



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

Advent Hope

I love Advent. Not just because I get to wear even more purple than usual (!), but because of the expectancy and hope. Throughout Advent we're transported back to the waiting, longing and hope for a Saviour, and we look forward in hope for the fulfilment of promises for Jesus to return. The candle lit on the first Sunday of Advent is for hope.

We often link faith and hope together, and they are inter-connected, but are different. Faith is here and now: I trust, I believe, here in the present, day by day, moment by moment. Hope is built on faith, but looks forward to what is not yet, with joyful anticipation. Faith is grounded in the reality of the past, and in the experience of the present. Hope looks to the reality of the future, and both faith and hope are rooted in who God is, and what God has promised.

We know the world is not as it should be, and if there was one message that I feel we have for the world today – it would be hope.

Real hope is a pretty rare commodity. Hope – not the kind of hope that says: 'I hope it doesn't rain!' or 'I hope Man United win!' The message we have is of a much more solid, sure & certain hope. The writer to the Hebrews calls hope the 'anchor for the soul.' That's a powerful image of being held secure, even in the midst of a rough or stormy sea. It reminds me of the old Boys' Brigade hymn:

*"We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll;
fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!"*

This Advent, whatever the storms may be, around us and within, we have a Saviour who loves us, who came as the human face of the eternal God of hope. Our Advent journey feels so relevant in these troubled and difficult times. Advent calls us to wait in hope, to hold onto hope, as we cry, 'Come, Lord Jesus'.

Eleanor Williams

*PS For those on Facebook, I am restarting my
Advent photo reflections at Echoes of Grace*

OUR SPECIAL SERVICES FOR ADVENT, CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY

Sunday 1st December
4.30pm Christingle Service at St Mary's

Sunday 15th December
3.00pm Quiet Christmas at St Mary's

Sunday 22nd December
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight
at St Mary's

Monday 23rd December
5.00pm Christingle Service
at St Etheldreda's, Reach

Christmas Eve 24th December
3pm Crib Service at St Mary's
11.30pm Midnight Communion
at St Mary's

Christmas Day 25th December
8.30am Christmas Communion
at St Etheldreda's, Reach
10.00am Christmas Morning Communion
at St Mary's

Sunday 5th January 2025
8.30am Holy Communion at Reach
10.00am Epiphany Café Church at St Mary's

From the Parish Registers

Funerals
Rest in peace

Kathleen Day



**Free Advent book
Christmas Hope**
Take one and one to give away!



contact Editor's note

Due to the fact that many people take a break in the few days after Christmas, the January 2025 edition of Contact will be smaller than usual, and will contain mainly updates on services and events and other news rather than the usual articles. Distribution will be by email only as we will not be able to produce the usual paper copies. If you have anything to include, please send it to me before Christmas.

We'll be back to normal for the February issue, and always welcome your articles.

Pat Chalmers, pat@patchtcs.co.uk

Open House at the Vicarage

22 Isaacson Road
Saturday 4th January 2025
11.00am – 1.00pm
Pop in for a drink and a snack
All very welcome!

Local Artist's Drawing of St Mary's

Greetings Cards and Fridge Magnets of St Mary's by local artist Sarah Gausden are available to purchase, with a share of the proceeds to come to the church.
Cards £2.50, Magnets £3.50
available after main services.



ADVANCE NOTICE
NEW! Connect Café,
especially for families
Wednesday 15th January
3.30 - 5.00pm
Refreshments, games &
activities for all ages
Connect with each other
and with God



Anyone can enter a tree

Visit from December 8th

St Mary's Burwell

Christmas Tree Festival

Trees to be set up 6th /7th December

Details from Angela Bellis
angelajd.bellis@ntlworld.com or 07812 318240

Christmas Tree Festival

The trees or decorations will be available to view from 8th December. The church is open everyday in daylight hours and you are welcome to come in and admire the creations any time, unless there is a service in progress. There is no charge.

Light in Darkness

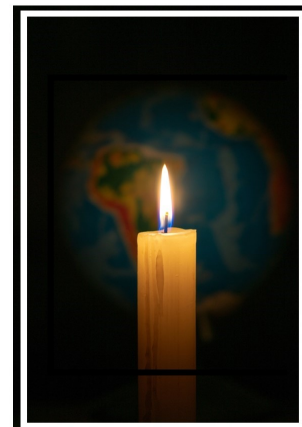
A quiet space to remember loved ones who have died

The Remembering Tree will be in St Mary's throughout December to write a name on a star and add to the tree



QUIET CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER
3.00 PM ST MARY'S BURWELL



**A SHORT REFLECTIVE SERVICE
OF READINGS,
PRAYERS AND MUSIC**

Quiet Christmas is a new service, particularly for those who find Christmas difficult to come together in a supportive space

