

ASSISTANT MINISTER, ST MARY'S, CHESHAM

We are a large, well established evangelical parish church looking for someone to assist our Team Rector in developing the mission and ministry of our church. We'd love you to think about taking this opportunity to join us here in the beautiful Chilterns and within easy reach of London. This post would particularly suit someone finishing their first curacy.

This is a full time locally supported ministry post

www.stmaryschesham.org

WHAT DOES THE ROLE INVOLVE?

Here are some of the characteristics we are looking for:

- humility in leadership, to work in a senior position but under the Team Rector's leadership and comfortable in the "2nd chair"
- ability to work in a team with a flexible approach to areas of responsibility
- Prayerfulness, hardworking, gracious under pressure, ability to be creative and easy going and able to enjoy having fun
- Experience of Christian ministry at secondary school level
- Competence and confidence in use of audio visual resources in worship and preaching

Here are the key areas of responsibility:

- **Expository Preaching**, Teaching and Leading Services.
- Taking a lead in building up the next generation **18-35's** at St Mary's
- Chiltern Hills Academy - acting in an official capacity as **Chaplain to the School** and working closely with the Principal (the equivalent of one day a week).
- **Co-ordinating** the smooth running of services at St Mary's with oversight of our music, PA & AV teams.
- **Small groups** - facilitating the St Mary's small groups ministry- training and resourcing leaders, encouraging groups to reach out and serve, providing resources for group use (as agreed with the team rector to complement the Sunday teaching themes), encouraging new members to join groups.
- **Evangelism** - being an active and visible presence in Chesham, sharing faith 1:1 and running evangelistic and evangelism training courses (e.g. Christianity Explored, Baptism and Wedding preparation courses).
- Playing a full part both in the St Mary's Team and in the **Great Chesham Team**.
- Facilitate the church monthly **prayer meeting**



ABOUT CHESHAM



Chesham is an historic market town which lies 30 miles north-west of London. Nestled in the Chiltern Hills, it is home to about 27,000 people and there is a draft local plan for an additional 500 homes. It was known for its four 'B's' - beer, boots, brushes and Baptists – which gives a good indication of its industrial and Christian heritage. The town is less affluent than its neighbours but retains the independent spirit which made it a powerhouse of non-conformity from the 16th to early 20th centuries. That is tempered by the fact that Thomas Harding was held at the parish church of St Mary's in 1532 before his trial and death sentence for reading the Bible in English.

Chesham was the first Fair Trade Town in Britain. It has a busy Foodbank supported by several churches, a Community Fridge, and a Christians Against Poverty centre. There are two supermarkets and the High Street features independent stores, charity shops and restaurants. The twice weekly market is a great focal point.

The high standards of its 13 schools have helped Chesham become a favoured location for families. There is a mix of state and independent schools, including Chesham Grammar School and the Chiltern Hills Church of England Academy.

Access to London via the Metropolitan Line is good; larger shopping centres of Watford and High Wycombe are not far away, and we are close to the M25, M1 & M40 motorways.

