CHESHUNT TEAM MINISTRY

ST MARY THE VIRGIN

CHESHUNT



CHURCH NEWSLETTER

November 2026

Foreword from Revd Elizabeth Fellows

Dear St Mary's Church Community,



Through Ordinary Time, we have continued to look expectantly for God in the ordinary rhythms of our lives.

Creationtide brought much to celebrate. Thank you for your generous Harvest gifts to Broxbourne Foodbank and the Christian Aid Harvest Appeal. Our Pet Blessing Service welcomed congregation and parish neighbours with their animal companions, wonderfully hosted by our team. The Autumn Serenade concert and Dewhurst St Mary's School's Harvest Service completed these celebrations of creation.

We also marked 150 years of the Mothers' Union.

My special thanks to everyone who covered services while I was away.

November brings All Saints' Day and our All Souls' Service, when we remember and give thanks for those we have loved and lost. We also look forward to welcoming the community to our Autumn Fayre. Please spread the word and invite someone along.

Plans for new church lighting and wiring are progressing, with installation planned for the New Year.

The final Sunday in November is Advent Sunday, beginning a new church year. Advent and Christmas offer a wonderful opportunity to invite people to church. Flyers and window posters will soon be available to share.

We look forward to welcoming local schools for their services and concerts, alongside our own special services. Could you set aside some time to help welcome and host, or open the church for visiting schools? Sign-up sheets will be available nearer the time.

May we continue to recognise God's presence in everyday life and share his welcome with those around us.

With love and prayers,
Elizabeth

Worship – Dates of Services in St Mary's Church

- **Sunday 1 November** at **10am – All Saints' Day Service**
- **Sunday 1 November** at **4pm – All Souls' Service**
- **Thursday 5 November** at **11am – Holy Communion**
  Fr Jake Pass from Christ Church, Waltham Cross, will lead and preside
- **Sunday 8 November** at **10am – All Age Remembrance Service**
- **Thursday 12 November** at **11am – Holy Communion**
- **Sunday 15 November** at **10am – Parish Eucharist**
- **Thursday 19 November** at **11am – Holy Communion**
- **Sunday 22 November** at **10am – All Age Service**
  (with sausages afterwards)
- **Thursday 26 November** at **11am – Holy Communion**
- **Sunday 29 November** at **10am – Advent Sunday Service**

Special Dates in December and January

- **Sunday 13 December** at **4pm – Carol Service**
- **Sunday 20 December** at **4pm – Blue Christmas Service**
- **Thursday 24 December** at **4pm – Crib Service**
- **Thursday 24 December** at **11:30pm – Midnight Mass**
- **Friday 25 December** at **10am – All Age Christmas Celebration**
  with **Eucharist**
- **Sunday 3 January** at **10am – Epiphany Service**
- **Sunday 31 January** at **4pm – All Age Christingle Service**

Prayer Points for November

Let's pray that:



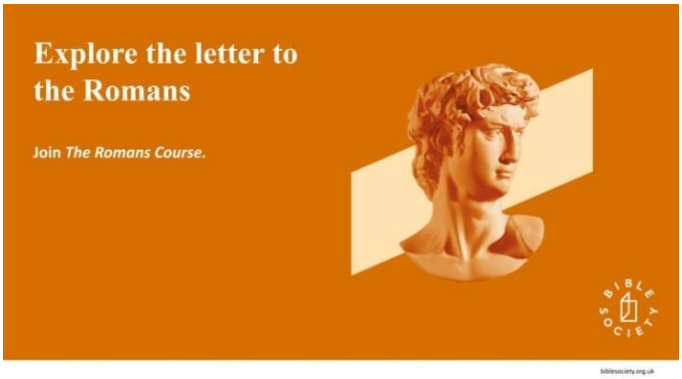
- Everyone who steps through the doors of St Mary's Church, Cheshunt, receives a warm welcome and finds a place to belong and to contribute.

- More people of all ages are drawn to St Mary's Church by the Holy Spirit and through our invitations.

- St Mary's Church continues to grow in depth of faith and numbers.

Our Journey with Jesus

The Romans Course



The Course continues in November and everyone is welcome, either in person or online.

If attending in person, sessions are held at St Clement's Church, Turnford, from 2.30-4pm on all Sunday afternoons in November and on every Wednesday evening in November online from 7.30-8.30pm.

Zoom details:
Meeting ID: 829 9532 4679
Passcode: 643459

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

Journeys of Faith

Two congregation members who were recently confirmed share their faith journeys.

Stacey:

“Ever since I can remember, I have always believed in God, Jesus and our Father. I spent a lot of time going to church through school and the Brownies and the Girl Guides.

