

CHESHUNT TEAM MINISTRY
ST MARY THE VIRGIN
CHESHUNT



The Transfiguration by Raphael, 1518-20

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

August 2026

Foreword from Revd Elizabeth Fellows

Dear St Mary's Church Community,



I hope you're enjoying the summer and finding some time to rest and recharge.

August is often a quieter month in the life of the church, but it's also a wonderful reminder that most of our Christian lives are lived not in the extraordinary, but in the ordinary. The Church is currently in the season known as "Ordinary Time", which lasts until Advent, and it encourages us to look for God's presence in the everyday moments of life. One book that has helped shape my own thinking about this is "Everyday God: The Spirit of the Ordinary" by Paula Gooder. You'll find more about it later in the newsletter if you'd like

to explore the theme further.

As always, though, there is plenty happening at St Mary's. It has been such a joy to continue welcoming children and families for baptisms, and to see some joining us for our Sunday worship as they become part of God's family, the Church. We also begin a period of consultation about admitting baptised children to Holy Communion before confirmation. I hope you'll take a few moments to consider it and, if you'd like, share your thoughts as we pray and discern God's way forward together. We were also delighted to welcome Deacon Heather Ross to the Cheshunt Team at her Licensing Service on 21 July.

Looking ahead, September is shaping up to be an exciting month. We'll celebrate our Patronal Festival, bless children, young people and those who work in education as they begin a new school year, gather for Harvest and continue creating opportunities for people of all ages to explore and grow in faith.

If you're curious about Christianity, returning to church after some time away or simply wanting to deepen your faith, I'd especially encourage you to have a look at Alpha and our new Romans Course. Both offer a relaxed and welcoming space to ask questions, learn together and discover more of God's love.

Finally, thank you. Thank you for the countless ways you serve, encourage one another, pray, volunteer, give, invite others and help make St Mary's such a warm and welcoming church. Whether you've been part of St Mary's for decades or have only just discovered us, we're delighted you're here.

I pray that, in these ordinary days, you will know God's extraordinary love, peace and presence with you.

With every blessing,

Revd Elizabeth Fellows
Team Vicar

Worship – Dates of Services in St Mary’s Church

- ✠ **Sunday 2 August at 10am – Parish Eucharist**
- ✠ **Thursday 6 August at 11am – Holy Communion**
- ✠ **Sunday 9 August at 10am – All Age Eucharist**
- ✠ **Thursday 13 August at 11am – Holy Communion**
- ✠ **Sunday 16 August at 10am – Parish Eucharist**
- ✠ **Thursday 20 August at 11am – Holy Communion**
- ✠ **Sunday 23 August at 10am – Family Service**
- ✠ **Thursday, 27 August at 11am – Holy Communion**
- ✠ **Sunday, 30 August at 10am – Parish Eucharist**

Dates for your Diary

- ✠ **Sunday 6 September at 10am – St Mary’s Patronal Festival and Parish Eucharist**
- ✠ **Sunday 13 September at 10am – All Age Eucharist with the Blessing of the Backpacks**
- ✠ **Sunday 27 September at 10am – Harvest All Age Service**
- ✠ **Saturday 3 October at 3pm – Pet Blessing Service**

Children at communion

We have children in our congregation who are too young to be confirmed but who would like to take communion. The Diocese of St Albans provides guidance which permits a parish to admit baptised children to Holy Communion from about aged 7 with an expectation of their being confirmed at about aged 12. In July, St Mary’s Parochial Church Council (PCC) agreed to have a period of consultation about it through July and August.

Our Journey with Jesus

Alpha



Explore
life,
faith &
meaning

Tuesdays 7.00-8.30pm
4, 11, 18 Aug, 1, 8, 15 Sept
St Mary's Church, Cheshunt

Alpha is a place to unpack the Christian faith together over shared hospitality, videos, and open discussion. It's always free and **everyone** is invited.

Try Alpha.

alpha.org.uk

Alpha

On Tuesdays

4, 11, 18 August and
1, 8, 15 September 2026
from 7-8:30pm at St Mary's
Church, Cheshunt, Alpha is
a space to unpack the
basics of the Christian faith
together. No pressure. No
judgement. Just open
conversation. That's it.
Come along, see what you
think.

At each session, we'll watch
a video and then have
chance to chat.

Alpha runs all around the
world, it's free and
everyone is invited. Last
year, over 2 million people
tried Alpha.

