

Our Team

Team Rector - pastoral focus, St Mary's:

The Revd Canon Dr Jeremy Worthen

Tel: 07549 173565; Email: jeremy.worthen@ashfordchurches.co.uk

Honorary Assisting Clergy: The Right Revd David Bannerman &

The Revd Canon Paul Miller

Churchwardens: Caroline Hannah; Malcolm Hall (Assistant Churchwarden for fabric & maintenance)

Email: smawarden@ashfordchurches.co.uk

Director of Music: Bryan Gipps

Email: bryangipps@gmail.com

Parish Administrators: Libby Varley & Lynwen Paddy –

Email: info@ashfordchurches.co.uk Phone: 01233 620433

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

Phone: 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 AUGUST 2025

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 below to get in touch.

This month, please pray for...

The Anglican Communion: The Episcopal Church in the Philippines (w/c 3rd August), Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda (w/c 10th August), The Scottish Episcopal Church (w/c 17th August), the Church of the Province of South East Asia (w/c 24th August), and The Church of South India (United) (w/c 31st August).

Our church: Our music: for Bryan, our musical director, and the choir, as they have a well-deserved break this month; for all of us, that the music we offer in our worship would unite us in wonder, love and praise.

Our town centre: Revelation, running events here at St Mary's, and also elsewhere, as they seek to bring people together to enjoy the arts here in Ashford.

Those facing health concerns: Joan Bannerman, Cyril Bishop, Jonathan Dance, Abbie Locking, Katie Ridley, Ann Town.

Our priorities for this year:

1. Praying for Growth & Growing in Prayer
2. Improving our Publicity and Communications

Find out more

Contact the Parish Administrators 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>

Services at St Mary's this month:

3rd August, 10:00am: 7th Sunday after Trinity. *Praying with the Bible 2: A Psalm of Trust – Psalm 62*

10th August, 10:00am: 8th Sunday after Trinity. *Praying with the Bible 3: A Psalm of Lament – Psalm 88*

17th August, 10:00am: 9th Sunday after Trinity. *Praying with the Bible 4: A Psalm of Wonder – Psalm 139*

24th August, 8:00am & 10:00am: St Bartholomew the Apostle

31st August, 10:00am: 11th Sunday after Trinity. *Praying with the Bible 5: An Apostle Intercedes – Ephesians 3.14–21*

Regular events:

Every Sunday: 10:00am – Sunday worship (usually Holy Communion)

Every Monday: (except Bank Holidays): 8:30am – morning prayer;
10:00am–12:00pm – Take a Break Café

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

Every Thursday: 11:30am–1:00pm – Ignite Ashford

Every Saturday: 10:00am–12:00pm – Community Café; second Saturday, 9:30am – gathering in prayer for our church and the community we serve

Getting Involved

The **Serving and Chalice** family are looking for new people to join them in this important ministry for our Sunday services. If you have ever felt a calling to either role please do speak to Nicole or any of the others in the team. You must be over 18 for the Chalice Assistant role, and both roles require a DBS check. We look forward to having you join us soon. Nicole.

Improving our Publicity and Communications: The group met last month and agreed it would be great to use digital projection more regularly on Sunday mornings, for example, to show Bible readings. We need a small team to make this happen. No experience needed – we'll show you how! If you're interested, please speak to Vic, Caroline, or Jeremy.

Upcoming events:

Saturday 2nd August, 9:00am – Men's Breakfast: All men connected with St Mary's are very welcome to join us at the Singleton Environment Centre.

Sunday 7th September – Patronal Festival: We'll be celebrating our church and the saint to whom it is dedicated – the Blessed Virgin Mary – with a special service on this day, followed by what we hope might become an annual church meeting and lunch together. Please join us if you can for a morning of worship, discussion and fellowship.

Saturday 13th September, 7:30pm – Quiz Night: The Social Committee will be holding a quiz night. Doors open 7:00pm, Quiz starts 7:30pm. Tickets are £10 and if you don't have a team, come along and join with others. Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Sunday 28th September, 10:00am – Harvest Festival: Join us for a special all-age Harvest 'Service of the Word' (without Holy Communion), designed to be welcoming for all – especially those new to church. A good occasion to invite friends and family to join you, and if you can, bring donations for the food bank (which will be collected during the service).

Saturday 11th October, 9:30am–12:00pm – Parish Mini Conference: Join us at St Michael & All Angels Kingsnorth for this year's Parish Mini Conference. It will include three related sessions; a reflection on Jesus' ministry with guest speaker Steve Coneys, a 'Quiet Revival' workshop led by Revd. Dr Steve Horne, and an interactive session led by Revd. Canon Dr Jeremy Worthen on the Spirit's movement in our Parish. A light lunch will be held afterwards.

Saturday 22nd November, Christmas Fayre: please put the date in your diary!

Other News:

Praying for Growth and Growing in Prayer: During the school summer holidays, we're following a sermon series at the 10:00am services on 'Praying with the Bible', particularly using the book of Psalms.

Summer Fayre: We are pleased to announce that the Summer Fayre raised £817.05 for the church. Thank you to all those involved, attended or donated to the event.

Invicta Singers Concert: The concert held on the 20th July raised £173 for Ignite and £173 for the Church funds. Thank you to anyone involved.

Children and young people: Most Sundays at 10am we offer activities for Primary-aged and pre-school children from the sermon until the Peace.

Home Groups: We have several home groups for prayer, reflection, and fellowship. Maggie and David Heaton host one that meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 11am – please speak to them if you're interested. If that time doesn't suit, you can talk to Jeremy about other options.