



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

Gratitude

For most of us, harvest time no longer means long hours working in the fields, reaping and gathering the year's crops, but it still remains important for all. Harvest is a focussed time to give thanks, to reflect on God as Creator and Sustainer of all life, and on our shared responsibilities to our planet.

Gratitude is what we might call a 'game changer'. It really does alter how we view our lives. I was really moved when someone told me recently that at night, they take time to think of three things to give thanks for. I know, in my own life, that a deliberate choice to be thankful can transform my mood and my whole perspective on a situation and on life.

Our church harvest celebrations will be taking place during October, in different services and in our groups for young people, children and families. As we take time to thank God for our beautiful world, for the abundance of provision which we enjoy, for the harvest and those who work on the land, it's also a time to reflect on our responsibility to be 'guardians of the earth', as Psalm 8 reminds us.

We recognise that we have failed in our calling to be stewards of Creation. Can we commit ourselves afresh 'to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth'? What lifestyle choices might we make, to live more simply and generously, not harming the environment by the wrong use of resources? Not easy questions, but we need to be asking them.

This October, we are also holding a Service of Thanksgiving and Gift Day, when we will give thanks for the life of our church and for everything we have received by the grace of God. Our wider church community is made up of people who all have a part to play in growing God's Kingdom, whether that be in our home or work life, or through the services and activities of St Mary's and St Etheldreda's, giving financially, and using their gifts and skills to support the day to day functioning of our church. The service on October 26th will be an opportunity for us all to give thanks, and dedicate ourselves afresh to God's service. Thanks be to God.

Eleanor Williams



**St Mary's, Burwell
Harvest Café Church
Sunday 5th October
10.00 - 11.00am**



**Refreshments, activities, time to chat
Play area for young ones
Short service with hymns & prayers
Harvest donations welcome**



Most needed items

Tinned foods (soup, meat, fish, fruit, veg).

Dried goods (rice, cereal, lentils).

Long-life items (UHT milk, fruit juice, tea, coffee)

Toiletries and hygiene products (toothpaste, soap, sanitary products, shampoo)

From the Parish Registers

Baptism

We welcome

Eilidh Tajima Greer

Thanksgiving for the gift of a child

We thank God for

Rupert Hellen

Wedding

Congratulations to

Dianne Alcantara and Daniel Newby

Funerals

Rest in peace

Mike Swift



Congratulations to Dianne and Daniel!

A Message from Revd Laura Martin

Trinity Church Final Service

A Closing Service of Celebration
is to be held on

**Saturday 18th October
at 2pm**

To be followed by refreshments.

The service is open to all,
and you are very welcome to join us.

If you would like to join us,
please do let Mary Edwards know
by using the email address below
so that we can ensure
everyone is catered for.
mea.edwards2@gmail.com



Open Day at St Etheldreda's Church

Sunday 19th October 2.30 - 4.30pm

- Refreshments
- Meet the team
- Find out about the history
- Explore the building and churchyard
- Harvest activities for children
- Collection for local foodbank
- Harvest songs & prayers at 4.00pm

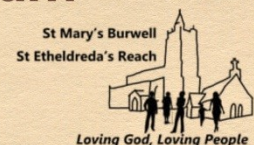
**A very special welcome
if you're new to the village
Please come and say hello!**

St Mary's Burwell

Thanksgiving Service and Gift Day

**26 October 2025
10.00am**

*Followed by
refreshments*



This service will include time to give thanks for the life of our church, and to rededicate ourselves to the service of God. Look out for a letter coming out in the next couple of weeks,

On Sunday 28th October, Virginia presided at her last service with us as our curate. She will complete her curacy in The Three Rivers group, before moving on, hopefully, to her own parish next year. We thank her for her ministry here and wish her well for the future.



Connect Café

A connecting space for families

Wednesday 8th October

3.30 - 5.00pm

St Mary's, Burwell



Refreshments

Board Games Table Football

Activities

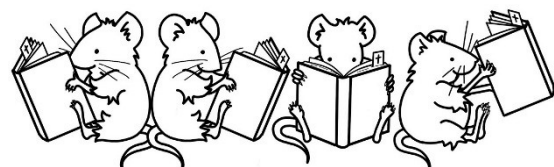
Crafts

**Connect with each other
and with God**

Gifts of Bibles to children & young people

The Sunday School Bridgeman Trust was established in 1980, with two bequests to St Mary's and to what was then St Andrew's, from the estate of the late Mrs Phyllis Bridgeman. The funds were given in memory of her late husband, Herbert Bridgeman, for annual Sunday school prizes.