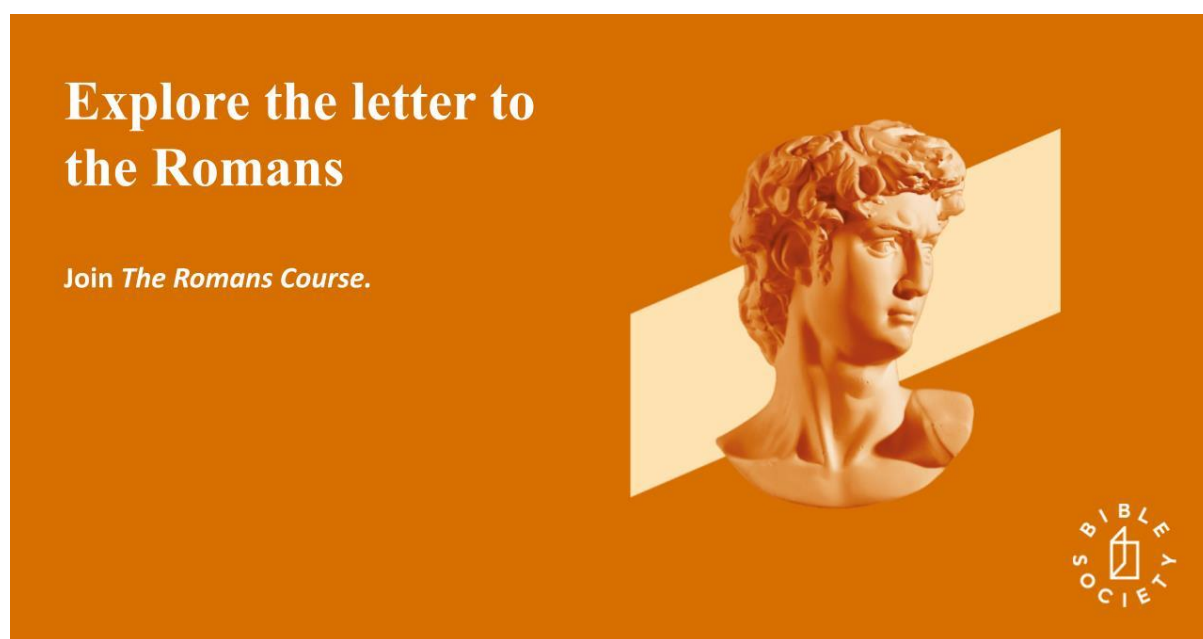
The experience is open to
everyone, no matter their
background or beliefs.

Alpha is simply a safe space to meet new people, find out the basics, and share thoughts. The short course runs over six sessions and each week, a different big question around the Christian faith is unpacked and explored together.

Come to all of them, or dip in and out.

Alpha is great for anyone wanting to explore the Christian faith for the first time, go deeper in their faith, or explain their Christian faith to others. Alpha is also excellent preparation or follow-up for adult baptism candidates, godparents, parents of children who have been baptised and confirmation candidates.

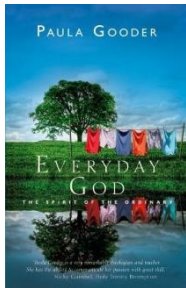
The Romans Course



Following the success of the Bible Course, The Romans Course will be running in the autumn in person at St Clement's Church, Turnford, and online. It will be an opportunity to focus on the New Testament letter of Romans in the Bible. No prior knowledge is needed. Everyone is welcome. Zoom login details will be shared nearer the time.

Session	Topic	Zoom (Wednesday, 7:30–8:45pm)	In Person (Sunday, 2:30–4pm, St Clement's Church, Turnford)
1	Gospel	23 September	13 September
2	Sin	30 September	27 September
3	Salvation	7 October	4 October
4	Peace	14 October	11 October
5	Freedom	21 October	25 October
6	Hope	28 October	1 November
7	Mystery	4 November	8 November
8	Devotion	11 November	15 November
9	Community	18 November	22 November
10	Mission	25 November	29 November

Food for Thought in Ordinary Time



Everyday God: The Spirit of the Ordinary by Paula Gooder

There is also a video by the author available here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_68QJkrflw

News from July

Congratulations to Deacon Heather Ross, who was licensed to the Cheshunt Team this evening.

As part of her ministry, Deacon Heather will be spending some of her time supporting the mission and ministry of St Mary's Church, Cheshunt. We are delighted to welcome her and look forward to the gifts, energy and dedication she will bring to our parish community.



