

New Starts & Fresh Opportunities



In the July edition of Contact, Paula described plans to create two wheelchair-friendly spaces in the church by removing short pews beside the pillars, and this has now been done. Our regular wheelchair users are very pleased and say they really appreciate being able to participate in the service as part of the congregation rather than from the back. Families at a service with young children also found this space helpful.

Starting Back Café Church at St Mary's

Sunday 6th September
Drinks & Pastries from 10.00am

Blessing of the Backpacks
Prayers for New Beginnings
at the start of the new school year

Time to chat
Play area for young ones
Short service with hymns & prayers
including a Baptism



New school? New class?
Bring your bag or pencil case
and come for a blessing!

From the Parish Registers



Baptisms

We welcome:

Aria Sofowora

Thanksgiving for the birth of a child

We give thanks for:

Imogen Rose Cruickshank

Weddings

We congratulate

Alice Digby and Joseph Matta

Amy Stokes and Jack Williams

Parvati Churchman and Charles Sorensen

Funerals

Anthony Paxman

Jacquelyn Booker

Patricia Hills



Joe and Alice on 15th August



Amy and Jack on 29th August
and below with Eleanor and Roger



Charlie and Parvie on 30th August



Handbell Ringing



The first meeting of the
Burwell Handbell Ringers
will be on
Monday 7th September, at 6.15pm,
in St Mary's Church

What's on during September & October



St Laurence Church Singers

In Concert at
St Laurence Church, Wicken

Saturday 5th September
at 6.30pm

A mixture of choral and popular music from singers that include former Ely Cathedral choristers and former Cambridge University College Chapel singers.

£10 Adult
£6.50 Concession (18-22 and 65+)
Children go free

In aid of the St Laurence Church Restoration Fund

Scan the QR Code to book tickets or visit
<https://www.ticketsource.com/st-laurence-church>




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

Connect Café @ St Mary's

No gathering in September
Back Wednesday 14th October
3.30-5.00pm

A Connecting Place for Families

Connect with each other
Connect with God



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

Animal Service at St Etheldreda's

Sunday 4th October
3.00pm

Come along with your pets or working animals




RIDE + STRIDE for Churches

SATURDAY 12TH SEPT. 2026

Discover and support Cambridgeshire's historic churches.

Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust (CHCT), supports churches of all denominations in the county with their repair and improvement costs. Ride and Stride for Churches is their main annual fundraising event. This year it takes place on September 12th.

You can take part by biking, walking or riding around the area, stopping off at as many churches and chapels as you can along the way and seeking sponsorship for the number you visit.

The money raised is split between CHCT and the local church of your choice. If you'd like to take part, more information is available on the CHCT website

<https://camhct.uk/ride-and-stride/>. or contact r-s-treasurer@camhct.uk



St Mary's, Burwell
Harvest Café Church
Sunday 4th October
10.00 - 11.00am

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



Explore local Burwell heritage
Climb the Tower for amazing views



September 26th 2026
11.00am - 2.00pm

Event Highlights

Climb the Tower

113 steps to the top
Chat with our bellringers
Adult £3, under 10s £1
(Must be at least 8 years old)

Explore the heritage

Displays of church history and treasures
Searchable database of old registers
Quizzes and trails
Information about our eco journey
Fun children's activities

Refreshments

Drinks and snacks available throughout



Contact us
01638 741262

www.stmarysburwell.org.uk
www.facebook.com/stmarysburwell

Open Day....More Details

The view from the top of the tower is amazing, and on the way up, you can see and learn about our historic clock and bells. Please note, however, that there are 113 uneven steps, so it is not suitable for those with limited mobility or a fear of height. For safety reasons, **children climbing the tower must be at least 8 years old** and there will be no access to the roof of the tower if the weather is wet.

Inside the church, there will be information about the history and displays of some of the items and areas not usually on public view. We also have plans of the church yard and a database of church registers going back to the 16th Century.

There will be children's activities and trails and quizzes to follow. Can you find the funny faces hidden in the chancel and the monkey and the elephant on the roof?

Refreshments will be available and so any donations of cakes would be welcome. We will also need people to set up the displays and act as stewards on the day. Please speak to Eleanor if you can help. **Our Open Day is a Free Event.**

Congratulations and looking for more people to Join our Band

Congratulations to Robert Turnbull-Hall, our St Mary's Bellringers Vice-Captain, who is now a fully qualified teacher of Bell-ringing as recognised by the Association of Ringing Teachers. This means that St Mary's has two qualified teachers of bell-ringing and we are looking for more people to come along and learn how to ring church bells.