In recent years, we have purchased children's Bibles for children going to primary school from Refresh Café, and are very pleased that this year funds from the Bridgeman Trust have been allocated for this, and also for Bibles given to young people who were confirmed in June. It has been lovely to give 13 children's Bibles and Bible story books and two teen Bibles.



St Mary's Open Day

The weather on September 27th was perfect and lots of people made it to the top of the tower to see the amazing views of the surrounding area.



They also explored the church and churchyard, with trails and quizzes. Learning about the 500 year history. There were opportunities to search for a family tree in the church records, to try your hand in brass rubbing and engage in various family activities including making paper mediaeval ladies and model churches. And of course, there was plenty of tea and cake!



Thank you to the bellringers and everyone who helped make the day a success and to all those who came.



Singers Wanted!

St Mary's church choir will be rehearsing soon for the Carols by Candlelight Service, which is held in St Mary's just before Christmas.

Rehearsals will be held in St Mary's from 7.30pm to 8.30pm on Friday evenings, starting in October, until the service on Sunday 21 December. The ability to read music and sing in parts is helpful, but not essential. For further information, please contact Kathy (kathy.ogilvie@gmail.com).



Burwell Branch News

Our meeting in August was, as usual, a "missed" month, but I was nevertheless joined by a few members for a cup of tea and a chat. By the time you read this we will have held our September meeting, which was a visit to Kings Hotel in Newmarket for afternoon tea and an introduction to the history of the building. The next meeting, on 24th October, will include a talk by Ian Richards on TWAM (Tools With A Mission), which we are looking forward to.

Our next fellowship lunch after Holy Communion in St Mary's will be on Wednesday 8th October and, as usual, it is open to all our friends in St Mary's. Please let me know if you would like to join us.

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 (23rd Sept 2025)

What's involved in... Being in the church choir?

St Mary's choir is singing once again, hurrah! Our choir is not able to sing together every week but we come together when we can for different occasions. Our next event will be Carols By Candlelight in St Mary's on Sunday December 21st. Our first rehearsal will be in St Mary's at 7.30pm on Friday October 17th.

We would, of course, love to sing together more often but the great thing about our current set up is that anyone can join us for a "taster" period, even if they are not able to commit for longer. We are led by the amazing Becky and sing a mixture of traditional and less common pieces of music, some in unison, some in four part harmony. We are usually accompanied on the piano or organ by Peter (and sometimes he joins us in singing unaccompanied). We sing from sheet music but a combination of rehearsals and the ever helpful You Tube / Spotify means that those who have difficulty reading music can also fit in nicely. We would love to welcome newcomers and can also arrange lifts for those who would find them helpful.

The members of the choir are a great bunch of people, some of us have been singing together for decades and others have joined more recently. The joy of being part of creating such an uplifting sound strikes me every time we rehearse (and even more so when the efforts we put in pay off with a performance we can truly be proud of) and the church is a beautiful setting for the sound to float outwards and upwards.

As with most choirs we have more sopranos singing the melody line than altos, tenors and basses and we would, of course, especially welcome more of those singers but we can always do with more sopranos too. Why not come and see if this would suit you? See the attached notice for details of how you can get in touch.

Sally Swann



Garden of Peace
Isaiah 32:14-18

PEACE WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2025

Each year from September 1st to October 4th, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. The 2025 Symbol is inspired by Isaiah 32:14-18. Titled "Garden of Peace," it depicts a white dove flying over a tree. The left side of the tree is barren, with roots digging into dry soil, surrounded by an arid, desolate landscape. In contrast, the right side of the tree is lush and green, standing amidst a flourishing landscape. The dove, carrying an olive branch in its beak, flies toward the right - symbolizing peace as a transition from a war-torn, overexploited land to one that is fertile, thriving, and hospitable. Let us remember that humanity was originally called to tend a garden.

Through this year's Season of Creation, there will be time for reflection on the connection between caring for creation and fostering peace, and prayer for our world.



Environment Matters

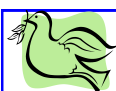
Did you know that the textile industry, which includes manufacture and disposal of not just clothing, but also bedding, towels, curtains etc, is a significant contributor to filling landfill and the formation of greenhouse gases?

