

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLD AMERSHAM
WITH ALL SAINTS' COLESHILL**



CHURCH UPDATE

June 2026

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLD AMERSHAM
WITH ALL SAINTS' COLESHILL

Building a faithful community of Jesus that
provides a warm welcome where all may
come and worship God in a place that is
loving and safe

Community - Welcome - Worship

At the time of writing, I am celebrating seven years (to the day) of ordained ministry in the Church of England. As I reflect on this milestone, particularly in the context of all the wonderful things that have happened in our parish since February, I find myself feeling deeply thankful for God's faithfulness. The journey to ordination began when I was just 17 years old, with a long and often challenging process of discernment and selection. Through all the questions, uncertainties and moments of doubt, I could never shake the sense that a life spent serving God was what I was called to do. I trusted that, if I followed where God was leading, he would remain faithful—and looking back over the past seven years, I can only say that he has. Of course, there have been difficult moments along the way, and there are still days when I feel more secure in my calling than others.



Yet through every season, God has remained a firm foundation. I look at this photograph of Naomi and me on the day of our baptism and baptismal renewal service, and it seems to tell so many stories at once: a family moment, a moment of spiritual triumph, and a moment of profound thanksgiving as people gathered by the Misbourne to be baptised and renew their vows on a beautiful day. Looking back to that uncertain 17-year-old who first began to explore a call to ministry, I suspect he would scarcely believe all that God would do in the years that followed. As I reflect on seven years of ordained ministry, and on all that God has been doing in our parish life in recent months, I am reminded once again that God is faithful. When we trust him and follow where he leads, it is remarkable, and deeply exciting, to discover what each new step may hold.

With love and prayers,

Jonny

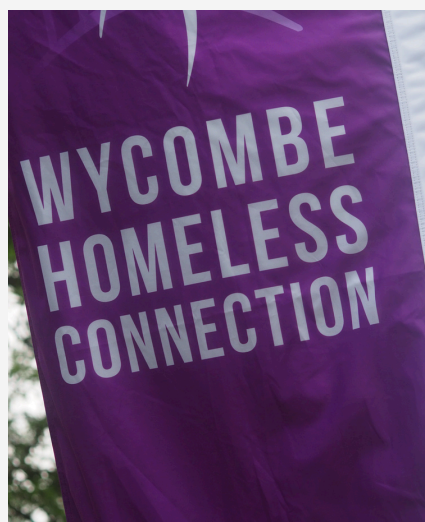
01

WHAT'S NEW SINCE FEBRUARY: COMMUNITY

- Jonny successfully completed the Milton Keynes Marathon, raising £5,223 for the Parish Mission Fund, British Ukrainian Aid, and Wycombe Homeless Connection.
- The High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire, Pippa Kirkbride, finished her shrieval year with a wonderful event in Aylesbury celebrating the incredible volunteering that takes place across Buckinghamshire. Jonny attended the event (as his final engagement as Chaplain to the High Sheriff), alongside the Bishop of Buckingham and mayors from across the county.
- In partnership with Amersham Museum, St Mary's hosted two talks marking the 500th anniversary of William Tyndale's first translation of the New Testament into English.
- All Saints' Coleshill continues to welcome Coleshill Infant School for open assemblies twice a term in church. These services are well attended by children and parents alike.
- St Mary's continues to enjoy working with the 'Bring It Back' team in partnership with Wild Amersham. They have planted bulbs and wildflowers, which look fantastic. Plans are also underway to install more benches in the churchyard, encouraging more people to enjoy the peace of the church grounds.
- We supported St Mary's School by providing a Lego activity as part of their activity afternoon for pupils. This event enables staff to spend an afternoon working with governors and provides a wonderful opportunity for the church to support both pupils and staff.
- A parent from Ministeps, who is a paramedic, facilitated a certified first aid training course so we now have a team of qualified first aiders.

