



# contact

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

## We believe

I got to preach on Trinity Sunday several times when I was a curate. It's one of those weeks when, if you can, you ask someone else to preach (thank you, Kevin!). The Trinity is a topic we often skirt over, except on Trinity Sunday, when we attempt some sort of explanation, then go back to avoiding.

By contrast the Early Church considered this to be of vital importance. There were different understandings, and disagreements, until at the Ecumenical Councils there was general agreement and the Council of Nicaea in 325 drew up a creed, later developed at the Council of Constantinople in 381, as what we now recite as the Nicene Creed.

At the heart of the controversies – is Jesus God? Was he always God? Or was he a good man somehow adopted by God? Is the Spirit God? The word 'Trinity' is not in the Bible, but the early church soon came to be worshipping Jesus as God, like Thomas in the Upper Room after the Resurrection declaring, 'My Lord and my God', and later on baptising in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Does it all matter? Does it matter if Jesus is not God? Yes, it does. If Jesus is not God, his death would not have brought us eternal life or forgiveness of all our sins. He becomes just a wonderful teacher, who ended up dead. And if Jesus is not really man, then how can he have known all of human experience, and be truly the One who represents us.

Does it matter if the Spirit is not God? Yes, it does. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come and be with us, but the Holy Spirit is not a force, or a power, for us to use, but God himself who indwell us. One God – three Persons. A paradox - not reducible to a human formulation, but not unknowable.

This year it is 1700 years since the Council of Nicaea, and as we join in the words, we join our voices with the Church throughout history and across the world, affirming together the good news of Jesus Christ, as we share in a lived reality that shapes our identity, our worship, and our witness in the world .

**Eleanor Williams**



To mark the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed, the Church of England has produced a set of resources, to unpack the significance of each part of the creed through 24 daily biblical reflections. These are available in booklet form, at £3.99 per copy, or £35 for a pack of 10, from Church House Publishing.

The reflections will also be available via the Everyday Faith app from 16<sup>th</sup> June,



**Everyday Faith app**

Develop a daily connection with God with the Everyday Faith app. Journey daily with reflections to inspire, equip and encourage you in your everyday faith.

Everyday Faith is available to download for iOS and Android.






## From the Parish Registers Funerals

*Rest in Peace*

Andy Martin

Don Harrison

## Wedding

*We congratulate*

Paige Skelton and Edward Chinnock



## Virginia away on Placement

As part of our training, curates go on a placement, to spend time in a different setting, usually around the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. I will be joining with the Three Rivers Group, 5 churches in one group, which some of you will know: Snailwell, Chippenham, Isleham, Fordham and Kennett. I will be working with Reverend Steve Day, who looks after all 5 churches, together with the 3 schools in the group, so it is going to be a busy time! I will be away from Burwell and Reach, from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June, returning Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July.

Virginia Moggridge

## Lighting the Church Green



A local family have approached us again to ask if we can light up St Mary's green on June 7<sup>th</sup> to mark Tourette's Action Day and to help

raise awareness about tics and Tourette's syndrome (TS). TS is an inherited, neurological condition, affecting children and adults, the key features of which are tics, involuntary and uncontrollable sounds and movements. TS is a complex condition and a large number of people with the condition will also experience co-occurring features and conditions.

Tourette's Action is the leading support and research charity for people with Tourette's Syndrome and their families, helping families receive the practical support and social acceptance they need to help them live their lives to the full. [www.tourettes-action.org.uk](http://www.tourettes-action.org.uk)

## Connect Café

A connecting space for families

**Wednesday 11th June**

**3.30 - 5.00pm**

**St Mary's, Burwell**



*Refreshments*

*Board Games Table Football*

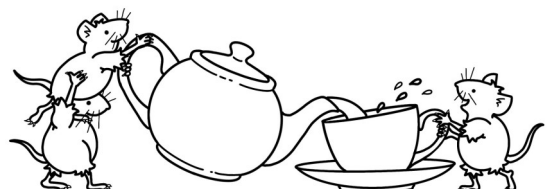
*Activities Crafts*

*Connect with each other  
and with God*

## Cream Teas Thank you!

The cream teas served in St Etheldreda's at Reach Fair raised £474.55.

