



contact

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

What does love look like?

It's February, and love is all around, with Valentine's Day and all the hearts, flowers and chocolates. But love is for all year round, not just one day, and it's wider and deeper than shop-bought Valentine's Day cards can describe. You don't see many Zimmer frames, wheelchairs or hearing aids on Valentine's Day cards, but for many, the reality of love is that it is a marathon, not a sprint, with many challenges along the way: 'For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health.' Love takes different forms: romantic love, perhaps short and sweet, but also the kind of love that is able to reach out to those who are not like us, who behave and speak differently, to welcome and include them.

One of the most popular readings chosen for weddings is 1 Corinthians 13, with its beautiful description of love: 'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.' That's the kind of love I want to be able to live out, though I know I will fail. But as the Church's year turns to Lent on March 5th, and then Easter, we are reminded again of the love of Jesus Christ, the one who showed us the full extent of God's love, and made it possible for us to know forgiveness, no matter who we are or what we have done. Perhaps this Lent could be a time for finding out how much God loves you, and sharing that with others. **Eleanor**

Connect Café @ St Mary's
Wednesday 12th February
3.30 - 5.00pm



A New Connecting Place for Families

New Connections

Our first Connect Café on Wednesday 15th January was a great success, with 29 children, young people and adults. Meeting after school worked well, and it was good to be able to use some of the games that had been stored in the Guildhall since being used at Youth Café, like table football, air hockey, draughts and chess. We hope to run monthly for a trial period, and then review. If you are interested in supporting this new venture, or joining the team, please speak to Eleanor.

Update on the break-in at St Mary's

We are very pleased to report that the diocese has now granted the necessary permission for repairing the broken south aisle window panel, which was removed by the glaziers on 17th January, and we hope will be replaced in a few weeks. There will also be some work done on the tower door lock. The police undertook further investigation, when it was reported that there may have been video evidence of a possible culprit, but have since closed the case due to lack of evidence.

Thank you very much to the individuals who have donated money towards the repairs and replacement of fire extinguishers, which will end up costing about £1500.



From the Parish Registers



Funerals

Rest in peace
 Marian Messenger
 Margaret Jugg
 John Mackender
 John Harrison

CentrePeace



38a The Causeway, Burwell

We are now open every morning except Sunday and Monday and Wednesday afternoon, but we are no longer 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

Save the date!

Church Fete
Saturday 7th June

Put it in your diary now!

After not having a fete last year, let's make this year's bigger and better than ever!

If you would like to run a stall, game or other activity, or to help with advance preparations, please contact Jo Proctor, llm@stmarysburwell.org.uk

We're also interested to hear from anyone who would like a stall selling crafts etc.

The Knitted Bible set to return soon! Can you help us?



It was wonderful to have the Knitted Bible on display at St Mary's in November 2023, and we are hoping to host the exhibition again from early April, leading up to Easter. It has been in storage for a few months, and will need some sorting out. We are also hoping to be able to supplement the scenes, with new knitted figures, and relevant scenery.



There will be a session for sorting out on Thursday 27th February, from 9.30am. Please speak to Eleanor if you can help, as there are quite a number of scenes to check.

After sorting, we will have a better idea of what knitted figures we'd like to add. We know there wasn't a Noah's Ark, so it would be good to add that, and possibly other key Bible scenes. If you knit or crochet, or like modelling, and would like to be part of a team making new figures or scenery, please speak to Paula. Thank you.

Environment Matters



This month's Eco Living tips from Kathy were first published in February 2023.

Holidays – perhaps you could choose not to fly for holidays this year? See www.flightfree.co.uk for more information and ideas. Try looking at www.seat61.com for help in planning a train journey in Europe and beyond. See the journey as part of the holiday and enjoy 'slow travel'. Britain has many beautiful places to explore.

Food – eat seasonally and, if possible, buy locally produced, organically grown vegetables.

Bathroom – look for 'greener' products such as soap and shampoo in a bar instead of a plastic bottle, or cleaning products made by Bio-D, or organic cotton towels (all sold by Traidcraft and other retailers), bamboo toothbrushes, toothpaste in glass or metal containers rather than plastic, reusable cotton make-up removers, etc.

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

Church Boundary Walls at St Etheldreda's



Work is progressing well on repair work to the boundary walls of St Etheldreda's churchyard.

When the weather is very frosty, work on certain parts of the walls will need to be delayed, but as you can see, Cambridge Stonecraft are doing an excellent job.

Well done - team effort!



Well done to our Refresh Café catering team, for achieving 5 star Food Hygiene Rating again. Each week, the team prepares lunch for 30-40 adults and children, with 70+ in school holidays. We are very grateful to Burwell Co-op and ASDA for the short life food donations towards the lunches, and also to Burwell Carnival for a £300 grant.

The inspection identified a few minor changes to make to how items are stored, including plastic crates for Foodshare items in the church porch, and also that we need to paint the kitchen, because of a few cracks in the paintwork. A member of the congregation has very kindly offered to pay for the re-decoration of the kitchen and also the downstairs lavatory for which we are very grateful.

