



# contact

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

## Easter People

Easter lasts an awful lot longer than the Easter eggs usually do! The season of Easter begins on Easter Day and lasts until Pentecost, 50 days later. The liturgical colour is gold or white, reflected in the colour of the hangings and vestments, and we light the Paschal (Easter) Candle to symbolise Jesus's resurrection, which would be first lit in some churches at the Holy Saturday night vigil service. The candle is then lit at all services until Pentecost, to symbolise the presence of the risen Christ with us, and then the candle is extinguished as the Church is sent out, filled with the Spirit, to take the light of Christ into the world. We continue to light the candle at baptisms, to symbolise the light of Christ passed on to each one who is baptised, and at funerals, to signify the hope of the resurrection into which Christians are baptised.

A lot of deep, rich symbolism, throughout the Easter season, that encourages and uplifts us as we gather to worship, but what difference does it make to live, each moment of each day, to be those who believe that Jesus Christ is risen? What does it mean to be Easter People? It's like seeing the world, seeing all of life, through a changed perspective. Words from an old hymn come to mind: 'Because he lives, I can face tomorrow, because he lives, all fear is gone; because I know he holds the future, and life is worth the living, just because he lives!' That has been my experience and the experience of countless others down the years. Easter is not just a festival, not just symbols, but the reality of a relationship with Christ, knowing that there is forgiveness, hope, abundant life, now and for eternity. It's an ongoing journey, a challenge each day, to ask ourselves: 'How do we live as Easter People?' In the words of one of the confessions we use at Easter: 'Like Mary at the empty tomb, we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence. Like the disciples behind locked doors, we are afraid to be seen as your followers. Like Thomas in the upper room, we are slow to believe.' Sometimes, all we need to do is to be willing to ask our questions, to open our eyes, to reach out, to step forward.

For those who already believe, this Easter season, may you be filled with boldness and fresh hope, strengthened to proclaim his risen life, and be filled with the peace of Christ. For those who aren't sure, may you begin to know the reality of the presence of the risen Christ for yourself. If it would help to have space to ask questions, to find out what it might mean in your life to commit yourself to following Christ, then please get in touch.

Eleanor Williams

## Easter at St Mary's Burwell & St Etheldreda's Reach



**Palm Sunday**  
**29 March**

10.00am Holy Communion  
at St Mary's, Burwell  
4.00pm Churches Together  
Songs of Praise  
at Ness Court

**Mon, Tues, Weds**  
**30, 31 March, 1 April**  
6.00pm Night Prayer  
at St Mary's



**Tuesday 31 March**

5.00pm (approx) Pilgrim Cross visit

**Wednesday 1 April**

10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's

**Maundy Thursday 2 April**

7.30pm Holy Communion at St Mary's

**Good Friday 3 April**

10.30am Messy Easter at St Mary's

11.00am Churches Together

Walk of Witness from North St Co-op

2.00pm Reflective Service

at St Etheldreda's, Reach



**Easter Sunday 5 April**

6.30am Churches Together  
Early Service on Castle Mound  
followed by breakfast

8.30am Holy Communion

at St Etheldreda's, Reach

10.00am Easter Celebration

Holy Communion at St Mary's

**Easter Saturday 11 April**

11.00am Easter Egg Hunt  
& Story Trail in Reach

**From the Parish Registers**

**Funerals**  
*Rest in peace*  
 Jane Caddick  
 Sue Bryant



**PRAYER FOR THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY**  
 Following a glorious service of installation on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March, let us continue to pray for Archbishop Sarah.

Almighty God, you call your Church in every age to proclaim the gospel of Christ: look with mercy upon your servant Sarah, and grant that, as deacon, she may care for those in need, as priest, sustain us with the ministry of word and sacrament, and as bishop guard the faith and build up the Body of Christ in holiness. Give her wisdom and kindness that as archbishop, she may promote unity, seek truth, and lead us on the way of righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Church Choir**

St Mary's choir is planning to meet for a rehearsal and then to sing in a 10.00am service once a month, and would love some more members. Would you like to join us? You don't need to have choir experience or be able to read music. For more information and to be put on the mailing list, please email Kathy at [administrator@stmarysburwell.org.uk](mailto:administrator@stmarysburwell.org.uk).



**CONFIRMATION SERVICE with Bishop Dagmar 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026 3.00pm at St Mary's Burwell**

All welcome to come and support our candidates and to say farewell to Bishop Dagmar before she leaves the diocese to become Bishop of Edinburgh

**Parish of St Mary's, Burwell, with St Etheldreda's, Reach Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April  
 In St Mary's Church  
 Approx. 11.15am**

**After the 10.00am service**

The APCM is very much like the Annual General Meeting of any organisation. We receive reports on the year past and vote for our Churchwardens and members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC).