A Distinctive Deacon is someone called to a lifelong ministry of service. Deacons are ordained to serve Christ in the Church and in the world, helping to bridge the gap between the worship of the Church and the needs of the community. Their ministry is centred on service, compassion, advocacy and proclaiming the Gospel, encouraging the whole Church to live out Christ's love in practical ways.

Please keep Deacon Heather in your prayers as she begins this new chapter of ministry, and pray that God will bless her as she serves the people of the Cheshunt Team.

Welcome, Deacon Heather!

Bev's a Rev!



Many of St Mary's congregation will remember Revd Eugene Hanshaw, his wife, Bev, and children, Morgan and Reuben, and will be pleased to hear that Bev was ordained priest on 4 July at St Albans Cathedral.

Please include Bev and her family in your prayers as we wish her well in her ministry.

Fizz and Chips

Another joyous combination of Chaps, Chips and Chat and Ladies' Prosecco and Puddings brought many members of the congregation together to enjoy a fish and chip supper on 17 July.

Thanks to Geoff Parks and Pat Higgins for organising the evening and to Iris and Trevor Hector for leading the necessary clear-up operation.



A Thank You from the Children's Society



Monies raised by St Mary's Church Box Collectors were paid to the Children's Society and this is the response received:

Thank you so much for your generous house box donation of **£280.00**. Please pass on our thanks to all the box holders at **St Mary's Church, Cheshunt**. I can confirm we have received and processed your donation.

Thank you again for choosing to support The Children's Society, please know how grateful we are for all of your incredible support.

Charlotte Duggan
Senior Supporter Care Coordinator
The Children's Society

Mothers' Union

A Brief History



Mary Sumner was the wife of a rector in Hampshire, and in 1876, she established a group to support mothers from all different backgrounds as they raised their children. She delivered a speech to the Portsmouth Church Congress in 1885 and inspired other women to set up similar groups in their own parishes.

The Mothers' Union, as it was called, became a part of community life with strong links with local people and the Anglican Church. The groups provided support for each other and for disadvantaged women. Mary Sumner was passionate about improving the role of women and their place in society.

The initiative spread to other countries with the first overseas branch being formed in Christchurch, New Zealand in 1886. Next was Canada in 1888, followed by India in 1889.

By 1892, there were 60,000 members from 28 dioceses and by 1900, this figure had increased to 169,000. A Mothers' Union Central Council was formed in 1896.

In 1921, Mary Sumner passed away and 9 August became Mary Sumner Day in the Anglican liturgical calendar.

Mary Sumner House, the headquarters of the Mothers' Union, opened in Westminster in 1925 and in 1926, a Royal Charter was granted, giving the Mothers' Union independent legal status.

The Mothers' Union worked with other organisations such as the National Council of Women and the Women's Institute during World War II on the Design of Dwellings Committee.

In 1952, Queen Elizabeth II and The Queen Mother granted royal patronage to the Mothers' Union and in 2024, HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh became the royal patron of the Mothers' Union.

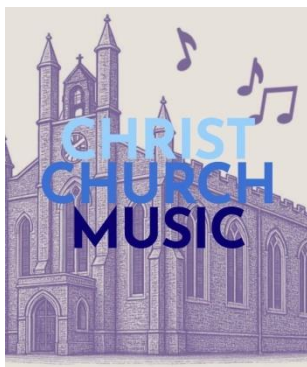
With its faith-based foundations, the Mothers' Union has strived to help women and families throughout the world to improve their lives and provide a strong voice to help change laws that support women with its three core pillars of tackling poverty, injustice and violence.



Regular Events

- * **Church Cleaning and Gardening** from 10am on **Saturday 1 August**. All welcome.
- * The next **Mothers' Union meeting** will be at **1:30** on **Thursday 3 September**. All welcome.
- * **Coffee Mornings every Wednesday** from 8:45 to 10:30am (**in term time**) will resume in September. All welcome and no charge.
- * The next **Chaps, Chips and Chat** will be on **Thursday 3 September** at 6pm.
- * **The next Handbells** will be on **Thursday 10 September** at 7pm.
- * **The Mothers' Union Handicrafts Group** will meet on **Thursday 17 September** at 1:30pm in the Portacabin. All welcome.
- * **The next Ladies' Puddings and Prosecco** will be on **Friday 18 September** at 7pm.

Forthcoming Events



Christ Church Waltham Cross has a programme of concerts running throughout the rest of 2026. There are lunchtime concerts on the last Wednesday of each month. These are free and refreshments are provided.

Details are as follows.

Wednesday 26 August at 1pm

Duo Tânwen

Flutist **Ruby Howells** and harpist **Bonnie Scott**, who have known each other since early childhood, have a particular passion for performing works by female, underrepresented, and global majority composers.



