



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

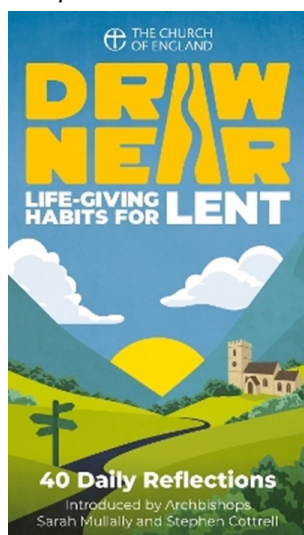
## Draw Near this Lent

The Church of England's theme for Lent 2026 is Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent. This year's resources have at their heart the theme of a 'rhythm of life' – habits and patterns which help us grow as disciples of Christ day by day, especially as we prepare to celebrate the great mystery of God's saving love at Easter.

The Lent reflections are centred around a summary of the Christian Way, which identifies six activities essential to those who follow the calling to be disciples. Each week a different contributor explores a different aspect of Christian discipleship: worshipping together, praying, exploring the Bible, sharing communion, offering service and sharing the good news with others.

"Draw Near is all about teaching us how we can cultivate the habits and practices that will draw us nearer to God. And we will find that, in doing so, God will draw nearer to us, too."

*Archbishop-elect Sarah Mullally & Archbishop Stephen Cottrell*



We have ordered 20 Draw Near booklets, which will be available in early February at £2.50 each.

For those who prefer digital, the Everyday Faith app will carry reflections for adults every Monday to Saturday during Lent, based on the booklet.



**Ash Wednesday  
February 18<sup>th</sup>**

**10.30am Holy Communion  
at St Etheldreda's, Reach**

**7.00pm Holy Communion  
at St Mary's, Burwell**

*Begin the Lent Journey together  
as we share Holy Communion  
and our foreheads are marked in ash  
with the sign of the Cross*

### A prayer for Lent by Francis Drake

Disturb us, Lord,  
when we are too well pleased with ourselves,  
When our dreams have come true  
Because we have dreamed too little,  
When we arrived safely  
Because we sailed too close to the shore.  
Disturb us, Lord, when  
With the abundance of things we possess  
We have lost our thirst  
For the waters of life;  
Having fallen in love with life,  
We have ceased to dream of eternity  
And in our efforts to build a new earth,  
We have allowed our vision  
Of the new Heaven to dim.  
Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,  
To venture on wider seas  
Where storms will show your mastery;  
Where losing sight of land,  
We shall find the stars.  
We ask You to push back  
The horizons of our hopes;  
And to push into the future

## From the Parish Registers

### Funerals

*Rest in peace*

John Dyke

Evelyn Mackender



**Installation of  
Revd Virginia Moggridge  
as Rector of Raddesley Group  
Tuesday February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2026  
at 7.00pm  
in St Mary's Church, Dullingham  
Followed by refreshments**



The Raddesley group of parishes  
comprises six churches, in the villages of  
Burrough Green, Brinkley, Carlton,  
Dullingham, Stetchworth  
and Westley Waterless

## CONFIRMATION IN 2026



Confirmation is a time for  
making a public  
declaration of faith, and  
for receiving the laying  
on of hands by the  
bishop, to seek the  
blessing of the Holy  
Spirit.

You're never too old, and for young  
people, including those who have been  
admitted to Holy Communion at a younger  
age, Confirmation can be a very significant  
time of making a public declaration of your  
faith, as you approach adulthood.

A Deanery Confirmation service is planned  
to be at St Mary's on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April  
2026. Preparation will begin in the New  
Year for anyone interested in being  
confirmed at that service. Please let  
Eleanor know if you are interested.



## Farewell Celebration



**The Evans's are off!  
Sue and John will be leaving for  
Australia in early March.**

**We know so many people  
in Burwell and would love you to  
join us for a cuppa and some cake  
to say goodbye.**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February  
2.30-4:00pm  
at the Burwell Day Centre.**

**Everyone welcome!**



## New Curtain

You may have noticed the smart 'new'  
curtain behind the side altar, which is a  
great improvement on the old one. We're  
very grateful to Trinity Church for passing  
it on to use following the closure of their  
building.



## New Bishop of Ely announced



On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January, it was announced from Downing Street that His Majesty the King has approved the nomination of the Right Reverend Sarah Clark, Acting Bishop of Durham and Suffragan Bishop of Jarrow in the Diocese of Durham, for election as Bishop of Ely. Bishop Sarah succeeds the Right Reverend Stephen Conway who moved to be Bishop of Lincoln in July 2023. We give thanks to Bishop Dagmar who has served as Acting Bishop and who will return fully to her role as Suffragan Bishop of Huntingdon once Bishop Sarah has taken up her role in the diocese.

Bishop Sarah says of her appointment:

"I feel such a sense of joy, vocation and thankfulness to God about coming to the Diocese of Ely. I am deeply honoured by this opportunity to serve as your Bishop and I am so looking forward to joining you, getting out and about throughout the whole diocese, hearing your stories and learning from them and about the communities you love and serve.