In this parish, the APCM is usually very brief because all the reports from The Vicar, The Churchwardens, the Secretaries and the Treasurer are circulated in advance in our Annual Report, copies of which will be available in church two weeks before the meeting and also on line. At the meeting, we will be electing churchwardens, who are elected for one year at a time. There will also be vacancies for a couple more people to join the PCC. Information and nomination forms will be available in church during April.

A bit of history: churchwardens have been around since the 13th Century and legally 'own' the moveable contents of the church. They are meant to maintain order in the church and churchyard, with the assistance of their staves, if necessary. In the event of serious disorder today, a mobile phone might be a safer instrument, with staves reserved for ceremonial occasions!

It's just over a hundred years since parish churches gained the power to run their own affairs, separately from what we now regard as local government. The religious affairs of a parish, as well as its secular business had been controlled by a single committee, which met in the church and was known as the 'Vestry'. Then, in 1894, Parish Councils were formed to deal with secular matters; the Vestry continued to oversee church affairs until 1921, when Parochial Church Councils (PCC) were established. Come and join our PCC to find out how things work in our parish in the 21st century!

# Groups & Events for Children, Young People & Families



**3 April 2026**  
**10.30 - 12.00**

Family Event to Explore Easter Together  
with Activities & Crafts  
Outdoor Trails & Toddler Area  
Hot Cross buns & Easter Eggs  
All Ages, All Welcome



**Easter Egg Hunt  
& Story Trail  
at St Etheldreda's  
Reach**

**Saturday 11 April**  
**11.00 - 12.00**  
**For All Ages**



**Refresh  
Café  
@ St Mary's**

**Fridays 10.00 - 11.45am**

A friendly and welcoming space  
for pre-school children  
and their grown-ups  
Refreshments & simple lunch

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

*Connect with each other and with God*

Drinks		Table Football
Snacks		All Age Activities
Board Games		Arts & Crafts

**New for young people**  
**YOUTH CAFÉ for Year 7+**  
Year 6 welcome in summer term  
**Next Date: Friday 24th April**  
**in St Mary's Church**

Games & Arty Stuff  
Snacks & Drinks  
Suggested donation £2

# Farewell to Sue and John Evans!

## The final service

Sue and John's final service at St Mary's was on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March, when friends old and new gathered in worship. We sang hymns chosen by John & Sue: 'Be thou my vision' and 'Take my life and let it be'. John read Romans 5.1-11, making a beautiful, but theologically dense passage come alive, and Sue led us in the intercessions. After communion, John and Sue came and spoke about their time in Burwell, and John shared with us a poem, 'Mother, there's a strange man' by Roger McGough. Sue and John were presented with placemats and coasters, printed with photos of St Mary's, and a voucher for Bunnings, the Australian version of B & Q! A wonderful slide show was shown, of photos of Sue and John over the years, put together by the Hammonds. The service ended with Simon leading us in that great Welsh hymn, Cwm Rhondda, 'Guide me O thou great Redeemer'. A bring and share lunch gave time for final fellowship and farewells.

Words from one of the prayers for John and Sue: 'We shall not forget you, and we ask you not to forget us. You will always be part of our fellowship here, for there are no beginnings or endings with Christ, who is all in all. Amen.'

## The last day



On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March at approximately 2.30 pm Sue and John Evans left Burwell for the final time. Off to Australia to live close to their daughters and grandchildren, a small group of us waited outside the church, with union jacks in our hands, to give that final send off. I'm not sure what passing motorists thought of us as we were tooted at a few times but as Sue and John approached the church, driven by Dick Badcock, we waved our flags in earnest and kept waving until they had rounded the corner and were out of sight. An end of an era, one in which we have all been truly blessed by their presence in the village and we will miss them greatly. We've heard that they arrived safely and are getting settling in.



## Coming up in the next few months

St Etheldreda's Church, Reach

**Cambridge Vocal Consort**

Sweet Lovers Love the Spring

A concert of music and readings  
for the new season

**Sunday 19 April**

**4.00pm**

**Adult £10, under 16 £5**  
(including tea & cake)

Tickets on the door  
or from CentrePeace  
and Tina's, Burwell

In aid of church funds

St Mary's Burwell  
St Etheldreda's Reach  
Loving God, Loving People

CAMBRIDGE  
• VOCAL •  
CONSORT



### Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2026: 2-4pm St Mary's Church fete

Plans are well under way to make the church fete a fun day for all the community. I hope you have put the date in your calendar! We are hoping for a fine day, none of that wet stuff like last year!

There will be the usual stalls, jewelry, bric-a-brac, tombola, cream teas, BBQ, raffle, children's games and much more. We also hope to have a number of craft stalls for you to browse.

We will be asking for contributions over the next few weeks: tombola prizes, bric-a-brac items, cakes, scones so keep looking in Contact for more details nearer the time.

