



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

## Our man in heaven

Where is Jesus now? That's a question I have been asked many times. Did he die again after he rose? Where did he go? It's an understandable question, and actually really important.

Ascension Day is exactly 40 days after Easter, which this year will be 29<sup>th</sup> May. You may have come across traditions of choirs singing from very tall buildings early in the morning on Ascension Day, as a way of marking the day, remembering the accounts of Jesus ascending to his Father in heaven. The post-resurrection appearances of Jesus come to an end, and from then on in the New Testament, all references to Jesus are about him being at the Father's right hand in heaven - a place of the highest honour, glory and power, having conquered sin and death.

But Jesus didn't stop being human. Jesus returned to the glory of heaven, taking all that it means to be human to become part of all that God is. Jesus is God and remains man – he bears forever the scars of the wounds suffered for us. He is 'Our Man in Heaven.'

The book of Hebrews talks of Jesus praying for us, so that we can come with confidence before God knowing that Jesus knows our humanity, knows our weakness and understands our needs.

But...Jesus was not leaving the world behind and leaving us to get on with things by ourselves. Jesus was gone, but he had promised that the disciples would not be left on their own, as orphans. The Holy Spirit would come on the Day of Pentecost, so that under the guidance of the Spirit, God's abiding presence, they, and all who were to follow, would be given power to witness to Jesus, to take the life of heaven into all of the world, to bring transformation and new life.

*Alleluia! Not as orphans  
are we left in sorrow now.  
Alleluia! He is near us;  
faith believes, nor questions how.  
Tho' the cloud from sight received Him  
when the forty days were o'er,  
shall our hearts forget His promise,  
"I am with you evermore"?*

**Eleanor Williams**

### Hello to our Churchwardens!

We are delighted to announce that Wendy Smith has agreed to continue as churchwarden, and Sue Reynolds has just been elected for the first time as warden.

Please continue to pray for Wendy and Sue and all our PCC, in their roles in church leadership and governance.



**From the  
Parish Registers  
Baptism and  
Admission to Holy Communion**



*We welcome*

Milana Winningham  
Juniper Winningham

**Funerals**

*Rest in Peace*

Sylvia Palmer  
Albert Ellingford

**Message from the family  
of Albert Ellingford**

On VE day 8<sup>th</sup> May we will be saying  
goodbye to **Albert George Ellingford**

The service will be in the West Chapel  
at Cambridge Crematorium at 2.15pm.  
Please wear whatever makes you feel  
happy. Be prepared for singing and flag  
waving. We will be placing individual roses  
onto the coffin, please let Dawn know if  
you'd like to be included. We are asking  
for donations to Alzheimer's Research  
instead of flowers.

Please join us afterwards at The Black  
Horse Dry Drayton.

If you could let us know if you are coming  
that will make the arrangements much  
easier and also give us something to look  
forward to.

Much love  
Janice  
and Lindy  
Dawn

Cambridge Crematorium, Dry Drayton  
Cambridge CB3 0JJ  
The Black Horse, 35 Park Street  
Dry Drayton, Cambridge CB23 8DA



**Reach Fair**  
By Royal Charter since 1201

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May  
12.00noon—5.00pm**

We will be serving cream teas in  
St Etheldreda's at Reach Fair on Bank  
Holiday Monday and there will also be a  
CentrePeace bookstall.

We still need more help, so if you can  
help by making scones and/or serving  
teas, please sign the list at the back of  
church or contact Wendy Smith  
(wendyangele.smith@hotmail.co.uk)

**Connect Café**

**A connecting space for families**



**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May  
3.30 - 5.00pm  
St Mary's, Burwell**

**Refreshments**

**Board Games Table Football**

**Activities Crafts**

**Connect with each other  
and with God**

**Mental Health Awareness Week  
12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May**

Roughly one in four of us now experience  
a mental health problem every year.  
According to the Health Foundation, for  
young people aged 10–24 a staggering  
45% are experiencing mental health  
disorders. Theologian, Professor John  
Swinton, has said: "Mental-health  
professions play a significant part in the  
healing process for people. Most people,  
however, are not acutely unwell... they  
live in ordinary communities, and work out  
their lives amid family, friends, society and  
church. It is there that the Church can  
offer important gifts and insights."  
What do you think? Eleanor



On the 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945 bells rang out across Britain as the nation took to the streets in celebration of Victory in Europe Day. Eighty years later bellringers across the UK are celebrating this momentous occasion by ringing church bells to re-create that moment at 6:30pm local time and pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we might live in a free world.

Would you like to join us in ringing St Mary's bells for this anniversary? Our band is made up of Burwell residents with ages ranging from 14 years to over 70 years, and we are looking for new ringers to join us. Like any musical instrument, bellringing takes time and practice, but if you start now, you will be ready to ring with St Mary's ringers for the celebrations in May. Everyone who rings will receive a certificate and a badge. Contact Dee Smith Tower Captain St Mary's Burwell 01638 615423 [rato@elyda.org.uk](mailto:rato@elyda.org.uk). Or just come along to a practice on Monday evening at 7.30pm.

