

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

Harvest and Hope

This has been an extraordinary year, with multiple heatwaves, record breaking temperatures, drought and wildfires. As we come to celebrate harvest, we give thanks for the hard work of all those who grow, protect and prepare our food. for the shopkeepers, the transport delivery drivers, the processors and the farmers. However, we need to remember the hard time that farmers have had over the summer, and to acknowledge that the climate crisis is no longer distant from us, but a daily reality.

"Christians are called to recognise the harm they have caused to the world and to turn away from actions that damage God's creation. We are also called to remain hopeful and take action to protect and care for the environment. We believe that responding to the environmental crises is a way to: worship God – we honour God when we care for creation; work for justice – climate change hits hardest the poorest countries and poorest people of the world; show love for neighbours, locally and globally." (Church of England, Environment and climate change).

What are we doing as a Church community? We pray in hope, we act in faith. In this edition of Contact, there is information about our collaboration with Burwell Parish Council to screen 'People's Emergency Briefing.' The aim of our heating and lighting project is to help us move towards carbon net zero. The PCC is about to change its energy provider to Octopus, a provider with better green credentials. We have regular updates on eco tips. There is so much more we could do, but let us persevere in faith, as we continue to pray, 'Send forth your Spirit, Lord, and renew the face of the earth.'

Eleanor Williams

News about Pews



There have been very positive responses to the extra spaces created in the main body of St Mary's for wheelchairs and prams, promoting inclusion. Several comments have been made about the need for a ramp to access these spaces. This is a temporary experiment and provision of a ramp is intended to be part of the longer-term plan, requiring faculty permission, which will take some time. The PCC has referred this to the Fabric Group to consider the next steps. In the meantime, if there is a concern about being able to get a wheelchair in and out of the space, then it might be best not to use the space during this experimental period, though there are usually willing helpers around to help with manoeuvring.

We Need Your Help!



The Building to Serve Fund (B2S) was set up in 2012 to raise money for future redevelopment of the church, which would take place in phases over a long period of time. Some of the funds raised were used in 2015 for the kitchen and toilets and the next phase, to replace the heating and lighting, is now in the planning stage. We therefore need to start fundraising in earnest and we are looking to recruit a team of people to help!

To raise the sum we need will involve many different activities, such as publicising the appeal and inviting donations; applying for grants and any other good fundraising ideas that emerge! Could you spare some time to help in any way? It doesn't have to be a lot of time, but perhaps you could circulate letters, or fill in forms or help to put on an event. Maybe you have some other good ideas for ways to raise money. Please consider joining our fundraising group and let Eleanor know if you can help.

From the Parish Registers



Baptisms

We welcome:

Mabel Leggett

Renewal of Marriage Vows

We congratulate on 40 years of marriage

Michael and Linda Muller

Funerals

Rest in Peace

Peter Dowsing



Mick and Linda, married on 27th September 1986

Christmas Carol Service 2026 Rehearsals start Friday 13th November

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'll start rehearsals in St Mary's on Friday evenings on 13th November 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.



CentrePeace

Volunteers needed!

We currently need a few more volunteers in CentrePeace, especially on Wednesdays and Thursdays, but also to provide cover on other days.

We are very flexible about how much time volunteers can offer. Some commit to a regular time every week or fortnight, some sign up for the days that suit them each month and some are happy to be on the reserve list to provide occasional cover when needed.

The work involves welcoming and serving customers and keeping the shop tidy. Volunteers work in pairs and basic training is provided. All volunteers are recruited using the Church of England Safer recruitment process,

If you are interested, please contact Hazel Williams (hwill66@icloud.com) or call in at 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



Handbell Ringing

Burwell Handbell Ringers
Every Monday at 6.15pm, in St
Mary's Church
All are welcome!

What's on during October



**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



Harvest appeal

Help support your food bank this Harvest

In the three weeks leading up to Harvest, the food bank will provide over 200 food parcels for local individuals and families facing hardship.

Donate food

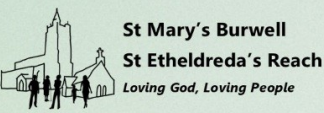
Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your community.