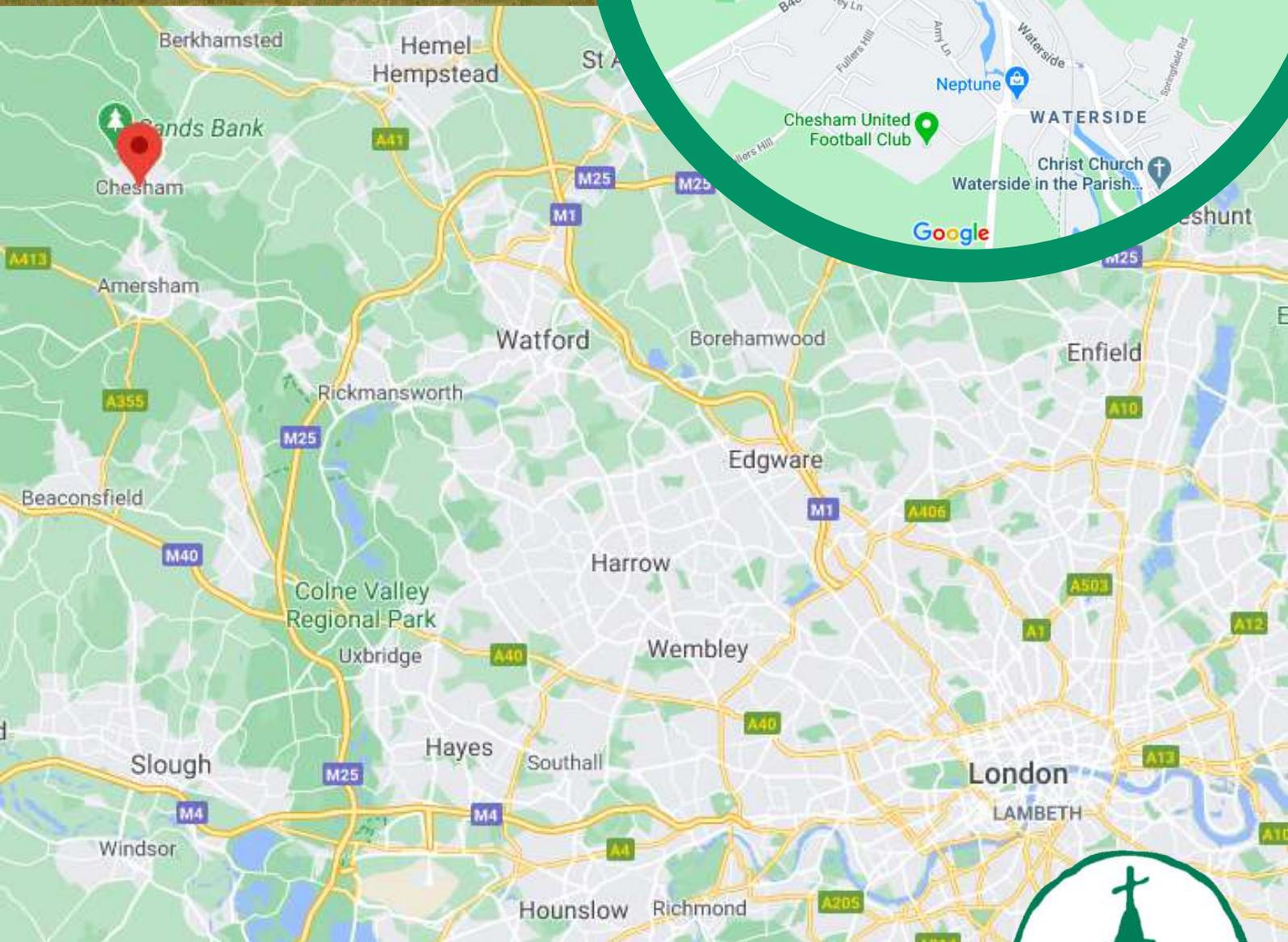
The Chesham community is diverse, with some wealthy areas and two of the most deprived wards in Buckinghamshire, and has been blessed for many decades by the arrival of people from all over the world. Church leaders have established good relationships with the town's mosque leaders.

Chesham is a vibrant, challenging and surprisingly real place where compassion, tolerance and community are cherished.



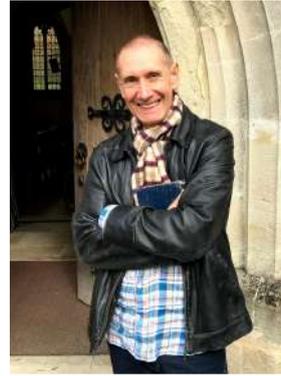
WHERE WE ARE

Chesham could be described as a country town, or maybe a semi rural suburban area



ABOUT ST MARY'S

St Mary's is the historic Parish Church of Chesham.
It is home to a friendly church family of all ages, a variety
of backgrounds and at different stages of faith.



We are...

- a loving family of Christians living under the headship of Christ, aware of our differences and our need for each other as we live and witness faithfully for Christ;
- Bible people, committed to prayerful expository preaching, studying and living out God's word in the power of the Holy Spirit;
- imperfect disciples of Christ being transformed by his grace, equipped by his word and strengthened by his Spirit to serve in his world;
- united in Christ, believing that every Christian has a vital part to play;
- a growing church with people of all ages, stages and backgrounds, and welcoming to all;
- ambassadors for Christ in our town, workplaces, schools and communities;
- working for social justice in our community and beyond;
- delighted to partner in the gospel with the worldwide church, supporting, working and praying alongside our brothers and sisters around the world;
- stewards of a beautiful, historic building that has been alive with prayer and worship for hundreds of years.

