

## WELCOME TO OUR CHURCHES & SERVICES



21<sup>st</sup> December 2025 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

### THIS WEEK

**Collect:** *God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

**Readings:** Isaiah 7:10-16 Matthew 1:18-25

**Hymns:** Carol Book 65 The angel Gabriel  
Carol Book 5 O come, O come, Emmanuel  
Carol book 16 Thou didst leave thy throne  
Carol Book 55 Long ago, prophets knew

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

8.30am Holy Communion at Burwell  
10.00am Holy Communion at Burwell  
*We hope to be able to live stream on Facebook.*  
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight at St. Mary's

### WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**Mon** 5.00pm Christingle Service at Reach  
7.30pm Bell ringing practice

### Wednesday Christmas Eve

10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's  
3.00pm Crib Service at St. Mary's  
11.30pm Midnight Communion at St. Mary's

### Thursday Christmas Day

8.30am Holy Communion at Reach  
10.00am Holy Communion at St. Mary's

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> NO REFRESH CAFÉ**



### SUNDAY WORSHIP – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025

10.00am Holy Communion at St. Mary's

### FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

- As the Advent season draws to a close, we remember the real meaning of Christmas and ask God that the birth of his Son will bring peace on Earth to all. We pray for the Church, that the message of Joy that Christmas brings will be proclaimed in every part of our communities, as we give thanks for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ into our world.

- We pray for all those affected by the shooting whilst attending the Hannukka celebrations at Bondi Beach, Australia. For the families and friends of those who have lost their lives, for the injured and all those traumatised by the events.

- We continue to pray for an end to the war in Ukraine. Be near to those who are anxious; bring comfort to all who are suffering.

- We pray for the peoples of Gaza and Israel, that a stable and lasting ceasefire plan may be secured.

- We pray for world leaders and those in positions of power. May they work for justice, peace, and the dignity of all people, especially the poor and marginalised. May they seek to serve rather than to be served.

- For the work of organisations helping families around the world to overcome poverty and injustice, wherever the need is greatest, and there is high risk of famine including: Myanmar, Haiti, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Yemen, Syria, DRC, South Sudan.

- We give thanks for the beauty of our world. We pray for people whose lives are destroyed by floods, heatwaves, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and other natural occurrences. Help us to care actively for this world, to take responsibility for looking after it rather than simply using and abusing it. We pray that world leaders, local governments and communities work together to protect our common home.

- For all those struggling in today's difficult economic situation. May adequate immediate provision be made available, and support to find longer term solutions, so that everyone has their basic needs met for food, shelter, employment and security. For national and international governments as they tackle the economic and social issues which affect them. May those in authority act with wisdom and justice to bring greatest good for the greatest number of people.

- We give thanks for the gift of community, a place where we can connect, support, and encourage one another. We pray for unity, understanding, and love among all members. Help us to see each other as your children, and to treat each other with kindness and compassion.

- For the new Archbishop of Canterbury elect, Bishop Sarah Mullally – for grace to fulfil this challenging role, for wisdom, discernment, humility and courage. For our leaders as the Diocese continues the process of choosing a new Bishop of Ely.

- For this parish, for Eleanor, Paula, Jo, Kevin & all in leadership. For our work with children, young people and families, including Refresh Café, Messy Church and Connect Café. For those involved on the teams, and for all who come along.

- for those who are unable to meet with us, who are now in residential care, including Jennie, Janey, and Vi

- For those living in:- Baker Drive, Ness Court, Ness Road, The Avenue (Burwell), Chapel Lane (Reach).

- For those in special need: Danny, Sarah, Jackie C, Neil, Janice, Sonny (Jackie & Tony's Great Grandson), Kate, Jennie D, John D, Joanne, Pam C, Michael (Ysanne's brother), Jackie L, Sue A, Daphne, Hilary, Paul (Alison K's friend), Lesha (Janice Fearn's granddaughter), Jessica, Stephen (Boppo), David K.

- For the bereaved including the family and friends of Phil Hudson (Paula's brother), Canon Jim Garrard (of Ely Cathedral) and for those remembering anniversaries of loss of loved ones.

### FOR YOUR ATTENTION

\* **Carols by Candlelight** Sun 21<sup>st</sup>. We would be grateful for **donations** towards refreshments after the service: **red wine** for the mulled wine and **mince pies**. Please leave in the Church kitchen by Sun 21<sup>st</sup> am. Thanks very much. Val.

### PASTORAL CARE

Please contact Eleanor or Paula with messages about pastoral news, needs & concerns, requests for prayer. Revd Canon Dr Eleanor Williams 01638 741262 [vicar@stmarysburwell.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmarysburwell.org.uk)  
Revd Paula Spalding (Associate Priest): 07849 936085 [associatepriest@stmarysburwell.org.uk](mailto:associatepriest@stmarysburwell.org.uk).