Donate money

Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.



Shopping list
Tinned meat
Custard/Rice Pudding
Tinned vegetables
Tinned soup
Pasta sauces
Rice
Coffee
Tinned Fruit
Milk (Long-life)
Toiletries/toilet roll



Animal Service at St Etheldreda's

**Sunday 4th October
3.00pm**

*Come along with your pets
or working animals*



Come along with your pets or working animals to this fun Animal Service!

All creatures, great and small, furry, feathered, scaly or smooth, are welcome. Bring a photograph if you can't bring your pet (or if your beloved animal friend is no longer with you). We'll bless the animals and reflect on how we can best be stewards of the Earth and all who live here with us.



Connect Café @ St Mary's

**Wednesday
14th October
3.30-5.00pm**

**A Connecting Place
for Families**

*Connect with each other
Connect with God*




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



What's involved in... Village Green Prayers

"It's 9 o'clock on a Saturday, the regular crowd shuffles in. . ."

Every Saturday morning, a group of us shuffle into Village Green at the end of The Causeway and we have done this for many years now. We call ourselves the Village Green Prayers (formerly known as Elk Prayers) although the staff refer to us affectionately as the "Holy Hooligans"! We are welcomed so warmly by each member of staff and last year at Christmas, Emilio bought us crackers which was great fun.



We have a regular core group and occasionally people join us when they return to visit Burwell eg from Uganda and Kent. We are usually waiting at the door for it to open at 9am on Saturdays and for each of us it is a time of gathering together - something that we all look forward to. Although the initiative was born out of a St Mary's prayer triplet, we are members of 5 different churches and there are usually between 6-10 of us.

We each get our "drinks and eats" although neither is compulsory and then catch up on each other's news. During this time it's an opportunity to pick up on what is exciting and/or challenging - it's important to emphasise that it is a "safe space". When we have finished our drinks, someone from the group usually leads us for a couple of minutes either using some wording, hymn, bible passage they feel led to share with the rest of us. Sometimes we read out a sentence or two or it may be that the leader will lead the few minutes and share how these words speak to them. It may be that people respond and then this often leads to a time of prayer - this can be either spoken out or not for ourselves and for others. There is never pressure on anyone to speak. At the end, we share The Grace together. (There is only one "rule" and that is that we respect the confidentiality of others, not sharing their situation, only mentioning a first name if at all and that they have requested/we have permission to pray for them.)

***May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of Holy Spirit
be with us all, now and evermore
Amen***

So if you're someone who'd like to shuffle in as part of the regular crowd (as per Billy Joel's "*Piano Man*") or even on a more ad-hoc basis, it would be so lovely to see you there. Please do come along, just turn up, 9 o'clock on a Saturday at Village Green.

Janine Stewart





Environment Matters

Autumn is a good time to start thinking about keeping your home warm through the winter and there are some steps you can take which will keep you warmer, reduce your heating bills and help tackle climate change.

In its October Eco tips, A Rocha suggests finding and reducing the unwanted draughts in your home. You could find the gaps that let cold air in and warm air out (eg keyholes, letterboxes and gaps around windows, doors, loft hatches and floorboards) and do what you can to fix these gaps. There is lots of advice on how to do this online, like the Energy Saving Trust (<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/advice/draught-proofing>.) Some measures involve DIY skills, but there are also simple things you can do, like having a 'sausage dog' draft excluder at the foot of a door.

Don't forget, however, that some ventilation is important, especially for kitchens and bathrooms and any rooms with open fires and flues or gas appliances. You should never block extractor fans, trickle ventilators, air bricks or underfloor grills. You could also consider putting radiator reflector foil or baking foil behind the radiator. This will reflect heat back into your room, instead of heating the wall.

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.