Bellringing is an activity which is open to all ages. Below is a photo of some of the Ely Diocesan Bellringers (taken at the UK Young Ringers Competition held in Nottingham this Summer) whose ages range from 8 to 18 years. Several of our Young Ringers have used their bellringing for their Skills section of their Duke of Edinburgh Award at Bronze, Silver and Gold Levels.

Bell-ringing often has families who come along and learn to ring together, older ringers are enjoying this new activity in their retirement.

Want to find out more? Please just come along to one of our bell-ringing practices at St Mary's on Monday evenings at 7.30pm. You will find out about this very English Tradition (our bells at St Mary's have been ringing since the 18th Century) and under supervision, have a go yourself. We look forward to seeing you!

Dee Smith

Tower Captain

St Mary's Burwell Bellringers.



Environment Matters



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER
Ezekiel 47:9, 12

The Season of Creation, (1 September to 4 October), is an annual, ecumenical celebration of prayer and action for creation that Christians around the world have commemorated for many years.

It is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration and commitment together, and to join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home

After the recent record temperatures and drought, it is appropriate that this year's theme for the Season of Creation is "Living Water". Drawn from Ezekiel's biblical vision (Ezekiel 47:1-12), it highlights a river of life flowing from God, restoring barren lands, reviving polluted waters, and sustaining flourishing ecosystems. It focuses on ecological healing, hope and the interdependence of humanity and nature.

See also <https://seasonofcreation.org/> and arochoa.org.uk/what-we-do/season-of-creation

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.



CentrePeace

Opening Hours

Tuesday	10.00am—12.0pm
Wednesday	10.00am—12.30pm 2.00pm—4.00pm
Thursday	10.00am—12.30pm
Friday	10.00am—12.30pm
Saturday	10.00am—12.30pm

Church Heating Project We Need Your Help!

The current gas boiler was installed in St Mary's in 2012 and some parts of the heating system date back to the 1970s. It's therefore no surprise that it has become unreliable. In 2025 the PCC began looking at how to move from gas to electricity as a fuel for heating the church. The aim was to bring down carbon costs to Net Zero, to lower the financial cost if possible, and, of course, to provide warmth for people in St Mary's. The experts the PCC consulted suggested that electric radiant heating, which heats the people, not the air, would be the best option for St Mary's, possibly with solar panels on the roof.

Members of the PCC Heating Group visited other parishes which have installed pendant radiant heaters, which include lighting. They decided to pursue this option,



Halo heater
by Herschel

together with some simple measures like reducing draughts. PCC representatives are due to meet with our architects and mechanical/electrical engineers this week to commission detailed designs.

Fundraising

Of course, such a system is a major investment and it's therefore time to start serious fund raising. The Building to Serve Fund (B2S) was set up in 2012 to raise money for the kitchen and toilets that were installed in 2015, and still contains some funds, but much more will be needed and this is where we need your help!

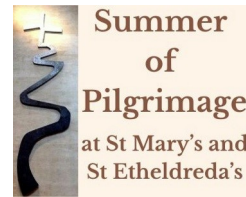
Do you have experience in fundraising, organizing events, publicity or grant applications? If so, please consider joining our fundraising group and let Eleanor know as soon as possible if you can help. The appeal for the heating will be launched in the coming weeks, so look out for ways that you can donate.



The major celebrations for our 150th anniversary year have all gone well; the service in Ely Cathedral was well attended, received an excellent address by Canon Jenny and ended with a parade of banners; the Mary Summer Day service in St Mary's was also well supported with most of our members in attendance proudly wearing their badges; finally, our fund-raising in response to a Branch target of £150 to support Mothers' Union Projects around the world achieved a magnificent total of £275! Thank you all for your generosity and support. This month, we also enjoyed another successful fellowship lunch at the Day Centre.