SONGS FOR CHRISTMAS
BRIGHT MORNING STAR
Lucy Bunce

Songs for Christmas

Lucy Bunce
Voice & Harp

Thursday 12th
December 7.30pm
(refreshments from 7pm)

St Mary's Church
Burwell

Tickets: Adults £10 (Children free)
available from Burwell Post Office,
CentrePeace and on the door.

www.lucybunce.com

Arrive early to look round the Tree Festival
More about Lucy here www.lucybunce.com

Christingle Services

Sunday 1st December
4.30pm

St Mary's Burwell

Donations may be given for the work
of The Children's Society



Also Monday 23rd
December 5.00pm
St Etheldreda's
Reach

St Mary's Burwell

24th December 3.00pm
Christmas Eve

Nativity Carol Service

For the young & young at heart



Celebrate Jesus' Birthday
Carols, Readings, Prayers
Dress up for the Nativity Story



Songs of Praise
Sunday 8th December
4.00pm
Ness Court
All Welcome!

Refresh Café at St Mary's

Every Friday 10.00 - 12.00
Snack lunch from 11.30am

A café & play space
for pre-school children
& their parents & carers

Refreshments, Toys,
Crafts, Songs,
Bible Story

No café Friday
27th December



ST MARY'S BURWELL CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Sunday December 22nd 6.30 pm
followed by mulled wine & mince pies

Environment Matters



This month's Eco Living tips from Kathy were first published in December 2022.

Turn down the thermostat or the 'flow temperature' of a combi boiler - warm the people and not the air space (by wearing a jumper or layers of jumpers, sitting in a high-backed chair, using a wheat bag or hot water bottle, just heating the room you are in rather than unused rooms) - add another layer of loft insulation (we use sheep's wool).

To save using and heating extra water, use your dishwasher and washing machine less often, and take shorter showers. This also saves so much water from being treated before and after you have used them.

Use a microwave oven to cook rather than the hob or cooker – it can be quicker too!

It is worth exploring various websites for new ideas – two good sites are www.arochoa.org.uk and www.ruthvalerio.net

If you have Eco tips or ideas you'd like to share, please send them to pat@patchtcs.co.uk

CentrePeace



38a The Causeway, Burwell

From November 6th we made a slight change to our opening times and are now open every morning except Sunday and Monday. We will still be open Wednesday afternoon as well, but we won't be open on Thursday afternoon.

New Opening Times

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

Charity Spotlight

The PCC recently reviewed the list of charities it will support as part of its Mission Giving this year. Charities are normally supported for about 3 years, after which, some remain on the list, while others are replaced. Here are the charities added to the list.

SolarAid works with people in Africa to ensure that everyone has access to clean, safe solar lights, which extend the working day and remove the need to use dirty and dangerous fuels like kerosene
The Refugee Council is a leading charity working with refugees and people seeking asylum in the UK. It supports and empowers people who have fled conflict, violence and persecution in order to rebuild their lives here. It assists practically and addresses policy issues.
Practical Action.org works together with communities and its global partners, to develop innovative solutions to build sustainable lives and livelihoods for people living on the frontlines of poverty and climate change.

Red to Green is a local charity which supports people aged 16+ with learning disabilities and autism towards achieving independence, education and employment.

Burwell and District Day Centre aims to provide a welcoming facility for use of the elderly and vulnerable adults. A midday meal and companionship are offered every weekday, along with other activities. A meals-on-wheels service is also provided for those unable to attend the Day Centre in person.

A Rocha UK is a Christian charity working to protect and restore the environment by inspiring individuals and families, equipping churches and church leaders, building partnerships and managing land. Among other things, it runs the Eco Church scheme.

The Mother's Union Christmas Appeal
 The MU has an active branch in this parish and is a Christian organization that is active in 84 countries around the world. It works towards ending poverty, inequality and injustice. Its Christmas Appeal will help women living in poverty build a brighter future.

Reflection by Philip Baker

As we approach Christmas our thoughts turn to the joy of welcoming the baby who would become our Saviour. It is a wonderful time summed up in the phrase “Goodwill to all men” (and women, children, of all races, colour and faith). Or is it? That joy seems to evaporate so quickly in the gloom of British winter weather. Yet everything that Christmas, and Jesus, stand for is still there, and so too should our joy be there.

I recently came across these words, presented in the form of a joke notice in a library – “The post apocalyptic fiction section has been moved to current affairs.” And this is, I think, the true cause of our depression. The worst thing to deal with is uncertainty and we live in a world in which we have instant notification of events worldwide but we do not know what calamity is round the corner. But we do know that far too many people have the power of catastrophic destruction. No wonder we are worried.