Commercial business waste company <https://www.businesswaste.co.uk/> gives some fascinating statistics, for example: around the world, a truckload of waste is incinerated or added to landfill every second and it can take between 20 and 200 years for textile waste to decompose. With more thought and care, perhaps we can reduce these amounts.

We often tend to keep clothes that we never wear in our wardrobes, but we can easily make better use of them and make a difference. Perhaps you could re-use the fabric in some way, or pass the clothes on to a friend.

Unwanted clothes can be donated via charity shops, doorstep charity bag collections and collection bins, of which there are several in the village, including the Salvation Army bin in the Co-op Car Park. The Salvation Army accepts donations of a very wide range of fabrics and other goods and has a large processing plant in Kettering to ensure that the textiles it receives are re-used, re-sold or re-cycled. You can also sell clothes online via various sites. Buying second hand clothes makes sense too, especially for special occasion wear which is likely to have been worn only once!

Burwell Parish Council also runs 'Swishing Events' twice a year, where you can donate clothes or pick up new clothes for free, although if you wish, you can make a donation which will be used for other Eco projects in the village. The next event is on Sunday October 19th from 1pm till 4pm in the Gardiner Hall.



CentrePeace

As well as our usual range of books and jigsaws, we also offer greetings cards for all occasions. Our Christmas stocks will be arriving soon!

If you would like to volunteer in CentrePeace, please contact me, Hazel Williams hwill66@icloud.com

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

Burwell Farmers Market

Burwell Farmers Market takes place in Mandeville Hall from 9am till 12 noon on the second Saturday of every month.

We serve the refreshments on alternate months. Please let me know if you could you help on **October 11th** and/or **December 13th**

Pat Chalmers pat@patchtcs.co.uk

What's on this month

		Wed 1	10.30	Holy Communion at St Mary's
		Thurs 2	9.00	Morning Prayer at St Mary's
		Fri 3	10.00	Refresh Café at St Mary's
		Sat 4	9.00	Village Green Pray-ers
8.30	Sunday 5th October	Wed 8	10.30	Holy Communion at St Mary's
10.00	Trinity 16	Thurs 9	9.00	Morning Prayer at St Mary's
	Holy Communion at Reach	Fri 10	10.00	Refresh Café at St Mary's
	Café Church at St Mary's	Sat 11	9.00	Village Green Pray-ers
10.00	Sunday 12th October	Wed 15	10.30	Holy Communion at Reach
	Trinity 17	Thurs 16	9.00	(also at Ness Court)
	Holy Communion at Burwell	Fri 17	10.00	Morning Prayer at St Mary's
		Sat 18	9.00	Refresh Café at St Mary's
				Village Green Pray-ers
8.30	Sunday 19th October	Wed 22	10.30	Holy Communion at St Mary's
10.00	Trinity 18	Thurs 23	9.00	Morning Prayer at St Mary's
	Holy Communion at Burwell	Fri 24	10.00	Refresh Café at St Mary's
	All Age service with baptism	Sat 25	9.00	Village Green Pray-ers
	at Burwell			
2.30	Open Day at Reach			
	to 4.30pm			
10.00	Sunday 26th October	Wed 29	10.30	Holy Communion at St Mary's
	Trinity 19	Thurs 30	9.00	Morning Prayer at St Mary's
	Holy Communion at Burwell	Fri 31	10.00	Refresh Café at St Mary's
		Sat 1 Nov	9.00	Village Green Pray-ers
8.30	Sunday 2nd November	Wed 5	10.30	Holy Communion at St Mary's
10.00	4th before Advent	Thurs 6	9.00	Morning Prayer at St Mary's
	Holy Communion at Reach	Fri 7	10.00	Refresh Café at St Mary's
	Café Church at St Mary's	Sat 8	9.00	Village Green Pray-ers
3.00	Remembering Service			
	at Burwell			
	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. You don't need to have a Facebook account, and to make it easier to find, there is a direct link from our website to the Facebook page.			

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

Please speak to Eleanor if you would be interested in joining a bible study group, or are wondering whether baptism and/or confirmation might be the next step for you on your faith journey.

**Pop-Up Pantry
at Burwell Day Centre
First Friday of month**

**October 3rd
and November 7th
2.00 - 3.00pm**

***Check Facebook page
for updates***

**If you're struggling
to make ends meet,
you can pick up
a bag of groceries**

**No voucher needed.
Voluntary £2 contribution.**

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

Part of Burwell Food Support Group

**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)

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

Administrator

Kathy Ogilvie

administrator@stmarysburwell.org.uk

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

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