

CHESHUNT TEAM MINISTRY  
ST MARY THE VIRGIN  
CHESHUNT



**CHURCH NEWSLETTER**

October 2026

## Foreword from Revd Elizabeth Fellows



Welcome to our latest St Mary's newsletter!

September has been a joyful month of worship and celebration at St Mary's and so much to give thanks for, from our Patronal and Harvest Festivals to the Blessing of the Backpacks and the joy of Confirmation.

At the Patronal Festival, we gave particular attention to Mary, after whom our church is named, and reflected on her faith and example. It was a great pleasure to welcome Revd Heather, recently licensed as Associate Minister in the Cheshunt Team, to preach for us, and to welcome her husband, Simon, too.

On Education Sunday, it was lovely to welcome children and young people, parents, teachers, school staff, students and others involved in education for our Blessing of the Backpacks. We prayed for them as they began a new academic year, and everyone received a small gift as a reminder that God is with them every step of the way.

Thank you to everyone who has worshipped, served and celebrated with us this September. As we move into October, we're very much looking forward to hearing from a range of people in our church community during our services. Each person brings their own experiences and perspective, and we're grateful that they're willing to share them with us. We're also continuing our celebration of God's creation with our Pet Blessing Service. A sermon series will also begin in which we will be exploring Paul's letter to the Romans in the New Testament, linked with our Romans Course. If the sermons whet your appetite to explore more, you're very welcome to join the course, either in person or online.

In these pages you can meet Revd Heather Ross, our new Associate Minister, discover what's coming up in worship and events, and find opportunities to explore faith and become more involved in the life of St Mary's.

You'll also find news about some exciting developments in our church building as we seek to make St Mary's an increasingly welcoming, accessible and hospitable place for our whole community.

With every blessing,

**Revd Elizabeth**

## **Worship – Dates of Services in St Mary’s Church**

- ✠ **Saturday 3 October at 3pm - Pet Blessing Service**
- ✠ **Sunday 4 October at 10am – Parish Eucharist**  
with **Mothers’ Union 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**
- ✠ **Thursday 8 October at 11am – Holy Communion**  
**Fr Jake Pass** from Christ Church, Waltham Cross, will lead and preside.
- ✠ **Sunday 11 October at 10am – Service of the Word** led by St Mary’s Lay Leaders of Worship. **Mark Warner** will lead the service and **Andrew Clarke** will share a reflection. **Stacey and Roy**, who were recently confirmed at St Mary’s, will share their journey of faith.
- ✠ **Thursday 15 October at 11am – Holy Communion**  
**Fr Jake Pass** from Christ Church, Waltham Cross, will lead and preside.
- ✠ **Sunday 18 October at 10am – Service of the Word**  
**Angela Corlett** will lead the service, **Revd Heather Ross** will preach and we will hear a congregation member's faith journey.
- ✠ **Thursday 22 October at 11am – Holy Communion**
- ✠ **Sunday 25 October at 10am – All Age Service**  
(with sausages)
- ✠ **Thursday 29 October at 11am – Holy Communion**

## **Future Services for your Diary**

- ✠ **Sunday 1 November at 10am – All Saints’ Day Service**
- ✠ **Sunday 1 November at 4pm – All Souls’ Service**
- ✠ **Sunday 8 November at 10am – All Age Remembrance Service**

## **Prayer Points**

- Give thanks for the funding received and the progress being made on improvements to St Mary’s building.
- Give thanks for those who have recently taken on roles at St Mary’s. Pray for wisdom, guidance and strength as they serve.
- Pray for the eight members of St Mary’s church community attending St Albans Diocese’s Leading Your Church into Growth residential in October. Pray that they will be inspired and encouraged, and that God will use what they learn to help shape St Mary’s plans for future ministry and growth.



## Introducing Revd Heather Ross

Hello! I am Revd Heather Ross and I have recently been licensed as an Associate Minister, serving four churches across the Cheshunt area: St Mary's, St Clement's, St James's, and Christ Church.

I am one of around 200 Distinctive Deacons in the Church of England. Unlike priests, the focus of a deacon is turned outward toward the wider world beyond the church doors, with a particular calling to serve those on the margins. Alongside my parish role, I work two days a week as a qualified healthcare chaplain at Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow.



On a personal note, I am married to Simon and we live in Brickendon. We have two grown-up sons, Stewart, who lives in Turkey, and Ewan, our youngest, who lives in Ireland. I also have an elderly father, Hugh, who also lives in Brickendon near us.

When I am not needed in church, you will often find me sitting in Goff's Oak Kitchen on a Thursday or Friday, "lingering with intent", whether catching up on paperwork, enjoying lunch or having a good conversation. If you spot me at the café, please do come over! Anyone is always welcome to join me for a beverage and a chat.