I really enjoyed being around the church and the way it made me feel (warm, safe and happy). I often would volunteer to play the keyboard at special services at church and other occasions which made me happy, although still praying and talking to God and Jesus and our Father.

After leaving school and finding my way in life, I didn't really know where to turn. Sometimes I found myself going to church and just sitting and listening. It wasn't until my daughter, Sophie, showed an interest in faith that my husband began looking into his faith and decided to take my daughter to church. Because my husband and daughter started going to church regularly on a Sunday, something inside me was calling.

Unfortunately, I work every weekend, so it became a bit hard for me to attend, so I go on a Thursday morning now at St Mary's, and any time I'm off work, I will go to Sunday service, which I really enjoy.

Since starting to attend St Mary's Church, I have been made to feel very, very welcome and really enjoy being around Christian people. Elizabeth is an amazing reverend and has invited us to attend Alpha class, which I have found very interesting and strengthened my faith.

We (I mean my husband and I) had made the choice to become closer to God by being baptised, and oh my, how lovely that day was.

I feel closer now more than I have before and really enjoy attending church whenever I can.

Elizabeth spoke to us about confirmation, and in my eyes, it just makes complete sense to me.

I WANT to be closer. I want to be involved, and this is the perfect way to offer my life completely to our Father and to help others who have lost their way.

This is something quite close to my heart, and it would mean a lot to me to be confirmed.”

Roy B:

“I'm going to do this as briefly as possible, but without some context it will sound a bit shallow.

The quick version is that I have spent so long without Jesus in my life that I just want to do as much as I can as fast as I can to catch up. I felt I had missed so much when I finally came to St Mary's, as it's such a wonderful place and Reverend Elizabeth and the team are so welcoming.

I was brought up with no religious belief, even though my father sang in the church choir and my mother was baptised. I managed to get to the age of 45, only ever entering a church for weddings and funerals, and never thinking anything other than this is nice for people who are afraid of death.

Last year, my daughter asked for a bible and as anybody would, I bought her one and thought no more of it. A few weeks later, she asked for a specific study bible which I bought for her. Not long after, she asked to attend church, so I found a local, very small church that we started to attend every Sunday. After a while, I started to read the bible and research almost obsessively. I had finally found Jesus while just trying to have enough information to be able to have conversations with my daughter about something that had become important to her. After a few months, the small church we were attending closed and we tried another church. Unfortunately, my daughter was not so comfortable there as this church’s congregation was predominantly older ladies who were very happy to see her each week.

After a couple of weeks of not going to church, I decided to find a new place to be closer to Jesus. Luckily for me, St Mary's is the closest to my home. The first time I attended a Sunday service, I knew I was in the right place. I instantly wanted to be baptised and confirmed so I could fully participate and give my life to God. I enjoy spending time at church and have recently been attending the Alpha course to help build my knowledge. I am looking forward to attending the Romans course at St Clements soon. I would like to add I also have very high regard for Reverend Helen.

So, in a nutshell, I am ready to commit fully to the Church and God at this time in my life and I am regretting not doing it sooner. It means a lot to me, and I believe God brought me to church through my daughter, as only my children could have taken me willingly to church after the years of being told the opposing, so-called facts of the universe and diluting any belief I had as a child.”

Mothers' Union

Following a fascinating glimpse into the St Albans Diocese Archives at the monthly meeting in October, St Mary's branch celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Mothers' Union at the 10am Parish Service on 4 October. The banner was paraded and rededicated and blankets made by members were blessed ready for donation to local hospitals. There was a display from our Archive, as the branch is nearly 125 years old, and there was cake for everyone following the service.



November promises to be another busy month for members.

On **5 November,** we welcome Heather Ross, our new Deacon, who will be talking about her work as a hospital chaplain (1:30 in church, no charge, refreshments).

On **14 November,** members will be holding a stall at the Autumn Fayre, with all sorts of handicrafts.

On **19 November**, members are invited to join the 11am Service for Corporate Communion, followed by a light lunch, prepared by the Committee. The St Mary's Handicraft Group will meet afterwards.

Committee members will attend the Diocesan Sharing Day in Letchworth on **21 November** and hopefully, the Christmas cards ordered will be available for collection. Then there is an East Cluster meeting on **25 November** when we meet other branches to exchange news.

Everyone is welcome to come to the meetings. If you are interested in becoming a member, please take a leaflet or speak to a Committee member.

Note to members: please bring items for the Christmas raffle to the November meeting if possible or give to Elspeth when convenient.

