



ST MARY'S CHURCH  
CHESHAM

# WE ARE FAMILY



ST MARY'S CHURCH  
Church Street, Chesham, HP5 1HY  
Tel: 01494 783629

**CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)** has now been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organisation. It is likely to reach Chesham and the response from the government will impact all of us. **HOWEVER**, St Mary's Church is a loving and caring family, actively preparing for all eventualities, so we stay connected and ensure that no-one needs to face this challenge alone.

Please read this leaflet carefully and follow the simple steps so we can stay in touch with one another in the days ahead.

# HOLY COMMUNION AND OTHER SERVICES

**COMMUNION.** On 9 March, the use of the shared chalice for communion was suspended at St Mary's as a precautionary step to minimise the risk of spreading the virus. Since then, this has been rolled out across the country at the request of the Archbishops. Until further notice, communion will be given in bread/wafer only.

**SHARING THE PEACE.** It is important that we continue to share the peace of Christ with each other, but we are asked to refrain from shaking hands, hugging or other physical contact, instead speaking words of peace with a friendly smile.

**GENERAL HYGIENE.** All members of the church family are asked to follow government guidance on hygiene, including hand washing and use of tissues when coughing. At St Mary's, we will do all we can to clean and disinfect surfaces that are touched frequently. Alcohol-based hand sanitiser will be available at the entrance to the church (as stocks permit), and members are encouraged to use their own hand sanitiser if available).

**SERVICE PATTERN.** Unless we are prevented from doing so under instruction from the government or diocese, we aim to continue with the existing service pattern - Sundays at 9am, 11am and 7pm, and Wednesday at 8.45am. If it becomes impossible for us to continue with any of these services, we will publish information on the church website ([www.stmaryschesham.org](http://www.stmaryschesham.org)) and all those who have registered on our **CHURCHBUILDER** database will be informed by email.

# WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF WE CAN'T MEET?

If the government or diocese instruct us to implement a temporary ban on meeting together, we will do everything possible to stay in close communication with all members of the church family and to facilitate worship and teaching by live streaming at least one service each Sunday and Wednesday. A team is currently exploring the best way to do this and how to let members know how they can join in. It is likely that the live broadcasts will be streamed through FaceBook or a similar social media platform. We are aware that some members of the church family will be unsure of how to access such services but we will offer support so that as many as possible can participate in these online services. Live streamed services will include Bible readings, liturgy, prayers and preaching. Some music may be included.

**There is a possibility that we will be prevented from gathering "in the flesh", but we can all remain in close contact, bound together by our love for the Lord Jesus and each other. Let's work together so that no-one feels isolated and alone.**



# PLEASE ACT NOW TO STAY CONNECTED

The Covid-19 pandemic is likely to be with us for some weeks or months. In uncertain times, strong families stick together, supporting one another, caring, serving and loving each member. We have an opportunity to shine and to demonstrate to a confused world how family should function. **BUT WE CAN ONLY REMAIN CLOSE AND CONNECTED IF WE HAVE ACCURATE, CURRENT CONTACT DETAILS FOR ALL MEMBERS OF OUR FAMILY.**

**Please join our CHURCHBUILDER database TODAY OR REVIEW AND UPDATE YOUR DETAILS IF YOU ARE ALREADY ON CHURCHBUILDER.**

## ChurchBuilder Online Database Details

Please include me/us in the St Mary's database. Unless otherwise indicated below, my/our address, phone number(s) and email address(es) will be visible on the ChurchBuilder site to other members of St Mary's Church. Where I/we prefer my/our details to be available only to the Parish staff team and officers, this is indicated clearly below with a cross in the box as appropriate.

Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Mobile) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address(es) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ /20 \_\_\_\_

Please return this form to the Parish Office or St Mary's Welcome Desk.  
To access the ChurchBuilder site please visit [www.stmaryschesham.org](http://www.stmaryschesham.org) and follow links.

Please put a cross below in any box if you **DO NOT** wish this information to be available to other church members

Address

Home phone

Mobile phone

Email address(es)