The first course, ready to serve!



Thank you from Pop-Up Pantry



Pop-Up Pantry runs every Friday 2.00-3.00pm at Burwell Day Centre, offering short-life food and cupboard basics, to those who are in need of a little extra support to make ends meet.

Thank you to those who support financially or drop off items, either in the Co-op or at the Day Centre or church, and a special thank you to Burwell Carnival, for a grant of £300, and to Burwell War Memorial Trust, for £500.

Reflection by Philip Baker

This is the season when we look to the year ahead and start planning for all those changes that, this year without fail, we will finally get to do. Decorating a room (or more), a garden makeover, the holiday we have been thinking about for years; most, if not all, pipedreams which, if we were honest with ourselves, we know we will still be thinking about in a year's time. And yet it is human nature to want, well, almost anything! We are never content with what we have and are always planning for something different. It is a human condition.

How often do we think about what we have just celebrated – Christmas? The arrival on earth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. There can be no bigger change than this, nothing could ever be the same once God's Son was with us as a fellow human being. We need to think about what this really means for us, certainly more than His contemporaries did – they found Jesus inconvenient, what we would today call a "disrupter". And of course He was meant to be but no-one really likes having their routines disturbed do they, so they crucified Him. But that did not get rid of Him. We will soon be starting to think about what happened then – Jesus defeating death and rising again in glory, which was not the outcome the Pharisees had in mind!

Given the parlous state the world is in, largely as an outcome of all the unintended consequences of a world-full of people all individually planning changes based upon their own priorities without regard for everyone else, perhaps what we should all be wanting achieve this year is to recognise the place of God in our lives. There are no end of biblical sources supporting the general contention that if we have God in our lives we have all we need, such as Psalm 16:5 or Philippians 4:19 and the most beautiful Psalm 23. Letting God be a part of our lives and plans has a calming influence, and recognising that all we have to do is live in the footsteps of Jesus Christ (or at least try to) might give us a little peace amid all the striving of our combative world.



Burwell Branch News

By the time you read this we will have had our January meeting which, as is our custom, will have been our AGM after a short service of Holy Communion.

Our next fellowship lunch after Holy Communion in St Mary's will be on Wednesday 12th February and, as is usual, it is open to all our friends in St Mary's but it is essential that you let me know by Saturday 8th February if you would like to join us. There were nearly 20 of us again last month and we enjoyed a very pleasant time together.

If you are not a member, but interested in the work of the Mothers' Union here in the UK and 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

PCC Business

The Parochial Church Council meets most months, and significant decisions are reported to the congregation through announcements in church and through notices on the Pew Sheet or articles in Contact. Before the pandemic, there was also a folder available in St Mary's, with copies of the minutes of recent meetings.

This has now been brought back, and is on the bookshelves at the back of St Mary's, for anyone to read, as they wish. We also hope to convene a Mission and Ministry Meeting in the near future. Again, these happened regularly before Covid, and when we were working through the Partnership for Missional Church programme. Further news of a date will follow soon.

Do you want a say about what happens in this parish now and in the future?

If the answer to this question is 'Yes', then please consider joining the church's Electoral Roll, or register of electors. In the same way that being on the civic Electoral Roll allows you to vote in parliamentary and local elections and referenda, joining the Church Electoral Roll means that you can vote on the Parish Church matters. All Church of England parishes have to completely renew their Electoral Rolls every 6 years and this renewal is due this year. Everyone who wishes to be on the Electoral Roll will therefore have to re-register by late March, so that we can publish the new roll before our Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which will be on April 27th after the 10.00am service.

The forms will be available in church from February 9th onwards, so please consider whether you would like to complete one. The Frequently Asked Questions below, which were published in Contact in 2019, give more information and we hope they will help you make your decision, but if you have any more queries, please speak to Eleanor, or one of the church wardens, or Avril Plume, who is the Electoral Roll Officer.

Why should I join the Electoral Roll?

Joining the electoral roll is an important way of confirming your commitment to the community of St Mary's and St Etheldreda's and to the vision of the Parish. By joining, you become entitled to participate in the government of the church and to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), where the elections take place for The Parochial Church Council (PCC) and other key roles. The PCC looks after all the day to day running of the Parish, like looking after the buildings, deciding what types of service and other activities take place and how we raise and spend money. Joining the roll is an important statement of witness and a step along the path of discipleship. If you're a regular attender at our services or family activities like Messy Church or Refresh Café and interested in what kind of church we have, you should be on the electoral roll!

It is also important that we have an accurate reflection of the number of people committed to our churches as it affects the allocations we receive from central diocesan resources, and it also comes into the calculations of the proportion of a full time parish priest is appropriate for a particular parish. Contrary to some commonly held belief, however, it does not have a direct impact on the amount we have to pay over to the diocese in Parish Share.

Do I have to join?