The Team Rector runs St Mary's with the support of the staff team, as well as extensive lay leadership and much of the congregation filling a variety of voluntary roles. The next page gives a snapshot of our ministry and activities.



On a typical Sunday prior to lockdown, around 275 people attended our services. There are currently two weekly **Sunday services** at 9 & 11am, a monthly afternoon Songs of Praise service and a termly afternoon Choral Evensong. An evening service had begun to develop before lockdown and will need to be reestablished. Each service has a distinctive style, but all keep God's word and worship of Him as the central focus.

Children's and youth groups run during the 11am service. These have continued on zoom over lockdown. **Messy Church** and other special events for children run throughout the year.

Once a month, there is a midweek **prayer meeting** for the whole church.

Small groups play a vital role in the church family, as people meet to study the Bible, pray and enjoy fellowship. Most groups meet six times per term. There are also daytime groups for women, one of which has a crèche. There is also a group for men – Beer and Bible for Busy Blokes.

The **Pastoral Care Team** at St Mary's has a group of around 20 volunteers and is very effective in keeping in touch and caring for the congregation.

Christianity Explored is an informal course to help people investigate Christianity and runs at various times of the year, usually to link with a specific outreach event.





Our two **toddler groups** run midweek in the central area of the main church. These allow many young parents, some of whom may never have been into a church, to visit in a non-threatening way and find love and friendship. Our toddler groups have been hugely instrumental in bringing new people into our church.



The St Mary's **Holiday Club** started in 2018 and runs in the last week of the school summer holidays. Most children who attend are from non-church families, while the organising team are all from our church family. At the end, the families are all invited to our 11am Sunday service and to stay for a picnic lunch. This has been a wonderful way to meet and get to know families who do not normally come to church. **Schools ministry** in several local schools also forms part of a regular week at St Mary's.



Members of St Mary's and other local churches support the **Chiltern Foodbank and Community Fridge**. We long to see lives transformed by turning Jesus' teaching on poverty into practical action.

As the parish church, we conduct many **occasional offices** and seek to use these to introduce people to Jesus.

St Mary's has developed close links with 10 UK-based and overseas **mission partners**, with growing prayer and involvement. Our mission partners are featured each week in services and through our small groups. We have recently led two humanitarian missions to support township Christians in South Africa.



In addition to the Rector and assistant minister, the following play key roles in the life of St Mary's

Curate

NSM Curate

Children's Minister

Youth Minister

Administator

Lay Ministers

Church Wardens

Pastoral Coordinator

THE ST MARY'S TEAM

Vacant. St Mary's has trained many curates and we are hopeful of having a new curate join us in summer 2022.

A **part time non stipendiary curate** licensed in July 2020, works Sundays and two other days a week.

Hannah Martin has led the children's work at St Mary's and supported other work across the parish since 2013. She trained through St John's College, Nottingham, with CYM and previously worked as an IT technician.

John Spence has led the youth work since 2012. He is responsible for youth work at St Mary's and across the parish. John is married to Dani, and they have one young son.

Lynette Price took on this role in January, 2019, having been a member of St Mary's for more than 25 years. She is based in the parish office, which is in the Rectory annexe.

The ministry of St Mary's is supported by two lay ministers, **Geoff Houston** and **Jean Corfield**.

Our churchwardens, **Paul Brooks** and **Ruth Brown**, take a very active role in the life of St Mary's.

Sue Brooks took on this role just prior to lockdown to keep the church family connected and cared for.

St Mary's



ABOUT THE PARISH

**St Mary's is part of the Parish of Great Chesham.
7 churches working together in and around Chesham are
divided into five Districts, under the oversight of the
Team Rector, who is based at St Mary's Church.**

As a team ministry, the seven churches in the parish (working in five districts) aim to work together to reach all of Chesham and the surrounding villages with the good news of Jesus Christ. Each of our churches has a distinctive worship style and emphasis, but the team, which is committed to clear Bible-based ministry, has a common desire to see God's kingdom grow.

Relationships within the parish staff team are very strong. The clergy and full-time staff meet weekly for prayer, Bible study, catching up, diary planning, parish business and eccentric quizzes. We have an annual Christmas lunch for staff and their families.

Across the parish there are those who hold both complementarian and egalitarian perspectives on men and women's ministry. Both perspectives are welcome on the parish staff team.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) meets six times a year and includes clergy and representatives from each of the districts. Much of the finance, buildings, and safeguarding work is discussed, planned and resourced at parish level. We are supported in this by our lead patron CPAS.