"When I came to explore the diocese before my interview I was captured by the sculpture of Mary the mother of Jesus in the Lady Chapel of Ely Cathedral, arms raised in Magnificat, in praise of what God was doing. I am full of hope that as we journey together into the future, embracing our rich diversity of tradition, theology, and place, we will write together the next chapter of the Diocese of Ely in such a way that it is shot through with that same spirit of thanksgiving to God. It is God's Holy Spirit who will enable us to grow in faith and number, in our witness to Jesus Christ and our service and care of others."

Welcoming Bishop Sarah to the Diocese, Bishop Dagmar adds: "The Diocese of Ely warmly welcomes Bishop Sarah. I am excited by the leadership, energy and vision she will bring and I am very much looking forward to her joining us."

Bishop Sarah was educated at Loughborough University and before being ordained worked as a civil servant within the Department of Employment. She trained for ministry at St John's College in Nottingham, before undertaking her curacy at St James Porchester in the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham. She was ordained Priest in 1999.

In 2002, Sarah was appointed Rector of the United Benefice of Carlton-in-Lindrick and Langold with Oldcotes, and from 2009 she served as Team Rector of the Clifton Team Ministry in Nottingham. In 2011 she became an Honorary Canon of Southwell Minster while also taking on the additional role of Dean of Women's Ministry. From 2014 she served as Archdeacon of Nottingham before being consecrated Bishop of Jarrow on 27 February 2019. She took on the responsibilities as Acting Bishop of Durham in early 2024 following the retirement of the former Bishop. With deep pastoral care and a vision for nurturing faith and inspiring mission, Bishop Sarah will guide our Diocese, honouring Ely's rich heritage and supporting our varied and vibrant communities.

It is anticipated that Bishop Sarah will be welcomed and installed at Ely Cathedral in early summer 2026. Further details about this service will be shared as soon as they are available. Please pray for Bishop Sarah as she prepares to take up her post: *We praise and thank you, God of the journey, for all your gifts to us in the past. We look to you as fellow traveller and faithful companion on the way ahead. Strengthen, bless and guide Bishop Sarah by your Holy Spirit as she prepares for this calling that with her we may serve you as generous and visible people of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



## CentrePeace

### Happy 20th Birthday!



CentrePeace celebrates its 20th anniversary of opening this month with a special service and tea in St Mary's church. For more details, see the opposite page. For those not familiar with how CentrePeace started, read on...

#### The story so far

The idea of opening a church premises in the centre of the village, where people could come for a chat and a cup of tea and also find information about the village community, first emerged at a Parish Conference in 2003. A group was tasked with taking it forward and started looking for suitable premises, but no progress was made until August 2005, when Tina's tiny shop in The Causeway became available. We needed to act fast, as several other people were interested and in September 2005, after much debate, the PCC voted by a large majority to step out in faith and go ahead. We secured the lease, purchased the furniture and put out an appeal for books to sell to help pay the rent. There was a competition to choose a name, which was won by the Hopper family and CentrePeace was born. It first opened its doors just before Christmas in 2005, with an official opening by Bishop Anthony Russell in February 2006.

Books and greetings cards have always been our core stock. In the past we also sold FairTrade good (which weren't available anywhere else in Burwell) and crafts by local artists and by artists in Uganda. More recently, jigsaws have proved extremely popular.

CentrePeace could not have thrived without all our wonderful volunteers. There must have been more than 100 over the years, who keep control of the books, make endless cups of tea and welcome all our visitors. The many new friendships that have been forged between them and between our regular customers is one of our greatest successes. Financially, the aim was simply to cover costs through our sales and some financial donations and it was only with the sharp rise in fuel costs in recent years that the price of books had to be increased.

When the Covid pandemic caused the shop to close for over a year, we were fortunate to receive the government's small business support grants to



continue to pay the expenses and were thus able to re-open in due course. Social distancing was impossible in such a tiny space, so re-opening had to be delayed until the restrictions were eased further.

CentrePeace has touched many lives in the last 20 years and has, as originally planned, provided a base and a 'window' in the centre of the village for the work of St Mary's, as well as a place for parishioners to meet for a chat over a cup of tea. We look forward to continuing to do so in the future.



## CentrePeace

### A SERVICE OF CELEBRATION FOR OUR 20<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

At St. Mary's Church, Burwell

On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
at 3pm

The short service will be followed by a celebratory tea. All volunteers, customers and supporters are welcome to join us to give thanks for 20 years of service to the community.



### JIGSAW SALE

All jigsaws are half price and now cost only £1.50. We have a wonderful range of over 100 to choose from mostly 1000 or 500 pieces for adults and also some puzzles for children.

#### Opening Hours

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

## Groups for Children, Young People and Families



If you'd like to find out more about joining any of these groups, or about becoming a volunteer helper or supporting us in prayer and other ways, please speak to Eleanor, Paula or Jo.