Wednesday 30 September at 1pm

Matilde Freiria

International guitar soloist **Matilde Freiria** presents an eclectic programme of Latin and Baroque music, from Couperin and Scarlatti, to Coste, Rodrigo, Rudnev and Marchelie.

Wednesday 28 October at 1pm

Hyde Quartet

Formed in 2020, the **Hyde Quartet** is a dynamic ensemble of Royal College of Music students and alumni.



Wednesday 25 November at 1pm

Fitzrovia Trio

London-based ensemble, the **Fitzrovia Trio**, weave together the rich threads of jazz, classical, and Latin traditions.

The Trio features Norwegian bassist **Oda Steinkopf** and Brazilian trumpeter **Izalni Nascimento Jr**, joined on this occasion by British composer, organist, orchestrator and conductor, **Dr Noël Tredinnick**.

There are also two Saturday evening concerts, for which tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for children and students. Please see

<https://samuelbeddard.co.uk/christ-church-music-evening-concerts/>

Saturday 5 September at 7pm

Aonair – Gerard McChrystal

We are delighted to welcome international saxophone soloist Gerard McChrystal to Christ Church for a very special evening concert as part of his latest solo tour, titled Aonair. Over the course of the evening, Gerard will present an eclectic mix of music for solo saxophone and electronics on alto, soprano, and sopranino saxophones.



Saturday 7 November at 7pm

Phoenix Saxophone Orchestra

We are thrilled to welcome nationally acclaimed Phoenix Saxophone Orchestra who feature six different types of saxophone, from the tiny sopranino through the more commonly seen soprano,

alto, tenor and baritone saxophones, to the giant bass sax. The orchestra plays a varied repertoire that ably demonstrates the versatility of the saxophone. From light classical music, jazz and big band favourites to modern pop tunes, there's something to appeal to all musical tastes.

For full details about all concerts, please see:

<https://samuelbeddard.co.uk/christ-church-music>

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>

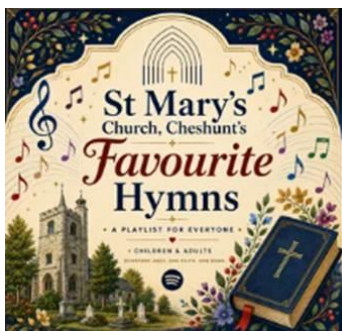
Sung Worship at St Mary's Church, Cheshunt

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

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0HxDMSdphUGw2AqrEcRfVh?si=9360889c305b42f1>



St Mary's Favourite Hymns



You can now listen to St Mary's favourite hymns on Spotify:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0HOEyIgmhP0Rg6AMSyG2MT?si=7a40b97cf50b4430&nd=1&dlsi=3c3b60524a2d4a66>

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

Total Income for June £7,938

Total Expenditure for June £6,950

Budget Surplus/Deficit for June £988

Total Income Year to Date £77,128

Total Expenditure Year to Date £61,085

Budget Surplus/Deficit Year to Date £16,043

Total Parish Share Annual Request 2026 £59,259
11 monthly payments of £4,938, plus a final
payment of £4,941

Parish Share Payment June £4,938

Parish Share Bill Year to Date £29,628

Total Contribution Year to Date £29,628



Angela's August Gardening Tips

- Water hanging baskets and containers at least once a day in hot, dry weather and feed once a week.
- Trim hedges and prune topiary bushes to keep tidy.
- Cut back strawberry plants after fruiting if you don't want to create new plants from runners. New leaves will soon grow.
- Watch out for signs of blight on tomatoes especially in the greenhouse. Keep leaves dry and ensure good air circulation by removing lower leaves and those covering trusses of tomatoes. This helps with ripening too.
- Harvest vegetables regularly whilst at their peak, especially courgettes, chillies and beans.
- Cut back lavender if flowers have faded, trim down to base of old flower spikes and 2-3cm of leaves.
- Water camellias as the flower buds start to form during the summer and this will prevent them from dropping. Mulch around base of plant to prevent water loss.
- Open doors and windows in greenhouse to maximise airflow in hot weather.
- Only cut the lawn if really necessary and on a high setting.
- It's not too late to plant herbaceous flowers for a burst of late summer colour.



Contact Information

Clergy:

The Revd Elizabeth Fellows: 07352 324584, elizabeth@cheshunt.church
(usual day off is Friday)

Church Warden:

Cilean Blanchard: 07506 488318, cileanorr@btinternet.com

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/>

