



contact

*for St Mary's, Burwell with St Etheldreda
and the Holy Trinity, Reach*

Prayer during Lent - One Body, Many Parts

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day, February 14th and we begin Lent with a reminder of love outpoured, of commitment, of shared life, as we go into this season of prayerful reflection on Jesus' journey to the Cross. This year, could I ask that you join with me in prayer for our church family? There are so many encouraging signs of God at work in our midst and in the community around us, and we very much want to be able to respond to the Lord's leading. I'm reminded that none of us can do this on our own. We're part of Christ's Body, and for all the outwardly visible activity, there needs to be a huge amount of behind the scenes prayerful support. We're entering a new season as a church community, with a new generation coming forward, as others step back. Each of us has a part to play. Would you join me in praying for people to come forward to fulfil these important roles, and be open to listening to whether God might be calling you?



Eleanor Williams

Finance Team

Our treasurer, Terry Chalmers, will be stepping down in April. The PCC has decided that a way forward for us is to pay for accountancy services to cover most of the role, and has been offered a donation to cover initial costs. We are therefore looking for one or more people to join a support team, which would include being a point of contact in the parish for finance matters, dealing with fees for funerals etc and banking weekly cash collections.

Safeguarding Team

Christine Fleming is stepping back in April from being our Parish Safeguarding Officer. Dee Smith is continuing in a support role, and Revd Virginia Moggridge has also been helping. We are grateful to Christine, Dee and Virginia for helping us to get up to date with Safeguarding Training and DBS checks, and in using the online tools. We are looking for a person who would be the public face of our team, as the Parish Safeguarding Officer, potentially the first point of contact for someone needing help.

Churchwarden

Steve Martin is coming to the end of the maximum 6 years that a churchwarden can serve, and we are grateful to him for agreeing to stay on for a short time as a Churchwarden's Assistant, to help a new warden to settle in. Wendy Smith will remain as Churchwarden, and we would love to hear from someone who would be willing to consider joining her in the role. It may be appropriate to become an Assistant first, then take on the full warden role at a later date.

PCC member

The Parochial Church Council are the trustees for the parish, and have a significant role in shaping the future of our mission and ministry, and in prayerful support for the parish. We will be looking for new members at the Annual Meeting. We usually meet monthly, and aim for 60 - 90 minute meetings, which often involve honest sharing about the opportunities and challenges, but also lots of laughter!

All of these roles will commence at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on April 7th and may require DBS checks and relevant safeguarding training for the role.

From the Parish Registers Funerals



Rest in Peace
 Pat Collier
 John Sigrist
 Catherine Fuller
 Ted Carter
 Don Kyte
 Jennifer Harrison

CentrePeace



38a The Causeway, Burwell

Opening Times

Tuesday 10.00am—12.30pm
Wednesday 2.00pm—4.00pm
Thursday 10.00am—12.30pm
 1.00pm—3.00pm
Friday 10.00am—12.30pm
Saturday 10.00am—12.30pm

Burwell Food Support Group

Pop-up Pantry & Ely Foodbank

working together to support our local community
at Burwell Day Centre
Fridays 2.00 - 3.00pm

Pop-up Pantry is working towards reducing waste and offers short life food and more as is available.

Donations towards the Pantry are gratefully received and can be dropped off at the Day Centre. A voluntary contribution of £2 is helpful towards running costs.

Ely Foodbank provides food for 3 days and can help with issues such as benefit changes, low incomes and more.

Citizen Advice join the team on 1st Friday of month.

If you require help from the Foodbank please ring 01353 468626 or email info@ely.foodbank.org.uk

Burwell Food Support Group links individuals and groups working to support those in need in our community, and includes Burwell Help Group, Open Arms, St Mary's Church, Burwell Baptist Church, Burwell & District Day Centre, Burwell Co-op



Burwell And Reach Car Scheme
More Volunteer Drivers needed!

What our drivers **give up** is their time to drive residents on short trips to the surgery for visits to the doctor or nurse, to the dentist, chiropodist, hairdresser, or PO; or longer trips to do shopping, visit family or friends, or go to the local hospitals, clinics and opticians.

How often you drive is entirely up to you – once a month or three times a week.

