

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



CHURCH UPDATE September 2026

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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

01 WHAT'S NEW SINCE JULY: COMMUNITY

- St Mary's hosted Amersham United Charities for an afternoon tea for residents of the local almshouses. A number of church members serve on the Board of Trustees.
- We welcomed Dr Challoner's Grammar School for their annual Founders' Day service.
- We coordinated hiring and filming agreements with the production company for Code of Silence Series 2. This included working with the Diocese of Oxford to facilitate important filming on Church Mead. Although filming did not take place on parish premises, the production company hired the Church Rooms, bringing in much-needed income for the parish.
- A local dementia café has been working on a collage of the Memorial Gardens, which will be proudly displayed in St Mary's for visitors to the church.

02 WHAT'S NEW SINCE JULY: WELCOME

- Plans have begun for the fitting of a new kitchen at St Mary's to better support events and activities such as the Friendship Lunches, Café Recitals and Mini Steps.
- In order to keep the church in good condition, we held a summer clean at All Saints' – thank you to everyone who came along to help!
- We have welcomed a number of couples and families for weddings and baptisms throughout the summer. These are wonderful opportunities to extend the warm welcome of the church to those who come through our doors.
- After a summer break, the Friendship Lunches have relaunched, with the first gathering at the beginning of September proving a great success.

03 WHAT'S NEW SINCE JULY: WORSHIP

- We said farewell to Michelle as she moved on to become Rector of Prestwood and Great Hampden. Many from the parish went along to support Michelle at her service of induction, installation and institution by the Bishop of Buckingham.
- In July, we had a wonderful Confirmation service, with eight candidates being confirmed by Bishop Dave. It was fantastic to see the community come together to celebrate the significant steps of faith the candidates were making.
- The Ministry Team has also been supporting worship in other parishes, taking services where there have been vacancies or clergy sickness.
- August was sadly a busy month in terms of funerals, including those of people dearly loved within our parish. Notably, we gathered for the funerals of our LLM, Sheila Shield, and long-term member David Royal. We were also heartbroken by the death of Ruth Murphy, who faithfully served for so many years as organist at All Saints'. Please continue to pray for all those to whom we minister through funerals, and particularly for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones.
- In memory of Sheila, we have set up the Shield library at St Mary's Church - which is already well used!