## Congratulations to Jon!



Many of you will know Jonathan Hardy who learnt to ring bells at St Mary's Burwell in his teens. Jon joined the Ely Diocesan Association of Bellringers in 1975, and this is a photo of him with his 50-year membership certificate.

Jon is unable to ring for extended periods at a time, but he still takes a keen interest in Burwell, Exning and St Mary's, Newmarket Bellringers.

## Commemorating VE Day

Our 10.00am service at St Mary's on 11<sup>th</sup> May will include prayers to remember and commemorate The 80th Anniversary of VE Day.



## Christian Aid Week Service Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 10am St Mary's Church, Burwell



In Guatemala, the climate crisis is destroying crops and causing hunger for Indigenous communities. But with training, farmers like Aurelia are fighting back. Aurelia has faced extreme heatwaves that have killed her crops, but through Christian Aid's partner, Congcoop, she's learning to grow resilient crops, make fertiliser and conserve water. She's sharing this knowledge with others, helping her community build a sustainable future. This Christian Aid Week, please give to support farmers in the fight against hunger and the climate crisis.



**We have set up an e-envelope again. Last year nearly £700 was raised this way. Scan the QR code or follow the link to our page on the Christian Aid website.**

<https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2025/st-marys-burwell-christian-aid-e-envelope>



## Help Needed!

Plans for the fete are progressing well, but we need lots of help, both in advance and on the day. This year, we want to include more games and fun activities, as well as all the usual stalls. We've got lots of ideas (although there's always room for more!), but we need people to run the stalls. For more details of this and other ways you can help, see below.

### Human Fruit Machine

This is always fun! We will need three volunteers to pop up with the fruit.

### Football game

This game involves kicking a foam ball through holes in a board. If you are creative, could you have a go at designing and making something? And we'll need someone to run it on the day.

### Guess the name of a teddy

For this, we need a large teddy bear, or other suitable fluffy creature or doll, who is looking for a new home. And of course, we'll need someone to run it on the day.

### Gazebos

If anyone has a gazebo they can lend us, that would be great and we will also need volunteers to help set up and take down.

### Baking

Can you make scones for the cream teas or cakes for a cake stall?

### On The Day

We'll need people to set up stalls and direct stall holders to the right spot; people to be on stalls, serve cream teas, run games, look after the money and clear

### Water Pistol Game

This game uses large water pistols to shoot balls off plastic bottles. Therefore, if anyone has two large water pistols that they can donate or let us borrow that would be a great help. We also need people to save their 2 litre plastic drink bottles. And we'll need someone to run it on the day.

**St Mary's Church  
Fete  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June  
2.00 - 4.00pm**

**In the church and  
churchyard  
Stalls including crafts,  
plants, jewellery, tombola,  
books, bric a brac. and  
Games and children's  
activities,  
cream teas, BBQ  
and more!  
Free admission!**

**If you can help with any of the above, please contact Jo Proctor  
llm@stmarysburwell.org.uk or telephone 07482 227551**



## Pilgrim Cross

We were pleased to provide the Pilgrims with a meal and overnight accommodation this year on their annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham, where they join pilgrims from other parts of the country for Easter. Some were taking part for the first time, while others have visited us several times.



We have since received this thank you note:

*To all our friends who have helped us on our pilgrimage, Happy Easter and a huge thank you for your support to us on our pilgrimage to Walsingham this year. We really appreciate all the cups of tea, cakes, scones, soup, jacket potatoes and other amazing hospitality and support we receive along our way - we could not do it without you!*

*We have had another wonderful year on London Leg and enjoyed a glorious celebration of Easter in Walsingham with the other Pilgrim Cross groups.*

*Thank you so much again and we look forward to seeing you again next year. With love and prayers to you this Easter and for the rest of the year.*

You can see more information about the pilgrimage here <https://pilgrimcross.org.uk/>

# Pilgrim Cross

## Environment Matters

A version of this month's Eco Living tips from Kathy was first published in May 2022

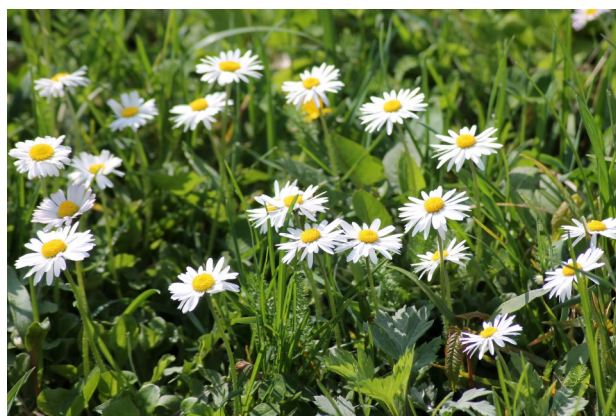


*Plantlife (a conservation charity which works to save threatened wild flowers, plants and fungi) has been running 'No Mow May' since 2019. The charity suggests that you do not mow your lawn during May, which will allow wild flowers to bloom, providing nectar for insects to enjoy, and flowers for you to enjoy.*