What our drivers **get out** of the work is:

- the appreciation of the passengers who value this service
- the ability to give some independence to older members of the community
- the social interaction with people who often do not see many other people from day to day.
- And the fuel expenses for the drives they make.

If you are interested, please contact the Car Scheme on 07399154913 and leave a message



Ash Wednesday
February 14th

10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's, Burwell
 7.30pm Holy Communion at St Mary's, Burwell
Begin the Lent Journey together as we share Holy Communion and our foreheads are marked in ash with the sign of the Cross



Quiet Morning
March 16th

11.00am - 1.00pm at St Etheldreda's, Reach
 Drinks from 10.30am
An opportunity to take some time out during Lent with reflections, prayer and times of silence.
 Contact Virginia for more details and to reserve a place

Charity Spotlight



This month, we focus on some of the charities the PCC supports regularly every year. Those listed below are all involved in Mission, both in UK and across the world. For more information, follow the links to their websites.

The Bible Society

[Bible Society - We offer the Bible to the World](#)

Founded 200 years ago, the Bible Society is a UK based charity with a mission to share the bible with the world. It translates, publishes and distributes bibles widely in UK and other countries, notably China and parts of Africa.

Church Mission Society (CMS)

[Home - Church Mission Society \(CMS\)](#)

The CMS was also founded 200 years ago and works 'to make disciples of Jesus at the edge - of society, the existing church and our own comfort zones'. With mission partners, they work in UK and all over the world, encouraging individuals and communities of believers to work together to bring about change.

SGM Lifewords

<https://www.lifewords.global/>

Lifewords believes the Bible should be available to everyone and provides bible resources and programmes free of charge to people across the world.

Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF)

<https://www.brf.org.uk/>

BRF's vision is 'Inspiring people of all ages to grow in Christian faith' and they have a number of ministries, which operate in churches across the UK. One is Messy Church, which is an important ministry here and we specify that our donation should be used in this area. They also produce resources, such as New Daylight, which some of you use.

**Pat Chalmers for
The Mission Giving Group**

Refresh Café and Messy Church

We have a really exciting ministry with children and families at Refresh Café every Friday morning, and at Messy Church, monthly Sunday afternoons. We are hoping to recruit more team members to help with activities and with preparing food, and would love you to pray with us for those that God is calling to share in this lovely and very special ministry.

If you would like to know more, please speak to Eleanor or Paula. All team members need to complete the Church of England's Safer Recruitment Process, and be prepared to have a DBS check and undertake some safeguarding awareness training.

Old organ from Reach

You may recall that, a few months ago, I reported that the casing for the old organ that used to be in Reach church, and which Maisie would have played, was donated to Burwell Museum to be displayed with references to Colin Washtell, who built it and also to Maisie, who played it for so many years. They have now reconstructed it and have sent this picture.

Pat Chalmers



This month's Eco Living Ideas from Kathy



Cleaning – instead of buying single-use plastic bottles filled with assorted cleaning liquids, try using vinegar (sold in glass bottles) or citric acid (sold in cardboard boxes). The packaging is more easily recyclable, and the product can be used in many ways around the home. Put 1 tbsp citric acid or some vinegar and a cup of water in a spray bottle and shake to mix. Use to clean chopping boards, descale kettles, and spray on limescale in the bathroom and toilet. Leave a few minutes and then brush to remove the limescale. Search online for more ideas on how to use these products, and when not to use them.

Try to reduce what you buy and what packaging you buy and bring into your home. Then try to reuse anything you have left – food packaging can be re-used to store food in your cupboard or freezer, or perhaps someone else would be able to use your outgrown clothes or books you have read. Once they are of no use to anyone else, instead of sending things to landfill in your black bag, consider whether they can be put in your recycling bin. The aim is to send as little as possible to landfill.

“Why should Christians care?”

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40

As the climate changes, it is the most vulnerable communities who are most likely to be affected, and to suffer devastating loss and damage to their families, homes and livelihoods. These communities are often the ones least responsible for historic and current activities affecting the climate. It is important to limit how much your actions will adversely affect the climate.

2023 – An Exciting Year for St Mary’s Burwell Bellringers

Ringling for all the Christmas Services and events was a ‘Grand Finale’ to an exciting year for St Mary’s, Burwell, Bellringers. It also showed our new bellringers (who were recruited from the Ring for the King Campaign in May) just what it means to be a bellringer.