My prayer this and every day is for self interest to be turned into love of others and into the search for peace so espoused by Jesus. There are so many well-known passages in the bible speaking of love and peace, perhaps none more precious than Jesus’ words captured in John 13:34 “A new commandment I give unto you: love one another. As I have loved you so you must love one another”.

The mindset prevalent among leaders of nations puts me in mind of another light-hearted but pointed quip – “Before we work on Artificial Intelligence should we not do something about Natural Stupidity?” Might I suggest that we harness these thoughts to extend the joy of Christmas through January and even beyond? Just as the old saying “a dog is not just for Christmas” is true, so too is “Jesus is not just for Christmas”! His teachings reported so thoroughly and clearly by the gospel-writers apply to us today just as much as they did 2000 years ago. His birth arguably means even more now than it did then because we understand its significance better. What Joy!



Burwell Branch News

Our October Branch Meeting featured a Quiz of facts and figures about the Mothers’ Union as, sadly, Jean Webb was unwell and unable to give us a talk about Away From It All (AFIA) Holidays for seriously disadvantaged families. A new date in 2025 will be arranged for this talk.

By the time you read this we will have had our November meeting taking a look at the initiative “16 days of activism” – highlighting concerns around gender-based violence. It is a Global campaign challenging violence against women and girls and we will have staged a protest gathering outside Ely Cathedral on 30th November to draw attention to it. I am also exploring possibilities of holding joint events with our neighbouring Branch in Lode – more about that in the future.

Our next fellowship lunch at the Day Centre will be after Holy Communion in St Mary’s on Wednesday 11th December. This will be a Christmas lunch (with trimmings) and is open to all our friends in St Mary’s (and Reach!) but it is essential that you let me know by Saturday 7th December if you would like to join us. (If you have already booked with me you do not need to contact me again). There were nearly 20 of us last month and we enjoyed a very lively conversation over an excellent lunch.

If you are not a member, but interested in the work of the Mothers’ Union around the world, and would like to know more, please contact me (or Hazel). We welcome men and women who support our aims, which relate to the Christian support of families and family life.

Philip Baker

What's on in our churches this month

Date	St Mary's Burwell	St Etheldreda's Reach
Sunday 1 st December Advent Sunday		
Wednesday 4 th December	10.30am Holy Communion	
Thursday 5 th December	9.00am Morning Prayer	
Friday 6 th December	10.00am Refresh Café and Lunch	
Sunday 8 th December Advent 2	10.00am Holy Communion 2.00pm Christmas Tree Festival opens	
Wednesday 11 th December	10.30am Holy Communion	
Thursday 12 th December	9.00am Morning Prayer 7.30pm Concert by Lucy Bunce	
Friday 13 th December	10.00am Refresh Café and Lunch	
Sunday 15 th December Advent 3	8.30am Holy Communion 10.00am Holy Communion 3.00pm Quiet Christmas service	
Wednesday 18 th December	<i>10.30am Holy Communion at Ness Court</i>	10.30am Holy Communion
Thursday 19 th December	9.00am Morning Prayer	
Friday 20 th December	10.00am Refresh Café and Lunch	
Sunday 22 nd December Advent 4	10.00am Holy Communion 6.30pm Carols by Candle light	
Monday 23 rd December		5.00pm Christingle service
Tuesday 24 th December Christmas Eve	3.00pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Communion	
Wednesday 25 th December Christmas Day	10.00am Holy Communion	8.30am Holy Communion
Friday 27 th December	No Refresh Café No Pop-Up Pantry at Day Centre	
Sunday 29 th December Christmas 1	10.00am Holy Communion	
Wednesday 1 st January	No Service	
Sunday 5 th January Epiphany	10.00am Epiphany Café Church	8.30am Holy Communion

Please check the weekly news sheet for updates or our website. Refreshments are served after the 10.00am 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.

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

WORSHIP AT HOME ONLINE: *Join us to pray, to worship, to share together.* Most weeks, we aim to live stream the Sunday 10.00am service on Facebook, apart from Café Church and when there is a baptism.

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

NO PANTRY 27th DECEMBER
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



**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 speak to our Gift Aid Officer, Ian
 Richards 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 Tuesday

Priests in retirement
 Rev'd David King
 Rev'd Dr Roger Williams

Licensed Lay Minister
 Jo Proctor
Churchwarden
 Wendy Smith 01638 741888

Churchwardens' Assistants
 Stephen Martin 01638 742667
 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: "[Contact](http://www.stmarysburwell.org.uk)" Magazine - [St Mary's
 Burwell with St Etheldreda's Reach](http://www.stmarysburwell.org.uk)
 ([stmarysburwell.org.uk](http://www.stmarysburwell.org.uk))



QR code for
 church website
 home page

We welcome your contributions to Contact. Please do keep sending them!
 Send to Pat Chalmers, Contact Editor at pat@patchtcs.co.uk

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