### Connect Café

A connecting space for families

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February  
3.30 - 5.00pm  
St Mary's, Burwell

Drinks  
Snacks  
Board Games



Table Football  
All Age Activities  
Arts & Crafts

*Connect with each other and with God*

New for young people  
**YOUTH CAFÉ** for Year 7+  
Fridays after school  
in St Mary's Church  
Dates to be confirmed

Games & Arty Stuff  
Snacks & Drinks  
Suggested donation £2



## Environment Matters

A Rocha is the organization that supports churches and their congregations to take practical action on caring for God's earth. We engage with them through the Eco Church award and they have now produced a monthly calendar of ideas for small actions that we can all take as part of our commitment to a greener lifestyle and links to other relevant websites. We'll include the suggestions each month and it would be good to hear how you get on with them.

### A ROCHA FEBRUARY ECO TIPS

This Lent, take part in Climate Steward's Carbon Fast. Lent is a time when Christians traditionally fast and focus on God. The Carbon Fast will help you consider ways to live more simply, give you new ideas to cut your carbon footprint and invite you to focus on God and consider the whole of his creation.

Beginning on 5 March, you'll receive a weekly email containing key facts, suggestions for how you could reduce your carbon footprint and a prayer to lead you through this Lenten season.

Each week features a different theme designed to help us take climate action in manageable ways that bear witness to a God who has promised to restore all of his creation. Find out more and sign up at [climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast/](http://climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast/)

*For more practical ways to enjoy, nurture and defend nature, sign up to A Rocha UK's Wild Christian email: [arocha.org.uk/wild-christian](mailto:arocha.org.uk/wild-christian)*



## Burwell Branch News January 2026

Our meeting in December comprised our Christmas Bring and Share Party, which was enjoyed by all – a big thank you to all who brought such tasty treats. We also enjoyed Advent services with the MU Branches in Lode and Newmarket – very different styles and interesting as a consequence. By the time you read this we will have enjoyed our January meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> January, which starts with a simple service of Holy Communion, which is followed by our Branch AGM.

Our next fellowship lunch after Holy Communion in St Mary's will be on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 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 (or join one of our events to see us at work and play), please contact me (or Hazel). We welcome women and men who support our aims, which relate to the Christian support of families and family life.

*Philip Baker*

Mothers' Union annual subs. are due now. They are £25 for 2026 and all money received goes to our headquarters at Mary Sumner House to support work across the world. Four new members would enable £100 more to be sent this year which is our 150th anniversary. Talk to Philip Baker or me for more information.

*Hazel Williams*



Lighting the way for generations to come



## What's on this month

8.30 10.00	<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February</b> <b>Candlemas</b> Holy Communion at Reach Café Church at St Mary's	Tues 3	7.00	Institution of Revd Virginia Moggridge at Dullingham
		Wed 4	10.30	Holy Communion at St Mary's
		Fri 6	10.00	Refresh Café at St Mary's
		Sat 7	9.00	Village Green Pray-ers
10.00 15.00	<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>2nd Sunday before Lent</b> Holy Communion at Burwell CentrePeace 20 year service	Wed 11	10.30	Holy Communion at St Mary's
		Fri 13	15.30	Connect Café at St Mary's
		Sat 14	10.00	Refresh Café at St Mary's
8.30 10.00	<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>Sunday before Lent</b> Holy Communion at Burwell Holy Communion at Burwell	Wed 18	10.30	Holy Communion at Reach (also at Ness Court)
		Ash Weds	19.00	Holy Communion at St Mary's
		Fri 20	10.00	Refresh Café at St Mary's
		Sat 21	9.00	Village Green Pray-ers
10.00	<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February</b> <b>Lent 1</b> Holy Communion at Burwell	Wed 25	10.30	Holy Communion at St Mary's
		Fri 27	10.00	Refresh Café at St Mary's
		Sat 28	9.00	Village Green Pray-ers
8.30 10.00	<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March</b> <b>Lent 2</b> Holy Communion at Reach Café Church at St Mary's	Wed 4	10.30	Holy Communion at St Mary's
		Fri 6	10.00	Refresh Café at St Mary's
		Sat 7	9.00	Village Green Pray-ers
10.00	<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>Lent 3</b> Holy Communion at Burwell	Wed 11	10.30	Holy Communion at St Mary's
		Fri 13	15.30	Connect Café at St Mary's
		Sat 14	10.00	Refresh Café at St Mary's
8.30 10.00	<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>Mothering Sunday</b> Holy Communion at Burwell Café Church at Burwell	Wed 18	10.30	Holy Communion at Reach (also at Ness Court)
		Fri 20	10.00	Refresh Café at St Mary's
		Sat 21	9.00	Village Green Pray-ers
	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**

**February 6<sup>th</sup>  
and March 6<sup>th</sup>  
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](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)

**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](mailto: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/](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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