Bellringers are musicians! It takes regular lessons and lots of patience and practice to be able ring a church bell, which is an exceptionally large musical instrument. Luckily for our new ringers, there is a Ringing Education Centre (REC) based at St James Stretham. Here the bells are tied so they make no sound outside the church, but they can be heard via a computer inside the ringing chamber. On a Saturday morning, ringers, from towers across the local area, learning to ring have lessons under the guidance of experienced bellringing teachers. Our new ringers also had lessons (on tied bells) before the weekly Bell ringing Practice at St Mary’s Burwell.

It was an immensely proud moment for Bellringers across the world when church bells were rung for the Coronation of King Charles III on 6th May 2023.

Since then, our ringers have continued to make excellent progress, by passing their Level 1 Bellringing certificate and joining in all the activities Burwell Bellringers undertake, throughout the year. 2024 will bring more events and challenges for Burwell Bellringers. These include ringing Quarter Peals, visiting other towers on our Annual Outing as well as ringing for Weddings and other Church Services.

If anyone would like to see our bellringers in action and learn about this very English Tradition, you are always very welcome to come up to our ringing chamber (tower door at the West end of the church) on a Monday evening at 7.30pm.

Dee Smith
Tower Captain St Mary’s Burwell Bellringers.

Reflection by Philip Baker

Did you make a new year resolution this year? This is usually a promise to yourself about something you want to do better (or not do at all) but, unfortunately, often fails. Anyone who has read the Old Testament books, such as Exodus, chronicling the Israelites departure from Egypt and wandering in the desert in search of their promised land, cannot fail to be amazed at how often they ask God for something, receive it, promise to follow the law, and fail. Time and time again they wander from God's way, break His rules, suffer the consequences, renew their promises and then repeat their mistakes.

Any rational person would ask: why? Why not go along with God, do it His way and enjoy the clear benefits? But they don't and we are left to be amazed at their apparent obduracy, saying: of course we would be more sensible; we would not stray; we would follow the path on which are guided. But would we? Is there a clue in the way we dismiss our new year resolutions? Obviously there is – in reality we would be no better. Consider for a moment, we know what we are supposed to do and how we are supposed to behave, especially towards others (our neighbours). Do we really live up to those rules, those expectations of God of us and which we promise to adhere to? I know I fall short and I cannot believe I am the only one! I know what I am supposed to do but I come up with excuses and "reasons" for going my own way.

I write these words during the season of Epiphany, the biblical time when Jesus was revealed to the world as the Son of God. One of the consequences for us is that we are charged with passing on the Good News of salvation through Jesus to all our fellow humans. I suggest we challenge ourselves to make a belated resolution to do just that, be a light like the star of Bethlehem, welcoming all who are willing into the fellowship of Christ. Some of us are doing this directly through Alpha courses, but there is a way for all of us to do our bit. Let's see if we can keep this resolution going and make it a habit for the rest of our lives. Amen.

Philip Baker



Burwell Branch

Our final two meetings of 2023 were very different from each other, the first being a review of the Mothers' Union initiatives to highlight and reduce the incidence of domestic and gender-based violence and the second an excellent demonstration of Christmas decoration creation followed by our traditional Christmas party with mince pies.

It was unwelcome to hear that, around the world, as many as one in three women are subject to abuse, either physical or mental, which is why you might have seen badges reading "no more one in three", but heartening to learn that the battle to be heard is being won, albeit slowly.

By the time you read this we may have already enjoyed our first meeting of 2024 (on 31st January) which is scheduled to be our (very brief) AGM followed by a service of Holy Communion led by our diocesan Chaplain Paula Spalding and a talk by Virginia Moggridge, our parish Curate. I am pleased to say that I will be holding an enrolment in March. If anyone else would like to consider joining our movement please talk to me; I would be very pleased to include you in the service. Mothers' Union is open to all, men and women, who agree with our objectives, which relate to the support of families and family life in our parish, our diocese, the UK and around the world – anywhere that help and support is needed. I look forward to hearing from you.

All are welcome to attend our meetings, which include a time of prayer as well as shared food, and there is more about what the Union stands for and campaigns about on the website.