Vicky Clarke

Special November Events



ST MARY'S CHURCH
CHESHUNT

Remembrance Sunday



All Age Service

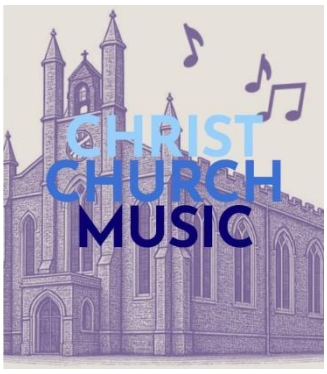
Sunday 8th November
10am


ST MARY'S CHURCH
CHESHUNT
AUTUMN FAYRE
Saturday 14th November
11am to 3pm
Refreshments
Tombola
Soup and filled rolls
Books
Clothing
Knitted crafts
Sweets
Homemade jams and pickles
Bric a brac
Baby clothes and toys
Homemade cakes
and more...!
Everyone welcome
Book a stall by calling Michele
on 07932 700069
HAND MADE
MADE WITH CARE

Other Events

Christ Church Music at Christ Church, Waltham Cross

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.

Tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for children and students.

Please see https://samuelbeddard.co.uk/christ-church-music-evening-concerts/

Wednesday 25 November at 1pm

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

This is a free lunchtime concert with refreshments.

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

Saturday 19 December at 5pm

Christ Church Christmas Extravaganza 2026



Following the success of last year's Christmas concert at Christ Church, we are proud to present this year's Christmas Extravaganza, presented by our Director of Music, Samuel Beddard – joined by an eclectic ensemble of musical friends.

Refreshments will be available at our fully licensed bar both before the concert and during the interval.

Tickets (including booking fee) are from £5.42 to £10.84. To book tickets, please see:
https://www.ticketsource.com/booking/select/yeepzdnwvgkp

Carols at the Cross



A group of local churches will be carol singing in the Pavilions Shopping Centre in Waltham Cross on **Friday 11 December** from **12:20 to 13:30**. Everyone is welcome to go along and participate.

Please let Fr Jake know if you plan to attend (FrJakePass@outlook.com, 07990148491).

Regular Events at St Mary's Church

* **Church Cleaning and Gardening** from 10am on **Saturday 7 November**. All welcome.
* **Coffee Mornings every Wednesday** from 8:45 to 10:30am (**in term time**). All welcome and no charge.
* **Chaps, Chips and Chat** will be on **Thursdays 5 and 19 November** at 6pm**.**
* **Handbells will be on Thursdays 12 and 26 November** at 7pm.
* **The Mothers' Union Handicrafts Group will meet on Thursday 19 November at** 1:30pm in church. All welcome.
* **Ladies' Puddings and Prosecco** will be on **Friday 20 November** at 7pm.

PCC of St. Mary Cheshunt Church
Income/Expenditure
September 2026

Total Income for September	£8,207
Total Expenditure for September	£6,394
Budget Surplus/Deficit for September	**£1,813**

Total Income Year to Date	£97,318
Total Expenditure Year to Date	£86,776
Budget Surplus/Deficit Year to Date	**£10,542**

Total Parish Share Initial Request 2026 11 monthly payments of £4,938, plus a final payment of £4,941	£59,259
Parish Share Payment September	£4,938
Parish Share Bill Year to Date	£44,442
Total Contribution Year to Date	**£44,442**

Angela's November Gardening Tips



- Clear leaves and fallen fruit from the lawn with a rake, then compost to prevent brown patches on the grass.

- Continue to plant spring bulbs for a colourful display next year. Plant in pots, borders or naturalise in grass.

- With colder weather to come, have some horticultural fleece to hand to throw over tender plants if necessary.

- Consider raising patio pots and tubs off the ground with terracotta or ceramic feet or even bricks to prevent waterlogging over winter.

- Weed flower beds, cut back perennial plants and mulch to protect crowns from winter frost.

- Plant indoor bulbs such as hyacinths and amaryllis for Christmas flowering.

- On a dry day, give your lawn a final mow on a high cut setting.

- Encourage birds into the garden with topped-up bird feeders and a source of fresh water.

- Clean garden furniture and then cover to protect from winter weather.



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

What's in a Shape?



In the October Newsletter, we asked if you could see any octagons in St Mary's Church. Octagons are significant as they are regarded as being halfway between a circle, which is the "perfect" shape, eternal without beginning or end, representing God, and a square, representing the earth. So, the octagon is symbolic of heaven and earth coming into contact in the person of Jesus.

St Mary's 12th century font is octagonal, as is the pulpit. Can you see any others?

Contact Information

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

Church Warden:
Cilean Blanchard: via Parish Office 01992 635190, cilean@cheshunt.church

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
Email: hello@cheshunt.church

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/

ST MARY'S CHURCH
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