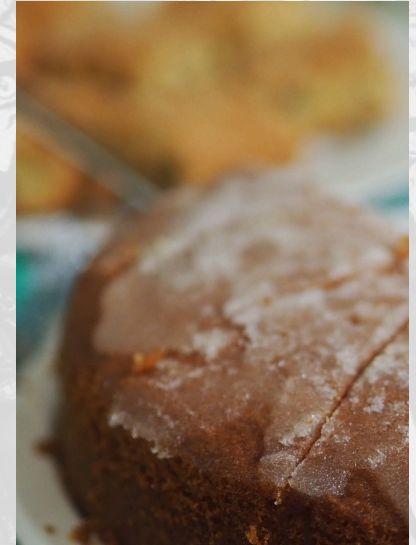
01 WHAT'S NEW SINCE FEBRUARY: COMMUNITY

- Brick Club at St Mary's School continues to thrive, exploring Bible stories through the wonder that is Lego!
- Chosen Charities: We trialled a new charity selection process that involved members of our congregation nominating and then voting for the charities we support financially. Following this process, we are now supporting British Ukrainian Aid and Wycombe Homeless Connection – two wonderful causes.
- The Parish Fête raised £4,685 for the Parish Mission Fund, British Ukrainian Aid, and Wycombe Homeless Connection. This fantastic result was made possible by the hard work of all the volunteers involved. We have received several comments about how much the event felt like a true community celebration, bringing people together.
- A village walk was held in Coleshill on Rogation Sunday and, together with coffees served at the plant swap the day before, raised £203 towards the upkeep of the churchyard.



02 WHAT'S NEW SINCE FEBRUARY: WELCOME

- Easter: It was wonderful to welcome so many people to our churches over Holy Week and Easter. It was a profound time of reflection and celebration, with hundreds attending services across the parish.
- Jane McNeilly, Chris Suttie (All Saints'), and Tessa Cornish and Gill Atkinson (St Mary's) were all sworn in as Churchwardens by the Archdeacon of Buckingham. We thank each of them for taking on this important role in the life and ministry of the parish. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to David Skinner, who has stepped down as Churchwarden at St Mary's after many years of faithful service.
- The Friendship Lunches at St Mary's continue to be well attended by people from across the parish and have settled into a successful pattern of meeting once a month. They provide a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and friendship, and we are grateful to local businesses for their support.
- The St Mary's Toddler Group continues to flourish, and plans are being considered to expand the equipment available for the group.
- In March, we held a Barn Dance in church, organised by our dedicated social team, who continue to arrange social events across the parish. Many people came along and enthusiastically joined in the dancing!
- A team from All Saints' have been working on plans to sustain and grow the church so it can remain at the heart of village life.
- All Saints' newcomers party was a great opportunity to welcome newcomers to the village.



02 WHAT'S NEW SINCE FEBRUARY: WELCOME

- The parish Alpha Course continues to go well as participants explore their faith more deeply, considering topics such as prayer, suffering, and the Holy Spirit. The group also enjoyed an away day focused specifically on the work and power of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
- We welcomed many families to our special events on Shrove Tuesday and Good Friday. There was a wonderful atmosphere in church as families enjoyed crafts, stories, and food together.
- Our Café Recitals continue to attract large numbers of people for conversation, cake, and music.
- Egg hunt and crafts on Easter Sunday for the many children and families who joined us



03 WHAT'S NEW SINCE FEBRUARY: WORSHIP

- The PCC went on an away day in May to consider how we might “grow well”. It is exciting to see so much growth and activity across the parish, and the PCC enjoyed reflecting on how we might further embed this flourishing in the day-to-day life of our churches.
- We held a special Prayer and Reflection Evening focusing on the persecuted church and took the opportunity to pray for Christians facing persecution around the world.
- We celebrated a wonderful service of Baptism and Baptism Renewal, in which five people renewed their baptismal vows and five were baptised, some of them in the River Misbourne on a beautifully sunny day.
- All Saints' once again welcomed all God's creatures great and small for its annual Pet Service in June. In total, eight dogs were blessed and one cat received a “remote” blessing!
- The ministry team once again produced a series of reflections for Holy Week entitled Walking Through Holy Week Together. These reflections provided an opportunity for people to reflect on the significance of Holy Week wherever they were.
- The Parish Lent Course used material from the Difference Course, which explores how Christians can share the love of Jesus in an increasingly divided world. Rather than focusing on specific issues, the course examined how we might navigate all kinds of differences that arise in everyday life.
- In June and July, Jonny is giving a series of three talks on Psalm 23, unpacking one of the world's best-loved Psalms. The first session attracted 36 attendees.

03 WHAT'S NEW SINCE FEBRUARY: WORSHIP

- 'Pub Club' continues to meet and grow & is currently helping to support the parish Alpha course.
- The All Saints' Housegroup continues to meet and support each other in their faith and lives.
- Space for Bible study & prayer is offered monthly at Chiltern Place for residents.
- Life events (baptisms, weddings and funerals) continue to bring new people into church.