Philip Baker

February Services

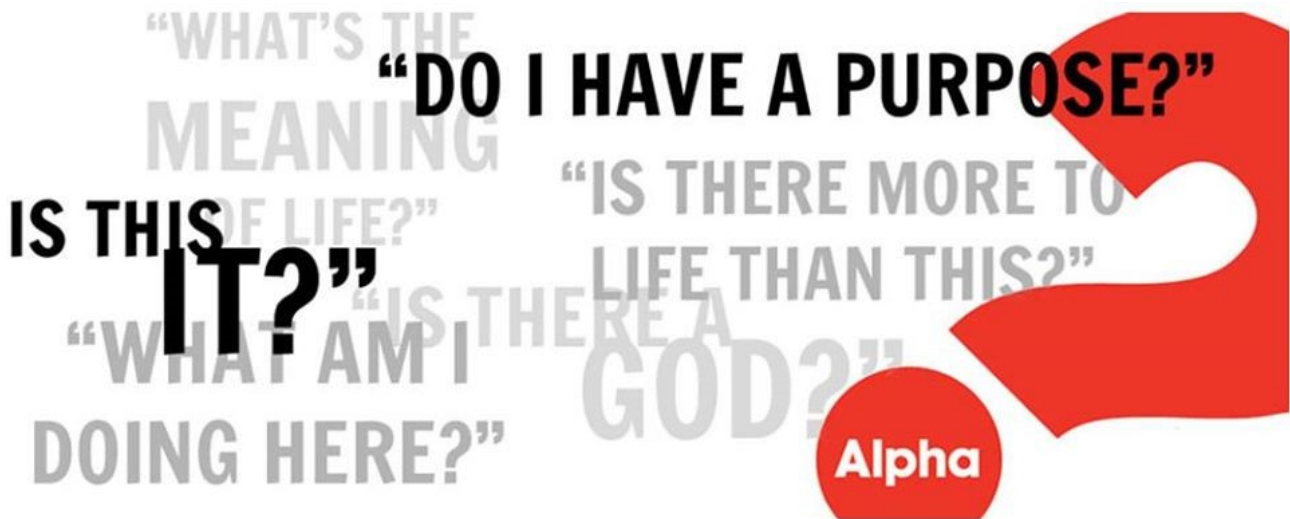
Please check the weekly news sheet for updates or our website. Refreshments are served after the 10am Sunday service and our Wednesday midweek service. Café Church is usually on first Sunday of month, beginning with refreshments, themed activities for all ages, then a short service.

Date	St Mary's Burwell	St Etheldreda's Reach
Sunday 28 th January	10.00am Holy Communion 4.00pm Messy Church	
Wednesday 31 st January	10.30am Holy Communion	
Thursday 1 st February	9.00am Morning Prayer	
Sunday 4 th February	10.00am Café Church	8.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 7 th February	10.30am Holy Communion	
Thursday 8 th February	9.00am Morning Prayer	
Sunday 11 th February	10.00am Holy Communion	
Wednesday 14 th February Ash Wednesday	10.30am Holy Communion	
Thursday 15 th February	9.00am Morning Prayer	
Sunday 18 th February	8.30am Holy Communion 10.00am Holy Communion	
Wednesday 21 st February	10.30am Holy Communion at Ness Court	10.30am Holy Communion
Thursday 22 nd February	9.00am Morning Prayer	
Sunday 25 th February	10.00am Holy Communion	
Wednesday 28 th February	10.30am Holy Communion	
Thursday 29 th February	9.00am Morning Prayer	
Sunday 3 rd March	10.00am Café Church with Baptism	8.30am Holy Communion



Burwell Farmers Market
 Local Market on 2nd Saturday of each month
 9.00am-12.00pm in Mandeville Hall
 Organic Fruit & Veg, Breads, Locally Produced Meat,
 Beer and a Variety of Crafts
 Until now, refreshments have been provided each month
 by Burwell Baptist Church
 We have been invited to take a turn in sharing in this ministry
 Please contact Virginia if you would like to join a rota

Alpha Course starting in the New Year



Alpha is a series of group conversations, online or in person, that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. Everyone's welcome. No matter your background or beliefs, you're invited. Alpha is a space to explore different parts of the Christian faith in a relaxed and friendly environment, in person or online.