After all this excitement we are having a month off so there will be no Branch Meeting in August while we regain our breath. However, it all starts again in September with our lunch at the Day Centre, open to all, on 9th September (book with me as usual), and the Branch Meeting on 30th September, which will be addressed by Ros Wright, the Diocesan MU Secretary. In general news I was pleased to report receipt of an email from Sue & John Evans (still Branch Members) who are doing very well in their new life down under and seem to be thoroughly enjoying themselves. 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. We welcome women and men who support our aims, which relate to the Christian support of families and family life. *Philip Baker*



Review of the Activities

About 9 people, (who could be described as 'more mature'!) took part in 4 sessions entitled 'Pilgrimage in Later Life'. Using material from some of the leaflets provided for the Summer of Pilgrimage, the group discussed various stages of life's pilgrimage: 1. 'Where am I now?'; 2. 'Where have I come from?'; 3. 'Where am I going?'; 4. 'Who is going with me and what will I need for the journey?'. This raised a number of difficult subjects, which are nevertheless important. People felt able to share experiences and concerns in the comfortable environment of Pauline's home and agreed that, though sometimes quite challenging, the course was thought provoking and very worthwhile. Eleanor is considering running the course again, so if you missed it this time, but would like to attend, please let her know.

The Pilgrimage Walk from St Mary's to St Etheldreda's and back to celebrate Lammastide (the first grain and corn harvest) was also much appreciated. On a very hot day, 7 people and 2 dogs enjoyed walking along part of the Devil's Dyke, short services in both churches and a picnic lunch. They also visited a beautiful garden in Reach and felt that the day provided plenty of opportunity for reflection as well as companionship. Another walk to Reach in the autumn when the weather is cooler is being considered.

Pat Chalmers and Sarah Wingate.

Thank You!

From Philip Baker

I am very grateful for all the gifts on my recent birthday. I am sorry not to have been in contact individually with everyone, but I know what was given to me and I ask that you please accept this great big **Thank You** to you all. You really should not have been so generous (but I am glad that you were!). *Philip*

What's on this month

		Wed 2 Fri 4 Sat 5	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	Sunday 6th September Trinity 14 Holy Communion at Reach Café Church and Baptism at Burwell	Wed 9 Fri 11 Sat 12	10.30 10.00 9.00 All day	Holy Communion at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers CHTC Ride and Stride Event
10.00	Sunday 13th September Trinity 15 Holy Communion at Burwell	Wed 16 Fri 18 Sat 19	10.30 10.30 10.00 9.00	Morning Prayer at Reach Holy Communion at Ness Court Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers
8.30 10.00	Sunday 20th September Trinity 16 Holy Communion at Burwell Holy Communion at Burwell	Wed 23 Fri 25 Sat 26	10.30 10.00 9.00 11.00 15.00	Holy Communion at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers St Mary's Open Day (till 14.00) Renewal of Marriage Vows
10.00	Sunday 27th September Trinity 17 Holy Communion at Burwell	Wed 30 Fri 2 Sat 3	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 15.00	Sunday 4th October Trinity 18 Holy Communion at Reach Café Church at Burwell Pet Service in Reach			

CHURCH GATHERINGS

We have a number of small groups for adults meeting during the week or monthly, including Mothers' Union. Other gatherings include:

Monday 7.30pm St Mary's Bellringers meet to practice most weeks (check pew sheet)

Saturday 9.00am A Prayer Group meets at Village Green Coffee Shop

There are also bible study/fellowship groups that meet during the course of the month.

In response to a request, we are considering whether an occasional afternoon service would be a better option for some, with early morning constraints on their time. Please let Eleanor know if you would be interested.

Please also 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.

Readers and Pray-ers

Are you interested in joining a pool of volunteers willing to read or lead the intercessions in our services? You can either do so as part of a rota, or perhaps you are happy to read or lead prepared prayers on the day. Please let Eleanor or Paula know if you would like to contribute in this way to our corporate worship.

Christmas Carol Service 2026

Do you enjoy singing in a 4-part choir? St Mary's Choir will be singing at the carol service on the evening of Sunday 20th December 2026. Would you like to join us? We usually meet on Friday evenings in St Mary's for rehearsals and it is helpful to you and the choir if you can come to as many of the rehearsals as possible. Please email kathy.ogilvie@gmail.com for more information.

Pop-Up Pantry
at Burwell Day Centre
Usually 1st Friday of month
Friday 4th September
and Friday 2nd October
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 £5 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

Churchwardens' Assistants

Stephen Martin

01638 742667

Caroline Smith

Kevin Powell

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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