Thank you to all who helped in any way.





## St Mary's Fete - just 1 week to go - we still need help with a few things

### Tombola prizes

Donations for the tombola and the children's tombola would be welcome. Please leave in the box in church or speak to Angela Bellis.

### 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. Speak to Jo Proctor.

### Raffle Tickets

Books of tickets are available on Sundays to take and sell or purchase for yourself.

### Donations for stalls to sell

Donations of plants (Dawn Hurrell); Bric-a-Brac (Kathy and Simon Ogilvie); Jewellery (Ann Briggs) can be given to the people listed or brought on the day, before 1.30pm. Cakes and scones can be brought on the day, labelled with ingredients.

### Contact

Please contact Jo Proctor with queries or offers of help - [llm@stmarysburwell.org.uk](mailto:llm@stmarysburwell.org.uk)

## Carers' Service

We are holding a Thank You service to support Carers on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June at 3.00pm at St Mary's, followed by tea and all are welcome, if you are or have been a carer, along with those who need that extra support.

Carers' Week this year is 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> June, and is an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges unpaid carers face and recognise the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK. It also helps people who don't think of themselves as having caring responsibilities to identify as carers and access much-needed support.

This year the theme is 'Caring About Equality' highlighting the inequalities faced by unpaid carers, including a greater risk of poverty, social isolation, poor mental and physical health.



9<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> June 2025



### Annual Carers' Service

*to thank and support unpaid carers*

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**3pm**

**St Mary's Church Burwell**

**followed by tea**

**All very welcome**



Carers Week is an annual awareness campaign to celebrate and recognise the vital contribution made by the UK's 6.5 million carers. For more information visit [carersweek.org](http://carersweek.org)



## APCM Report

The APCM on 27<sup>th</sup> April was attended by about 40 people and included all the statutory matters necessary at such gatherings as well as a more general review of the church in 2024. The written reports are in the Annual Report, paper copies of which are still available in church, or you can view it online at <https://www.stmarysburwell.org.uk/about-us/newsletters/annual-reports>

During the meeting, further details were added on some subjects.

### Elections

Churchwardens are elected yearly and the usual maximum period of service is 6 years. As reported last month, Wendy Smith was re-elected this year and Sue Reynolds was elected for the first time.

PCC members are elected for 3 year terms, and Rob Proctor, having reached the end of a term, was re-elected.

### Church Members

Avril Plume, the Electoral Roll Officer reported that after, its recent 6 year revision, the roll currently stands at 124. This includes 29 new people who were added but a total of 19 had not been renewed. The names of those who have died or moved into care or away from Burwell were read out and remembered for a few moments.

### Financial Matters

Following Terry Chalmers' retirement last year, the financial affairs of the church have been looked after by an external accountant, Sue Chase, assisted by a Finance Team, including Revd Eleanor Williams, Ian Richards, Steve Martin and Sally Swann. Sue Chase was present at the APCM for the first time and took the opportunity to explain the different types of funds held by the PCC. Restricted Funds contain money that was given for a specific purpose, often in a legacy, and it can't be used for anything else. Designated Funds are those set aside for a particular purpose by the PCC, but could, if the PCC agreed, be used for something else.

The Unrestricted (General) Fund includes all the routine income obtained by donations etc and the day to day running expenses. Most of the PCC's Funds are Restricted and so cannot be used for running costs, but only for set purposes, like repairs to the fabric of the church. In 2024, income into the General Fund was lower than the running costs for the churches, so some of the Reserve had to be used to cover the small deficit. The Unrestricted Funds are good, but will run low if the current under-funding continues. In answer to a question, Sue explained that the Building to Serve fund is designated for improvements to the building and that the PCC is considering using some of it towards the replacement of the current heating system.

Simon Rogers, who acted as Independent Examiner, said that his aim was to ensure the smooth transfer to the new system. He said he was very comfortable with the new system and thanked Sue and the Finance Team for making it work.