Each of the five districts has its own District Church Council (DCC). The DCCs meet six times a year and are responsible for giving direction to, and oversight of, their worshipping communities. We follow the diocesan principle of 'whatever else is happening in your parish the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults has to take precedence'. Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is supported by District Safeguarding Officers and we keep safeguarding needs under regular review.



OTHER CHURCHES IN THE PARISH

St John's Bellingdon

St John's in Bellingdon is a small, friendly country fellowship meeting in a "tin tabernacle". Sunday service 10am weekly (Communion monthly) USA : 15-20

Emmanuel Chesham

Emmanuel is an active and vibrant Anglican Evangelical Church in the Renew network made up of all ages. Sunday services 10am & 6pm weekly USA : 180

Hope Chesham

Hope Church is a new evangelical church serving the community in the Hivings and Pond Park area of Chesham. Sunday service 10.30am weekly. USA : 56

St John's Ashley Green

St John's Church serves the small village of Ashley Green on the north east edge of Chesham. The 9.30 am Sunday service is central in style. Weekly USA : 27

Christ Church Waterside

Christ Church is a welcoming church community of all ages which has served the Waterside area for more than 150 years. Sunday service 9.30 weekly Eucharist is central in style and vestments are worn . USA : 47

St George's Tylers Hill

St George's is a little church in the woods serving the communities of Tylers Hill, Botley and Ley Hill. Sunday service 11.15am weekly (Communion fortnightly) USA : 28.

*USA pre Covid figures

St Mary's



WEEKLY PATTERN

Your week will generally be structured around the following pattern of meetings and services.

PRAYER

You will meet with the whole Parish Staff Team for prayer and Bible study on Monday mornings and for prayer on Thursday mornings.

You will take part in a monthly St Mary's Prayer evening.

PLANNING

After Monday morning prayers we set aside an hour for the whole Parish staff team to discuss parish matters and for training.

The St Mary's Staff usually meet after this to work out priorities for the week and who will do what.

Once a month the wider St Mary's Ministry Team (staff, wardens and Local Lay Ministers) meet to plan further ahead.

LEADERSHIP

You will be part of the DCC of St Mary's and the PCC for the Parish. Both meet bimonthly. There may also be relevant subgroup meetings.

SERVICES

It will be part of your role to attend all St Mary's Sunday services and a midweek Morning Prayer service.

REVIEWS & MENTORING

There will be an annual Parish Staff Team Appraisal meeting with the Rector and churchwardens, and mentoring meetings in between times as arranged. As a licensed ordained minister in the Diocese of Oxford you will take part in the Diocesan MDR programme.



WHAT WE WILL PROVIDE

We want to make your ministry with us a positive and encouraging time.

HOUSING

The parish will provide a four bedroom property in the parish suitable for a family. There is also office space available in the parish office if needed.

COMMON TENURE

This is a locally supported ministry post with qualified common tenure and an initial term of three years. The Diocese of Oxford stipend is paid and includes pension contributions.

EXPENSES

All your working expenses will be paid in full by the Parish. You will be required to submit claims regularly and in the form required by the Parish Treasurer.

ALLOWANCES

In addition to expenses, an annual book allowance is given and the cost of a conference.

TIME OFF

The norm in the ministry team is to work 6 days, with a continuous period of 24 hours rest taken on a day to be agreed with the incumbent.

HOLIDAY

The six week holiday allowance includes up to six Sundays off per year.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

To apply for this post please send a CV and a brief spiritual biography to the Rector
Edward Bowes-Smith at edward@stmaryschesham.org

The closing date for applications is Friday 21st May 2021
Interviews Friday May 28th 2021

If you would like an informal conversation please call Edward on 01494 794258

SUMMARY

What St Mary's offers

You will be part of a large staff team with plenty of opportunities to serve and develop your gifts. Expository preaching is given a high priority as is teaching the Bible in small groups and one to one. You will be joining a newly established team with a vision for mission and a 'learning' ethos.

What you would bring

You would bring classic evangelical convictions regarding God's Word, the substitutionary power of the Cross and the need for personal conversion. You will be evangelical in practice, able to explain Christian belief clearly and share your faith with warmth and passion. You will enjoy teaching and preaching God's word to all ages. You will be supportive of the Church of England Evangelical Council's basis of faith and additional declarations. You will bring your gifts and experience to the role.