Kind regards,

**Revd Heather Ross**

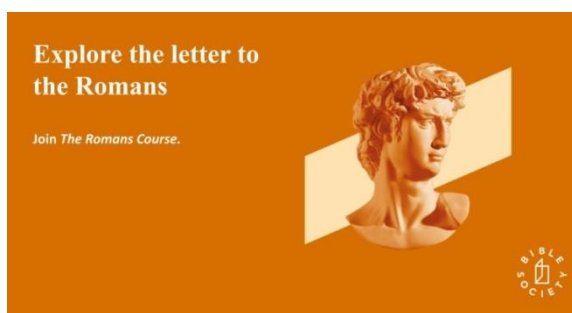


# Our Journey with Jesus

## The Romans Course

It's not too late to join the Romans Course!

We've already begun, but you are still very welcome to join us as we explore Paul's letter to the Romans together. Learn more about what the gospel is and what it might mean for us and for our world today.



Come along in person or online, whether you've been part of the course so far or are joining us for the first time.

### In Person Details:

St Clement's Church, Turnford from 2.30-4pm on every Sunday afternoon in October and November (except 18 October).

### Online Details:

Every Wednesday evening in October and November from 7.30-8.30pm (23 September - 25 November).

Zoom details:

Meeting ID: 829 9532 4679

Passcode: 643459

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82995324679?pwd=BAgSLN5aKzbXJsedALeEQzmLRUnmyQ.1>

| Session | Topic     | Zoom<br>(Wednesday,<br>7:30–8:45pm) | In Person<br>(Sunday, 2:30–4pm, St<br>Clement's Church, Turnford) |
|---------|-----------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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                                                       |

## Opportunities to get involved at St Mary's Church, Cheshunt

### Be part of St Mary's – join our Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is the Church of England's official list of people who are part of the life of a parish. Joining is a simple way of saying, "St Mary's is my church, and I want to have a voice in its life and future".

Being on the Electoral Roll means you can vote at our Annual Church Meeting and, if eligible, stand for election to the Parochial Church Council (PCC), which helps shape the life, mission and ministry of St Mary's.

### Electoral Roll



**Belong**



**Participate**



**Contribute**

You can apply if you are baptised and aged 16 or over, and either live in the parish or meet the Church of England's requirements for regular worship here.

There will be an opportunity to join the Electoral Roll during October. Joining then means you will be able to vote at our Annual Church Meeting in 2027 and, subject to the usual eligibility requirements, stand for election to the PCC.

If St Mary's is your church, we'd love you to consider joining the Roll.

### Do you have experience in HR or recruitment?



Could you offer some time and expertise to help us move forward a one-off project at St Mary's?

To find out more, please speak to Revd Elizabeth or one of the Churchwardens.

## **Could you be part of St Mary's Serving Team?**

Our Serving Team plays an important part in helping worship at St Mary's to flow smoothly and prayerfully, carrying the cross as crucifer, serving as acolytes, taking part in processions and assisting during services.



We're looking for people of all ages to join the team. You don't need any previous experience, just a willingness to get involved. Full training and support will be given.

By serving, you can help create worship that is welcoming, reverent and meaningful, enabling the whole congregation to worship together.

To find out more, please speak to Revd Elizabeth or one of the Churchwardens. We'd love to hear from you!

## **Could you help people remember their loved ones?**

Our Book of Remembrance and Year's Mind help us honour those who have died and assure their families and friends that their loved ones are remembered in the life and prayers of St Mary's.

We are looking for one or two people to help look after this important ministry. It is a mainly administrative role, involving keeping records up-to-date, arranging new entries in the Book of Remembrance and maintaining the names remembered each week.

Behind these simple tasks is something very important, helping people to grieve, remember and find comfort, sometimes long after a funeral has taken place.

If you are organised, reliable and would like to help us offer this quiet but valuable ministry of care, please speak to Revd Elizabeth.

## News from September

### New Bishop of St Albans

On 19 September, **The Right Reverend Dr Andrew Paul Rumsey** was installed as the Bishop of St Albans. As he and his family prepare for their move, he said, "Please know that I will be praying for you, and I ask you to pray for me and our family as we prepare for all that lies ahead".



### Confirmation Service



Warmest congratulations to **Tracy, Roy and Stacey** on their Confirmation. It was a joy to welcome **Bishop Christine Hardman**, who led the service.

We give thanks for this special step in their journey of faith and pray that God will bless, strengthen and guide them as they continue to grow in faith and life with Christ.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the service such a joyful and special occasion.

### Harvest Festival



Our Harvest Festival was a joyful celebration of all the good gifts God has given us. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to the Broxbourne Foodbank and the Christian Aid Harvest Appeal, helping people locally and communities around the world who are being hit hardest by the effects of climate change.



