

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 JULY 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 Church of Nigeria (w/c 6th July), The Church of North India (United) (w/c 13th July), The Church of Pakistan (United) (w/c 20th July), and the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea (w/c 27th July).

Our church: Local Leadership Team: Jeremy (chair), Sally-Ann (secretary), Bryan, Caroline, Kathryn, Lynne (Miller), Malcolm, Mary, Teena – for vision, discernment and determination.

Our town centre: Town centre shops and businesses; for the ecumenical town centre chaplaincy to staff there; for those who come into our town centre for shopping and services.

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:

6th July, 10:00am: 3rd Sunday after Trinity.

6th July, 6:00pm: Evensong at **St Mary's Great Chart**.

13th July, 10:00am: 4th Sunday after Trinity.

20th July, 10:00am: 5th Sunday after Trinity. *Leading Your Church Into Growth Step 7: Beginning a planned Journey of Growth.*

27th July, 8:00am: Book of Common Prayer service.

27th July, 10:00am: 6th Sunday after Trinity. *Praying with the Bible 1: The Lord's Prayer.*

Regular events:

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

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

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

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

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

Church meetings this month:

Tuesday 8th July – Local Leadership Team.

Upcoming events:

Sunday 6th July, 6:00pm – Choral Evensong: The evensong on the first Sunday of the month will be held at St Mary's Great Chart sung by the combined parish choir.

Saturday 12th July, 9:20am–12:00 pm – Annual Summer Fayre: There will be lots of stalls – tombola; raffle; books; cakes; children's crafts; etc. All the proceeds go to the church. Please bring in donations of goods for the Fayre any Sunday. It's a really important occasion for being open to the community, as well as raising church funds.

Growing in Prayer: All are welcome to take part in the final session of The Prayer Course that we started in Lent on 'Spiritual Warfare' – Monday 21st July, 7:30pm here at St Mary's, or Tuesday 22nd July, 11:00am at St Mary's Community Centre, Rylands Road.

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 at 9am for good food and conversation. Please speak to Bishop David Bannerman for more information.

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. Further details are coming soon – please save the date if you can!

Saturday 13th September, 7:30pm – Quiz: The social committee will be holding a quiz night, all are welcome!

Other News:

Children and young people: We're glad to have people of all ages as part of our church family. Most Sundays at 10am we offer activities for Primary-aged and pre-school children from the sermon until the Peace. Everyone is warmly welcome to join in.

Home Groups: We have several groups that meet in homes to pray, reflect and grow in fellowship. One of these is hosted by Maggie and David Heaton, meeting on second and fourth Thursdays at 11am. If you'd be interested in joining and would like to know more, please speak to them. If you'd like to be part of a group but that time doesn't work, please have a word with Jeremy. We'd like this to be an option for everyone!

St Mary's Ashford Church of England Primary School: The recent Ofsted report praised many of the great things happening in our church school, beginning: 'Pupils thrive at this wonderfully warm and welcoming school. They embody the school vision to "shine as lights in the world".' Children will be having their end of year services at the church on 18 and 21 July.

Organ Refurbishment Fund: St Mary's Singers presented a fantastic concert last Saturday evening, and, with the assistance of volunteers and an enthusiastic audience, helped to raise over £600 for the Organ Appeal. Thank you to all who gave to this event.