Our Team

Minister with pastoral responsibility – vacant

Honorary Assisting Clergy: The Right Revd David Bannerman
The Revd Canon Paul Miller

Churchwardens:
Caroline Hannah
Malcolm Hall (Assistant Churchwarden, fabric & maintenance)
Email: smawarden@ashfordchurches.co.uk

Director of Music: Bryan Gipps. Email: bryangipps@gmail.com

Parish Administrator: Libby Varley

Tel: 01233 620433; Email: info@ashfordchurches.co.uk

Pastoral Team: Caroline Hannah, The Rt Revd David Bannerman,
Lynne Miller and June Wenborn

Safeguarding

It is everyone's responsibility to protect children and vulnerable adults. If you have any concerns, please talk to one of our safeguarding officers, or a member of the Clergy.

The Ashford Town Parish Safeguarding Officer: Lis Webb

Tel.: 07849 903378; email: lis.webb@ashfordchurches.co.uk

Local Safeguarding Officer, St Mary's Ashford: Lynne Miller

Email: lynne.miller@ashfordchurches.co.uk

Support St Mary's

To support our ministry and the maintenance of our beautiful church you can: give cash on the plate during services, or at any time in the various donation boxes around the church; use the card machine, which is at the back of the church; give online, either as a one-off gift or as a regular gift via the Parish Giving Scheme, using the website (https://tinyurl.com/4zc2vwzs) or the QR codes on the posters around church and on this sheet. Thank you for your generosity. If you have any questions, please contact our local Finance Officer, Kathryn – email: ksmallchurch@gmail.com.

CHURCH NEWS November 2026

Welcome to St Mary's

A special welcome if you are new to our church or visiting us. If you have any questions about our services, or would like to know more about our activities, please speak to one of the Welcome Team or any member of the clergy, or to our café staff if you're here midweek. Alternatively, use the contact details on this sheet to get in touch.

This Month, Please Pray for …

The Sick and the Bereaved, in our community and beyond.

The Anglican Communion, especially:

- Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America (w/c 1 November)
- Province de L'Elglise Anglicane Du Congo (w/c 8 November)
- Iglesia Anglicana de Chile (w/c 15 November)
- The Church of England (w/c 22 November)
- Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui (w/c 29 November)

Our Church: For those who prepare and lead our prayers on Sundays; for all of us, that we are faithful in seeking prayerfully for God's kingdom to come amongst us. That we may grow in Prayer.

Our Town Centre: For those living in new-build accommodation, especially those who have moved to Ashford from elsewhere and are seeking to find community here.

Our Priorities for this Year:

1. Improve the information we make available to visitors.
2. Explore how our faith relates to what's happening in the world.
3. Expand what we offer for children and young people.

Find out more:

Contact our Parish Administrator to receive regular updates via email about St Mary's and the parish of which we are a part.

https://www.ashfordtownparish.co.uk/ashfordtowncentre

https://www.facebook.com/stmarysashford

Sunday Services at St Mary's this Month:

1 November - All Saints' Day

10am Holy Communion (1 John 3.1-3; Matthew 5.1-12)
4pm Service of Light (Lamentations 3.22-26 & 31-33;
1 Thessalonians 4.13-18; John 11.17-27)
P*lease add any names that you would like to be read out at this service to the list at the back of the church. Thank you.*

8 November - Remembrance Sunday

9:30am Remembrance Service
(1 Thessalonians 4.13-end; Matthew 25.1-13)

15 November - 2nd Sunday before Advent

10am Holy Communion (1 Thessalonians 5.1-11; Matthew 25.14-30)

22 November - Christ the King

8am BCP Holy Communion (Jeremiah 23.1-6; Luke 23.33-43)
10am Holy Communion (Ephesians 1.15-end; Matthew 25.31-end)

29 November - Advent Sunday

10am Holy Communion (Isaiah 64.1-9; Mark 13.24-end)
4pm Reflective Service for Advent
(Proverbs 8.22-31; Jeremiah 23.5-6; Isaiah 11.1-3a;
Psalm 118.19-29; Isaiah 9.2,6-7; Ephesians 2.19-22;
Matthew 1.18-23)

Regular Events in church:

Every Sunday (except Remembrance Sunday): 10:00am – Sunday worship

Every Tuesday: 10:00am–12:00pm – Community Café, with Arts & Crafts

Every Thursday: 10:30am–1:00pm – IGNITE Church Ashford

Every Saturday: 10:00am–12:00pm – Community Café

Second Saturday of each month: 9:30am-10am — gathering in prayer for our church and the community we serve (this month's date: 14 November)

Church Meetings this month:

Wednesday 11 November: PCC, 7:30pm, at Kingsnorth church

Monday 23 November: LLT, 7pm, here at St Mary's Ashford town centre.

Upcoming Events:

Friday 6 November - QUIZ NIGHT, in aid of the Organ Fund - 7pm for 7:30pm start - £5 per person - maximum of 6 people per team - individual players welcome as teams can be formed on the night. Please bring your own drinks & nibbles. Booking is not essential, but it is useful to know how many people to expect, so please sign up on the sheet at the back of church in advance if you can; if not, please still feel free to turn up on the night. Everyone is welcome.

Saturday 21 November - CHRISTMAS FAYRE - 10am-12noon - in church. Donations of items for stalls, tombolas and raffle are needed. Please leave them at the back of church or speak to a member of either the LLT or the Welcoming Team.

News:

Message from the Pastoral Team: WE NEED YOUR HELP - in our current situation at St Mary's, we have no full-time priest to oversee pastoral issues, so we, as the Church family, all need to be alert to spotting who's not in church from week to week. If you realise that someone is 'missing' in the area around where you sit in church, or you are concerned about anyone in our congregation, or, indeed, if you are planning to be away from church for a prolonged period (eg: holiday, operation), please contact one of the 4 members of the pastoral team, as named overleaf, and we will try to follow up on your concerns. We really value your help and support so that we can continue to love and care for our Church community here. Thank you.

School Governor Vacancies: St Mary's CofE Primary School is looking for three Foundation Governors to join the existing panel, as well as a Local Authority Governor. Preferably, these should not be parents of children at the school as these are already represented. For further details, please speak to Nicole Osborne, John Small or Aimee Babbs.

Support for Nepal: Ashford Town Parish donated £1000 from its funds to charities supporting the victims of floods in Nepal. A further £750 was raised for through SumUp transactions at Sunday services across the parish in October.