## Mothers' Union



Members of St Mary's Mothers' Union met on Thursday 3 September for a pleasant afternoon of tea and catching up after the summer. Ideas were discussed for next year's programme.

The next meeting is on Thursday 1 October at 1:30pm in Church. Mary McKeand will be sharing some of the items from the St Alban's Diocese MU archives. It promises to be a very interesting afternoon and everyone is welcome.

On Sunday 4 October, there will some input from St Mary's Mothers' Union into the 10am service as part of the 150 anniversary celebrations. We hope that everyone will join us for cake after the service.

On Thursday 15 October, the Handicraft Group will meet in church at 1:30. We plan to have a stall at the Autumn Fayre in November, so if anyone has any craft items that they would like to donate, please see Jill Barkway.

The MU Christmas catalogue is circulating. If you would like to order Christmas cards, calendars etc, please ask around and see who has one at the moment.

Committee members are invited to attend the next committee meeting on Monday 5 October at 2pm, venue to be advised.

## Regular Events

- \* **Church Cleaning and Gardening** from 10am on **Saturday 3 October**. All welcome.
- \* **Coffee Mornings every Wednesday** from 8:45 to 10:30am (**in term time**) will resume in September. All welcome and no charge.
- \* **Chaps, Chips and Chat** will be on **Thursdays 1 and 15 October** at 6pm.
- \* **Handbells** will be on **Thursdays 8 and 22 October** at 7pm.
- \* **The Mothers' Union Handicrafts Group will meet on Thursday 15 October** at 1:30pm in church. All welcome.
- \* **Ladies' Puddings and Prosecco** will be on **Friday 16 October** at 7pm.

## Special October Events

### Pet Blessing Service - Saturday 3 October at 3pm

**PET Blessing SERVICE**

All creatures, great and small, are welcome in God's love.

**Saturday 3rd October 2026 at 3.00pm**

**St Mary's Church, Cheshunt**  
Churchgate, Cheshunt. EN8 9DY

Bring your pet safely, on a lead, in a carrier, or in a photo.

- Moment of remembrance for pets we have loved and lost.
- Voluntary collection for animal charities.
- Everyone welcome

**ST MARY'S CHURCH CHESHUNT** **THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

Find out more   
[www.cheshunt.church](http://www.cheshunt.church)

All are warmly invited to our special Pet Blessing Service, as we celebrate the joy our animals bring and give thanks for God's creation.

Bring your pet along safely on a lead or in a carrier, or bring a photo if they'd be happier at home! There will be an opportunity for each pet to receive a blessing, and a special time to remember pets we have loved and lost.

Our retiring collection will support PDSA, helping provide veterinary care for sick and injured pets whose owners might otherwise be unable to afford it.



Pets and people of all ages are very welcome!

## An Autumn Serenade

# An Autumn Serenade



Join us for an afternoon of choral music  
performed by

## Positif Chamber Choir



**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 3pm**

**St Mary's Church,  
Churchgate, Cheshunt, EN8 9NH**

***Free admission - retiring collection  
in aid of church funds***

Refreshments and raffle after the concert

## Christ Church Music

Two lunchtime concerts with refreshments is taking place at Christ Church Waltham Cross as follows:

**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.

There is also one Saturday evening concert remaining in 2026, 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 7 November at 7pm**

### Phoenix Saxophone Orchestra

The nationally acclaimed Phoenix Saxophone Orchestra will play a varied repertoire from light classical music, jazz and big band favourites to modern pop tunes, there's something to appeal to all musical tastes.

For full concert details, see: <https://samuelbeddard.co.uk/christ-church-music>



## What's in a Shape?



Did you know the octagon is a very significant shape for Christians? It is halfway between a circle, which as the “perfect” shape, eternal without beginning or end, has always represented God, and a square, representing the earth. So, the octagon is symbolic of heaven and earth coming into contact in the person of Jesus.

Are there any octagons in St Mary's Church?

## Future Events

### Autumn Fayre



There are lots of ways to get involved at the Autumn Fayre on Saturday 14 November. If you would like a stall or if you're free to help set up or help on the day, please contact **Michele** on **07932 700069**. Please bring any items for the Fayre and leave them at the back of the church.

## Exciting Improvements at St Mary's



After several years of planning, fundraising and working through the necessary permissions, we're delighted that an exciting programme of lighting and electrical improvements at St Mary's is now going ahead.

The project will include rewiring, new and improved lighting, and additional power sockets around the church. The new lighting will help us show our beautiful church at its best, while the electrical improvements will make the building safer and better equipped for worship, concerts, community events and everything else that happens at St Mary's.

The final arrangements are now being made and we hope the work will begin in the middle of October and be completed in early Advent.