*After 'No Mow May', Plantlife suggests you keep some of your lawn cut short, mowing it just once a month, (for the shorter flowers such as daisies and clover) and leave some uncut (good for ox-eye daisies). Some people have had orchids grow in their lawns. We have been pleased to have extra colour in our garden from speedwell, dandelions, daisies and clover. These attract butterflies and all sorts of bees.*

*Added bonuses of reducing lawn mowing are that you cut your carbon footprint (especially if you use a fossil-fuel powered mower), you save time, and, the more species of plants in your lawn, the more carbon that is stored in your lawn. See [www.plantlife.org.uk](http://www.plantlife.org.uk) for more information.*

If you have Eco tips or ideas you'd like to share, please send them to [pat@patchtcs.co.uk](mailto:pat@patchtcs.co.uk)





## Threads Through The Bible Exhibition

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May - Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June  
at Ely Cathedral**

*This inspiring exhibition of textile art by artist Jacqui Parkinson consists of 44 huge panels, which depict the story of the Bible in brilliant colours and extraordinary stitching.*

I highly recommend a visit to the 'Threads through the Bible' exhibition to be held soon. Entry is included with your visitor ticket or Pass. Having already seen some of the panels at previous exhibitions, I know it will be full of colour and inspiration as it takes you through scenes of Creation, the Cross and the Book of Revelation.

For more information and tickets go to: <https://www.elycathedral.org/events/threads-through-the-bible-exhibition>

Kathy Ogilvie



## Burwell Branch News

By the time you read this we will have had our April Branch meeting (at Twenty Pence Garden Centre!); a Quiet Day in Waterbeach and the Diocesan Spring Meeting and AGM in March— there is still a lot happening!

Our Mothering Sunday Appeal raised £270 (£337.50 with Gift Aid) – thank you all for your generosity.

Our next fellowship lunch after Holy Communion in St Mary's will be on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May and, as usual, it is open to all our friends in St Mary's. Please let me know by Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May if you would like to join us.

If you are not a member, but are 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 (15<sup>th</sup> April 2025)

## Cathedral Passes

Did you know that, if you are on the Electoral Roll and live in Ely Diocese, you can have free entry to Ely Cathedral? Existing Parish Passes, even if they have expired, are still being honoured. If you have not yet got a Pass, you will need to print out and complete a form, which you then take into the Cathedral. For further details see:

<https://www.elycathedral.org/plan-your-visit/visitor-tickets-and-tours/free-cathedral-entry>

The Cathedral will still be grateful for any donations you may like to make when you visit!

## CentrePeace



**38a The Causeway, Burwell**

We are open every morning except Sunday and Monday and also Wednesday afternoon.

### 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

## What's on in our churches this month

Date	St Mary's Burwell	St Etheldreda's Reach
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30am Holy Communion	
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	9.00am Morning Prayer	
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	10.00am Refresh Café and Lunch	
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> May Easter 3	10.00am Café Church	8.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	10.30am Holy Communion	
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> May VE day 80 years	9.00am Morning Prayer 6.30pm Ringing of Bells	
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00am Refresh Café and Lunch	
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> May Easter 4	10.00am Holy Communion with VE Day prayers <i>4.00pm Evensong at Ely Cathedral—Eleanor preaching</i>	
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	10.30am Holy Communion	
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	9.00am Morning Prayer	
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00am Refresh Café and Lunch	
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> May Easter 5	8.30am Holy Communion 10.00am Christian Aid Service	
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	<i>10.30am Holy Communion at Ness Court</i>	10.30am Holy Communion
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	9.00am Morning Prayer	
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	10.00am Refresh Café and Lunch	
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> May Easter 6	10.00am Holy Communion	
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	NO SERVICE	
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> May Ascension Day	10.30am Holy Communion	
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00am Refresh Café and Lunch	
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> June Sunday after Ascension Easter 7	10.00am Café Church <i>4.00pm Churchwardens' Swearing in at Cathedral</i>	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 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 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of month.  
 If you require help from the Foodbank  
 please ring 01353 468626  
 or email [info@ely.foodbank.org.uk](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:administrator@stmarysburwell.org.uk)

## Vicar

**Rev'd Canon Dr Eleanor Williams**

22 Isaacson Road 01638 741262  
[vicar@stmarysburwell.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmarysburwell.org.uk)

## Associate Priest

Rev'd Paula Spalding 07849 936085  
[associatepriest@stmarysburwell.org.uk](mailto:associatepriest@stmarysburwell.org.uk)

Duty days Wednesday, Friday and Sunday

## Curate

Rev'd Virginia Moggridge 07566 773020  
[curate@stmarysburwell.org.uk](mailto:curate@stmarysburwell.org.uk)

Day off Tuesday

## Priests in retirement

Rev'd David King

Rev'd Dr Roger Williams

## Licensed Lay Ministers

Jo Proctor

Kevin Powell

## 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/](http://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](mailto: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