Each session covers a different topic, like prayer, the bible, who Jesus is and loads more. Then there's plenty of time to chat about what you think. Each group has a leader to help guide the conversation. There's never pressure to share your thoughts, but the floor is yours if you do want to say something.

To find out more, please contact Jo Proctor llm@stmarysburwell.org.uk. It's not too late to join in!

OPENING OF OUR CHURCH BUILDINGS

Both of our churches are open to the public every day, except when there is another event, such as a wedding or a funeral.

WEEKLY GATHERINGS

We have a number of small groups meeting during the week. Ask Eleanor for details.

Thursday 9.00am Morning Prayer in St Mary's

Fridays 10.00am Refresh Café in St Mary's *For pre-school children with their parents & carers*

Saturday 9.00am The Green Prayer Group (at Village Green Coffee Shop)

More information in our regular emails to families and on our Messy Church and Refresh

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/messychurchburwell. Join the mailing list via with

our Keeping in Touch online form. [St Mary's Burwell with St Etheldreda's Reach | Keeping in Touch \(stmarysburwell.org.uk\)](http://StMarysBurwellwithStEtheldredasReach.com)

WORSHIP AT HOME ONLINE *Join us to pray, to worship, to share together*

Most weeks, we aim to live stream the 10am service on Facebook, apart from Café Church and when there is a baptism.



Churches Together in Burwell has a regular slot on Burwell Radio called 'Cross Talk' on Sundays 8.30am and repeated at 4.30pm Sunday and 7.00pm Monday. To listen you can either go to the station's website <https://burwell.radio>, or play via an Amazon Echo smart speaker.

Activities for Children and Young People and their Families

Sunday Mornings @ St Mary's

Families, children and young people are welcome at all our services. Café Church once a month.

Refresh Café

Every Friday 10.00-11.45am

For toddlers & babies & their parents and carers. Free play, crafts, refreshments, with nursery rhymes, songs and a short bible story, followed by a simple lunch.

Messy Church and Café

Events for families and children of all ages, often on Sunday afternoons, and sometimes meeting outdoors in the churchyard. Also cafés in school holidays with games and activities, drinks and snacks, for children and families..

Eleanor sends out a regular update email to families. If you'd like to join the mailing list, fill in the Keeping in Touch form on our website.

Supporting St Mary's and St Etheldreda's

Could you support the work of our church by making a donation? There are various ways to do this.

At one of our services or events, you can give cash or a cheque, made payable to 'Burwell PCC' or use the card reader.

Alternatively, go to our website

www.stmarysburwell.org.uk/donate

for information about how to make a single or regular donation by credit or debit card.

You can also download forms to set up a Standing Order or a Gift Aid declaration.

For more details, please see our website or contact the Treasurer, Terry Chalmers.

Telephone: 01638 742006

or Email:

administrator@stmarysburwell.org.uk

Vicar

Rev'd Canon Dr Eleanor Williams

22 Isaacson Road 01638 741262

vicar@stmarysburwell.org.uk

Associate Priest

Rev'd Paula Spalding 07849 936085

associatepriest@stmarysburwell.org.uk

Duty days Wednesday, Friday and Sunday

Curate

Rev'd Virginia Moggridge 07566 773020

curate@stmarysburwell.org.uk

Day off Monday

Priests in retirement

Rev'd David King

Rev'd Dr Roger Williams

Licensed Lay Minister

Jo Proctor

Churchwardens

Stephen Martin 01638 742667

Wendy Smith 01638 741888

Churchwardens' Assistant

Caroline Smith

We're also on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysburwell>

<https://www.facebook.com/messychurchburwell>

<https://www.facebook.com/centrepeaceburwell>

Keeping in Touch

During the coronavirus outbreak we started sending the pew sheet by email and phoning and posting information to those without Internet access. Both the pew sheet and Contact are also available to download from our website: www.stmarysburwell.org.uk/contact-magazine

QR code for church website home page



We welcome your contributions to Contact. Please do keep sending them!
 Send to administrator@stmarysburwell.org.uk

To join the circulation list please fill in a Keeping in Touch form available in our churches or on our website