### Safeguarding

Jo Proctor, the Safeguarding Officer, reported that we are up to date with all that is required by the Church of England. She stressed how important the training is because its purpose is to make sure people are aware of how to recognise that someone might be suffering from abuse and what to do if they suspect it.

### Vicar's report

Eleanor said that 2024 had been a year of adapting to new teams for the church wardens, administrator, finance team and treasurer and for Jo Proctor with her many roles. Eleanor said that we are in a season of growth, with new people and new opportunities. She thanked all the people behind the scenes who support the Vicar and Clergy team and all those who give financially. The Parish could not manage without all who play their part.

Eleanor referred to the image of Christ knocking at a door. This is usually seen as Christ asking to come into our lives, but can also be seen as Christ asking us to come out into the world.



## Burwell Branch News May 2025

By the time you read this we will have had our May Branch meeting, with our good friend and ex-Burwellian Jean Webb speaking about the Away From It All (AFIA) holidays for disadvantaged families run by the Diocesan Mothers' Union. We are looking forward to our June meeting which is planned to include a return visit to Burwell Museum. Our next fellowship lunch after Holy Communion in St Mary's will be on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June and, as usual, it is open to all our friends in St Mary's. Please let me know by Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June if you would like to join us.

If you are not a member, but interested in the work of the Mothers' Union 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 (19<sup>th</sup> May 2025)*



## 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.*

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

## Environment Matters

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



*Open Eco Homes is a free home energy advice and information hub which has inspired thousands of Cambridgeshire residents to improve their home energy efficiency over the last 15 years.*

*This is a Cambridge-based organization which contains a lot of useful information about how to live in ways that are better for the planet and can also save you money. It also holds talks (in-person and on-line, sometimes recorded to watch later) on subjects such as how to keep your home cool in a heatwave. It arranges tours of local homes to highlight changes which can be made to your home (some expensive ideas, some not) to reduce your impact on the planet.*

*For more information see their website [www.openecohomes.org](http://www.openecohomes.org)*

If you have tried any of Kathy's Eco tips or ideas from elsewhere and found them helpful, it would be good to hear how you got on. Just send a photograph or short explanation to [pat@patchtcs.co.uk](mailto:pat@patchtcs.co.uk), or if a hand written item would be easier for you, just let me know. *Pat Chalmers, Editor*

## A poem by Sue Ash Alpha/Omega

The word 'AMEN'  
means end of prayer.  
From day till night  
still in God's care.

Singing, praising  
the Lord above -  
provides, giving  
the words of love.

Love holds no grudge  
time and again -  
through light to dark -  
once more, 'AMEN!'

14.05.25

## CentrePeace



Later in the year, we'll be celebrating the 20th anniversary of CentrePeace first opening in December 2005. In all that time, we've never made much profit, but our aim has been to cover our costs. Since the Covid lockdowns, however, sales have never quite recovered to pre-Covid levels and, with costs rising, this means for the last couple of years, we've had to rely on financial support from St Mary's PCC to cover the deficit. The shop clearly needs to generate more money to cover basic costs and so the committee have decided that prices will have to increase and from June 3rd the new prices will be:

- Books £2
- Children's books £1
- Jigsaws £3.

We're also supplementing our income by having stalls at village events, including Reach Fair where we sold a range of books and raised £145. We'll be selling jigsaws at the Church Fete on June 7<sup>th</sup> too.

*Hazel Williams*

## What's Involved in working in CentrePeace?

I joined CentrePeace as a volunteer nearly 20 years ago, having recently retired. I have enjoyed meeting many visitors to the shop who come to browse and buy books, and sometimes for coffee, conversation and company. We are also asked to direct delivery drivers who are lost and we have had visitors who are in Burwell, perhaps to buy a property. Dogs are always welcome. During the winter months, I have often been walking my dog and stopped at CentrePeace for tea.

My grandchildren have fond memories of the books I have bought them and I have rediscovered the joy of reading novels. Reading books by authors such as Sebastian Faulks, Ian McEwan, Philippa Gregory, CS Sansom, Donna Leon and many more has given me so much pleasure!

CentrePeace is a bookshop, but I think equally important as a 'drop in centre' where all are welcome. I am personally so grateful for the friendship and company I have enjoyed over so many years.