A project of this size will inevitably bring some temporary disruption, and there may be times when particular areas of the church cannot be used as normal. We'll work hard to keep this to a minimum and, as soon as the timetable is confirmed, we'll let you know what to expect and whether any services or activities will be affected.

After all the planning and preparation, it's wonderful to see this important investment in St Mary's becoming a reality. We're really looking forward to seeing the difference it will make!

## Parking

There has recently been some tension around parking locally, so please help us to be good neighbours by continuing to park considerately. In particular, please do not block pavements or park in the carpark next to the church (which is for B3 Living's use).

Parking is available by Whit Hern Park, at the Council Offices (charges apply), or in carefully chosen on-street spaces around the church.

Thank you for your consideration for our neighbours.

**PCC of St. Mary Cheshunt Church**  
**Income/Expenditure**  
**August 2026**

|                                                                                                             |                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Total Income for August                                                                                     | £6,111         |
| Total Expenditure for August                                                                                | £11,081        |
| <b>Budget Surplus/Deficit for August</b>                                                                    | <b>-£4,971</b> |
| <br>                                                                                                        |                |
| Total Income Year to Date                                                                                   | £89,112        |
| Total Expenditure Year to Date                                                                              | £80,382        |
| <b>Budget Surplus/Deficit Year to Date</b>                                                                  | <b>£8,730</b>  |
| <br>                                                                                                        |                |
| Total Parish Share Initial Request 2026<br>11 monthly payments of £4,938, plus a<br>final payment of £4,941 | £59,259        |
| <br>                                                                                                        |                |
| Parish Share Payment August                                                                                 | £4,938         |
| Parish Share Bill Year to Date                                                                              | £39,504        |
| <b>Total Contribution Year to Date</b>                                                                      | <b>£39,504</b> |



## Angela's October Gardening Tips

- Clear leaves from the lawn with a rake and compost, and from other pathways and patios to prevent them from becoming slippery in wet weather.
- Clean greenhouse glass to allow more light in to prevent overwintering plants from becoming tall and spindly in their search for light.
- Weed and mulch vegetable beds with a 3-5cm deep layer of compost to protect and feed soil organisms and improve soil structure.
- Plant garlic bulbs and overwintering onions for a good crop next year.
- Plant containers, borders and beds with spring bulbs for a wonderful early display of colour.
- Remove summer bedding and plant up for autumn and winter with cyclamen, heathers, violas and pansies etc.
- Bring tender plants such as canna under protection and keep on the dry side.
- Deadhead dahlias and any late flowering perennials and they should continue to bloom until the first frosts.
- Plant indoor bulbs such as hyacinths for Christmas flowering, leave in a cool, dark place until the shoots are 5cm before bringing them into the house.
- Clean out cold frames and greenhouses when summer crops such as tomatoes are finished.



## Contact details

### Would you like to receive our newsletter by email?

Keep up to date with news, events and what's happening at St Mary's by having our newsletter sent straight to your inbox.

To sign up, simply:

- complete the attached form or sign up online at <https://forms.gle/67nxpyUx4rG5hPu98>; or
- complete a paper copy in church and return it to the box provided.

You can also return your completed form by email to [hello@cheshunt.church](mailto:hello@cheshunt.church).

## 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>

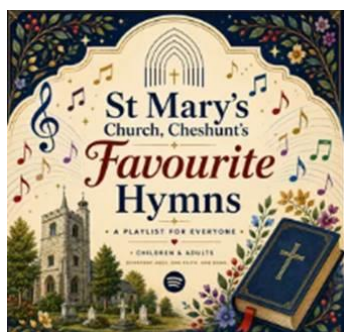
### Sung Worship at St Mary's Church, Cheshunt

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/0HQEyIgmhP0Rg6AMSyG2MT?si=7a40b97cf50b4430&nd=1&dlsi=3c3b60524a2d4a66>

## Contact Information

### Clergy:

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

### Church Warden:

Cilean Blanchard: 07506 488318, [cileanorr@btinternet.com](mailto:cileanorr@btinternet.com)

### Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Vicky Clarke: 07803 203 438, [vickyclareclarke@aol.com](mailto:vickyclareclarke@aol.com)

### Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor:

Jez Hurst: 01727 818107, [safeguarding@stalbans.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@stalbans.anglican.org)

**Parish Office:** 01992 635190 (messages picked up regularly)

Email: [cheshunt.church@stmary1418.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:cheshunt.church@stmary1418.onmicrosoft.com)  
(emails checked regularly)

**Newsletter:** [marian.coombs@cheshunt.church](mailto:marian.coombs@cheshunt.church)

### St Mary's Calendar:

[https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=c\\_26f51d0230dfcdec3d21f5e3033b098afd032e5b31874208c2c2ab1e6e6f1e81%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=Europe%2FLondon](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/>