No. You can be a full and active member of this Church without joining the Electoral Roll, but you can't have a say in any important church decisions by voting at the Annual Meeting or serving on the PCC.

Do I qualify for the Roll?

To apply for the Electoral Roll you must meet ALL the following conditions:

- You must be aged 16 or over (*though you can apply in the year you become 16 and your name will be entered once your birth date has passed*).
- You must be baptised.
- You must be a member of the Church of England or certain other affiliated churches (*further details of this requirement are available on request*).
- You must either live in the parish or have attended worship regularly for six months.



RELEVANT DATES

- 9th February Notice of Revision of Church Electoral Roll. Forms available.
- 23rd March Closure of Roll
- 12th April Publication of Roll for 14 days
- 27th April Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Safeguarding Training at St Mary's Burwell and St Etheldreda's Reach

Jo and I thought it would be useful to explain why, who, what and where Safeguarding Training is needed at our two churches.

Why do we need training?

It is great to have so many people contributing in different ways to Services, Weekly Events, and Special Occasions at our churches. This means that we are meeting all ages from the local community and beyond, Safeguarding is for you to be aware of any circumstances that 'do not seem quite right.' This can happen at any time and involve anyone, but in particular Young People and Vulnerable Adults. The Safeguarding Training is to make you aware of these situations, and more importantly, to let you know what to do next. It also helps you know how to not put yourself into a situation that may lead to a difficult outcome.

Who needs to be trained?

Any person who is in charge or helps with the running of any activity in our churches.

What is involved and where?

The level of Safeguarding Training that you are asked to undertake, depends on the activities in which you are involved. **Everyone involved in helping at church will need to complete the first of the courses below and most will also need the second.**

Basic Safeguarding – this is a short online course to give you details of common situations and types of abuse of which you should be aware.

Foundation Safeguarding – this also is a short online course which goes into more detail than the Basic Safeguarding Course.

Both courses can be completed online, or if you prefer, we can arrange a group session for several people to complete the course together in person. The time taken to complete each course can take up to 1.5 hours.

There are other Safeguarding Training Courses which a minority of people are asked to complete as part of their job role in the church.

Most training must be repeated after 3 years and you will get a reminder, either from Jo and myself or from our Church Safeguarding Hub.

Jo and I decide which type of training you are required to undertake and are very happy to answer any questions about anything you may have about Safeguarding Training.

DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) Certificate

This process investigates people's criminal records at Basic Level, which shows unspent convictions and conditional cautions and the Enhanced Level which shows both spent and unspent convictions and cautions.

One of us will ask you to complete an online form with personal details and then meet with you to check they are correct. All details are stored securely and are only shared with the Company who undertakes the DBS applications for our church.

Dee Smith Assistant Safeguarding Officer deesmith@stmarysburwell.org.uk
Jo Proctor Safeguarding Officer llm@stmarysburwell.org.uk

Can You Help?

Did you know that there are over 20 different ways in which you can help at our churches? We're very fortunate that many people already offer to 'do their bit', but we always need more!

A particular need at present is for our **work with families and children. If you are interested, please speak to Eleanor.**

To encourage more people to come forward, we're hoping to run a series of articles in Contact explaining what is involved in the different jobs, including any training. **If you would like to write about the job you do, please contact Pat Chalmers, pat@patchtcs.co.uk**

What's on in our churches this month

Date	St Mary's Burwell	St Etheldreda's Reach
Sunday 2 nd February Candlemas	10.00am Café Church	8.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 5 th February	10.30am Holy Communion	
Thursday 6 th February	9.00am Morning Prayer	
Friday 7 th February	10.00am Refresh Café and Lunch	
Sunday 9 th February 4 th before Lent	10.00am Holy Communion	
Wednesday 12 th February	10.30am Holy Communion 3.30pm Connect Café	
Thursday 13 th February	9.00am Morning Prayer	
Friday 14 th February	10.00am Refresh Café and Lunch	
Sunday 16 th February 3 rd before Lent	8.30am Holy Communion 10.00am Holy Communion	
Wednesday 19 th February	<i>10.30am Holy Communion at Ness Court</i>	10.30am Holy Communion
Thursday 20 th February	9.00am Morning Prayer	
Friday 21 st February	10.00am Refresh Café and Lunch	
Sunday 23 rd February 2 nd before Lent	10.00am Holy Communion	
Wednesday 26 th February	10.30am Holy Communion	
Thursday 27 th February	9.00am Morning Prayer	
Friday 29 th February	10.00am Refresh Café and Lunch	
Sunday 2 nd March Next before Lent	10.00am Café Church	8.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 5 th March Ash Wednesday	10.30am Holy Communion 7.00pm Holy Communion	
Sunday 9 th March 1 st Sunday of Lent	10.00am 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 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

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.

Citizens 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

We send the weekly pew sheet and monthly Contact magazine by email. There are usually a few spare paper copies in church.

Both the pew sheet and Contact are also available to download from our website:

www.stmarysburwell.org.uk/about-us/newsletters/

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