*Anne Perkins*

## CentrePeace

**38a The Causeway, Burwell**

A shop selling good quality second hand books and jigsaws, and a selection greeting cards for every occasion. We also offer our customers tea or coffee and a space to sit and chat.

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 this month

8.30 10.00	<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June</b> <b>Easter 7</b> Holy Communion at Reach Café Church at St Mary's	Wed 4 Thurs 5 Fri 6 Sat 7	10.30 9.00 10.00 9.00 14.00	Holy Communion at St Mary's Morning Prayer at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers at Village Green Coffee Shop St Mary's Fete in church and churchyard
10.00 15.00	<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June</b> <b>PENTECOST</b> Holy Communion at Burwell Carers' Service at St Mary's	Wed 11 Thurs 12 Fri 13 Sat 14	10.30 9.00 10.00 9.00 16.00	Holy Communion at St Mary's Morning Prayer at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers Deanery Confirmation at St Vigor's Fulbourn
8.30 10.00	<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June</b> Trinity Sunday Holy Communion at Burwell Holy Communion at Burwell	Wed 18 Thurs 19 Fri 20 Sat 22	10.30 9.00 10.00 9.00	Holy Communion at Reach (also at Ness Court) Morning Prayer at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers.
10.00	<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June</b> <b>Trinity 1</b> Holy Communion at Burwell	Wed 25 Thurs 26 Fri 27 Sat 28	10.30 9.00 10.00 9.00	Holy Communion at St Mary's Morning Prayer at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers
10.00 16.00	<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June</b> <b>Trinity 2</b> St Etheldreda's Service at Reach Messy Church at St Mary's	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, activities for all ages, then a short service. Most weeks, we aim to live stream the Sunday 10.00am service on Facebook, apart from Café Church or when there is a baptism		



**St Etheldreda's Church, Reach**  
**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 10.00am**  
**A service for St Etheldreda's Day**  
followed by refreshments



**WEEKLY GATHERINGS:** We have a number of small groups meeting during the week, including:  
**Monday 7.30pm** St Mary's Bellringers meet to practice most weeks (check pew sheet)  
**Friday 10.00am** Refresh Café and lunch for babies, pre-school children and their grown-ups  
**Saturday 9.00am** A Prayer Group meets at Village Green Coffee Shop

## Facebook Videos

During the Pandemic, a small group posted videos of prayers and short services, to support our spiritual life, when we were not able to meet together in person. Many of the videos are still on our Facebook page, going back to March 2020.

Facebook has now notified us that any videos over 30 days old will be removed from 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025. You can still view or download them from the church page before then.

I would like to say a huge thank to those who contributed and faithfully shared this very special ministry with me, day after day, for many, many months: Sue Evans, Jo Proctor (sometimes with Rob Proctor), Paula Spalding and Janine Stewart, and to Rob for the tech support.

Eleanor Williams





**Burwell Food Support Group**  
*working together  
 to support our local community*

**Pop-Up Pantry is changing**  
**After Pantry on 13<sup>th</sup> June**  
**we will be moving**  
**to once a month for a trial period**  
**6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June as normal**  
**then next Pantry 4<sup>th</sup> July**  
**2.00-3.00pm**  
**at Burwell Day Centre**  
**Ely Foodbank still every Friday**

**Pop-Up Pantry** is working towards reducing waste and offers short life food and more as is available. Anyone in financial need is welcome to access support to help them get back on their feet. **Pop-Up in the Porch at St Mary's** available as advertised. Donations towards the Pantry are gratefully received and can be dropped off at the Day Centre. Voluntary contribution of £2 helps towards running costs. **Citizen Advice** join the Foodbank team 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)



## 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 (on placement June/July)

## Priests in retirement

Rev'd David King  
 Rev'd Dr Roger Williams

## Licensed Lay Ministers

Jo Proctor  
 Kevin Powell

## Churchwardens

Wendy Smith 01638 741888  
 Sue Reynolds

## Churchwardens' Assistants

Stephen Martin 01638 742667  
 Caroline Smith

## We're also on Facebook

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

## 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)**

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