If you are a crafter and would like to book a stall, or have any ideas for stalls we would love to hear from you. please email Jo Proctor

[llm@stmarysburwell.org.uk](mailto:llm@stmarysburwell.org.uk)

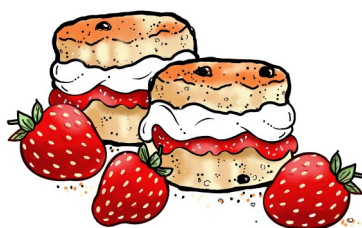


By Royal Charter since 1201

**Monday 4<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)



### Installation of Bishop Sarah



Bishop Sarah's installation and welcome service will be at 3pm on 21<sup>st</sup> June in Ely Cathedral. Following the announcement of her nomination, the next part of the formal process was the election. In a ceremony going back over 1000 years, the College of Canons were gathered on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, the door to the Quire was shut, and Bishop Sarah was elected. See the team photo above, with Eleanor middle of 2nd row!



## Environment Matters

A Rocha is the organization that supports churches and their congregations to take practical action on caring for God's earth, including Eco Church and a monthly calendar of ideas for small actions that we can all take as part of our commitment to a greener lifestyle.

### A ROCHA April Eco Tips

Celebrate new life this Easter and have a go at growing something! April is the perfect time to try to grow something edible or, if you are a seasoned gardener, to encourage someone else to try. Salad leaves or herbs are a great place to start and will reduce your reliance on those oh-so-convenient supermarket salad bags.

If you don't have a garden, herbs like basil thrive in a pot on the windowsill, or you could try 'microgreens' (vegetable leaves harvested soon after they open)

For outdoors, beetroot, lettuce, onion and pea plants are frost-resistant so can all be planted outside in April. And if you are short of space, many vegetables can be grown in containers, including tomatoes, especially the hanging basket varieties, and even potatoes. You can grow these things from seeds, or nurseries and garden centres have a good selection of baby plants to grow on. If you have a greenhouse, you can try sowing salad leaf seed mixes now.

As you sow, thank God for the opportunity to grow food, and pray for those communities that are facing food shortages and famine.



### March 2026

For our February Branch meeting we enjoyed a Reflective afternoon led by Paula and, by the time you read this, we will have enjoyed a luxurious afternoon tea at Kings Hotel, Newmarket, for our March gathering. We will also have held our first major celebration for our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be a combined Lady Day service in St Mary's, Ely on 27<sup>th</sup> March, led by Paula, our diocesan Chaplain.

Our next Branch meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup> will be devoted to planning further celebrations, including a pop-up tea in St Mary's during July – more on this later. Our monthly Fellowship Lunch at the Day Centre, following the Wednesday Communion Service in St Mary's went very well and the next opportunity to join us at this open event will be on 8<sup>th</sup> April.

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.

*Philip Baker*



## CentrePeace

### 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

If you would like to volunteer in CentrePeace, please contact me, Hazel Williams [hwill66@icloud.com](mailto:hwill66@icloud.com)

## What's on this month

8.30 10.00 16.00	<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> Holy Communion at Burwell Café Church at Burwell Churches Together Songs of Praise at Ness Court	Mon 30 Tues 31  Wed 1 Apr  Maundy Thurs 2 Good Friday 3	18.00 16.30  18.00 10.30 14.00 18.00 19.30 10.30 11.00 14.00	Compline at Burwell Visit of Pilgrim Cross (approx. time) Compline at Burwell Holy Communion Pop-Up Pantry at Day Centre Compline Holy Communion followed by the Watch Messy Church Churches Together Walk of Witness starting at the Co-op Reflective Service at Reach
6.30 8.30 10.00	<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Easter Day</b> Sunrise service on Castle Mound, followed by breakfast Holy Communion at Reach Holy Communion at Burwell	Wed 8 Fri 10 Sat 11	10.30 10.00 9.00	Holy Communion at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers
10.00	<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Easter 2</b> Holy Communion at Burwell	Wed 15 Fri 17 Sat 18	10.30 10.00 9.00	Holy Communion at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers
8.30 10.00 4.00	<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Easter 3</b> Holy Communion at Burwell All age baptism service at Burwell Concert at Reach	Wed 22  Fri 24 Sat 25	10.30  10.00 9.00	Holy Communion at Reach (also at Ness Court) Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers
10.00 11.15 3.00	<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Easter 4</b> Holy Communion at Burwell APCM at Burwell Confirmation Service at Burwell	Wed 29 Fri 1 May Sat 2	10.30 10.00 9.00	Holy Communion at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers
10.00	<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b> <b>Easter 5</b> Café Church at Burwell with baptism	Mon 4 Wed 6 Fri 8 Sat 9	12.00 10.30 10.00 9.00	Reach Fair at Reach Holy Communion at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers

**For details of what to expect at any of our Easter services or events, please see the March edition of Contact.**



### 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**  
 Usually 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of month  
**WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> April**  
**and Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May**  
**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*

**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

**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>

**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

**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