of the year, we'll be looking at a deficit of £15 600. That's before we even start thinking about new heating. In 4 years, all things being equal, we'll be out of money. We are grateful for all the one off gifts we have recently received but we need our regular giving to rise. There are so many demands on everyone's finances and the Joint Church Council is mindful that everyone is stretched financially.

This church has always been proud that we have been able to pay our dues to the Church of England and the Methodist Church but soon we won't be able to do that.

In addition, are you able to increase your regular giving? It would help us so much.

The Rev Chandy Perera. Chair, Joint Church Council

MISSION ACTION PLANNING (MAP)

Thinking about our future - what we'll look like in 3 years time and what we'll be doing. This fell off the radar. We're going to start thinking about it again

Saturday 25th July. 3.00-5.00pm

Pimms and all that Jazz. Come and join us for an afternoon of Pimms (other drinks are available!), scones and cream, chat and Guy tinkling the ivories.

Saturday 12th September

- 9.30am. Prayer morning. Prayers for yourself, this church and community and world
- 12.30pm. Lunch! Sausage sarnies and bacon butties. Invite your friends. Suggested donation: £5
- All day. Bike 'n' hike. Could you raise money for use via Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust - we get half of anything raised. Steve West who's organised it in the past is unable to do it this year.

SAFEGUARDING

If you have a safeguarding concern you can phone or email Catherine Smith our Safeguarding officer directly (t. 07597 765 261 or safeguardingsthughstjohn@gmail.com), or fill out a safeguarding referral form. Forms are in the First Aid cupboard in the kitchen and once filled out should be put in a sealed envelope and given to a member of the safeguarding team. In their absence, the envelope can be given to Chandy Perera, Clare Farthing, Ruth Jermy or David Belton who will pass the envelope on unopened. The information in the envelope is confidential and will only be shared according to safeguarding guidelines.

More about money

Thanks to all who give so generously to church. In the current economic climate we have to maximise our giving. If you buy 'stuff' for church and want it to be a gift, please claim for it as an expense and then give it back to us as a donation. We can then claim the gift aid which means your 'gift' has a third added to it at no extra cost to you. If you don't pay tax, put your donation in the loose change collection and we can claim the gift aid that way. It also means church has a better picture of how much church really costs.

July

- 18th Donation rally for Foodshed. If you can help for an hour, please speak to Catherine Smith/Chandy Perera for more details
- 20th Choosing hymns
- 25th An afternoon of Pimm's, scones, and music

August

- 30th Cafe church to look at heating

September

- 12th Prayer morning, Sausage sarnies and bacon butties, Bike n Hike
- 13th Gift day

Every week:

- Sunday 8.45am Morning worship.
10.00am Morning worship
- Monday 11.00am. Bible study - meets at church
8.00pm Bible friendship group.- meets at church and on zoom
- Tuesday 9.15am Chells Little Stars.
12-1.00pm Safe space - tea, coffee, cheese sandwiches, cuppa soup
- Wednesday 8.00pm Night prayer on zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87979205257> Meeting ID: 879 7920 5257
- Thursday 11.00am Quiet communion
12-1.00pm Safe space - tea, coffee, cheese sandwiches, cuppa soup

Prayers for:

- peace between The USA, Israel and the Arab states, Ukraine and Russia, South Sudan, Nigeria
- In all the rhetoric about immigration and from and those who would appropriate the cross for their own ends, help us to see the image of God in others.
- For Lodge Farm, Camps Hill, Lonsdale, Marriotts and Nobel at the end of a long term. For staff and their well earned rest. For pupils moving schools and going to FE or university and worries about friendships and fitting in.
- For all those being persecuted for their faith, particularly, Christians in Nigeria and the Philippines.
- Pray for the new Bishop of St Albans, The Rt Rev Andrew Rumsey and his family and their preparations to come here. Thank God for the Pope's outspokenness.
- for us as we continue to think about our Mission Action Plan - what are the practical things we want to be included/how do we want to grow with god
- Our heating, our finances, our plans to be more eco friendly
- For those who have asked for our prayers via the prayer box.
- For all who experienced abuse - sexual, physical, domestic, mental, emotional - and those who help them
- those who have asked for healing and wholeness:
- the family and friends of those who have died recently, and those whose years mind falls this month