People's Emergency Briefing—Community Screening



People's Emergency Briefing

On the climate and nature crisis

Burwell



Gardiner Memorial Hall
28th October. 7 pm

**Come along watch the film
and join the discussion**

Organised by Burwell Parish Council
and St Mary's, Burwell

16

www.nebriefing.org

Residents are invited to attend a screening of the National Emergency Briefing on the Climate and Nature Crisis, a 50 minute film presented by Chris Packham CBE. The film draws on briefings from leading experts and explores the evidence around climate and nature change and the possible consequences for the UK, including impacts on health, food systems, national security and the economy. The National Emergency Briefing initiative is encouraging community screenings across the UK so that people can hear the evidence and take part in informed local discussion. The screening will be followed by a facilitated discussion, allowing attendees to reflect on the film, ask questions and share their views. The event is open to everyone and no prior knowledge is required. We hope it will provide an informative and constructive opportunity for residents to come together and discuss an issue that has implications both nationally and locally. All are welcome to attend age 16+ (Maximum capacity 100) - Please book a free ticket to ensure you can attend. Use the QR code or book here:

<https://buytickets.at/burwellparishcouncil/2447402>

St Mary's is partnering with Burwell Parish Council to host this event.



Burwell Branch Report

After all the excitement surrounding the celebration of our 150th anniversary, we are settling into our more usual pattern of gatherings. We enjoyed our regular monthly mid-week Fellowship Lunch at the Day Centre and held our also monthly Thursday Prayer session in Ely Cathedral (also available via Zoom for those who cannot attend in person). By the time you read this we will have held our Branch Meeting on 30th September, addressed by Ros Wright, our Diocesan MU Secretary.

Our next Fellowship Lunch at the Day Centre, open to all, members and non-members, will be on 14th October, book with me as usual. Some of our members may choose to attend a MU Quiet Day in Waterbeach which is unfortunately on the same day. Then, on Saturday 17th October, we will be off to St Peter's Church in March for our Autumn Diocesan Meeting to hear reports on progress with our work in the diocese, the UK, and around the world. The month closes with our Branch Meeting on 28th October.

Looking ahead into November, in addition to our usual cycle of events, we are delighted to be joining with our friends from the Anglesey Branch for an Advent Service, to be held in Lode on 19th November.

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

Away From It All Holidays (AFIA)

AFIA is a country wide Mothers' Union Project which provides much needed holidays for families in need. A number of Dioceses have "Away Days" instead of, or as well as, providing individual holidays. This was included this year in the Diocese of Ely as a new initiative was very successful. A day trip might be the only outing some children have during the summer time, as families cannot always afford a traditional holiday.

The outing was a coach trip to Banham Zoo for the day. The total cost was covered by Burwell Church Lands Charity (Feoffees) and Mothers' Union, who organised it, with the help of some of the families involved. It was wonderful weather (not too hot) and was enjoyed enormously by the families, including the ice-creams funded for all the family.

Hazel Williams



Prisons Week 2026 is an ecumenical initiative running from 11–17 October, with the theme "All Are Invited," inspired by Matthew 22:1-14.

It focuses on prayer and action

for victims prisoners, families, and all working in the criminal justice system.

The MU works extensively within prisons; in the Ely Diocese, offering courses at Littlehey and, here in Burwell, we have been supporting the Visitor Centre at Whitemoor with knitted items at Easter and Christmas. It's time to start knitting again –

mini Christmas stockings to be filled with sweets. These gifts are much appreciated by children and adults alike and we'd love to donate a good number in time for those visiting during Advent. Many thanks. *Paula Spalding*



What's on this month.

8.30 10.00 15.00	Sunday 4th October Trinity 18 Holy Communion at Reach Café Church at Burwell Pet Service in Reach	Wed 7 Fri 9 Sat 10	10.30 10.00 9.00	Holy Communion at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers
10.00	Sunday 11th October Trinity 19 Holy Communion at Burwell	Wed 14 Fri 16 Sat 19	10.30 3.30 10.30 10.00	Holy Communion at St Mary's Connect Café at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers
8.30 10.00	Sunday 18th October Trinity 20 Holy Communion at Burwell Holy Communion at Burwell	Wed 21 Fri 23 Sat 24	10.30 10.00 9.00 11.00	Morning Prayer at Reach Holy Communion at Ness Court Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers
10.00	Sunday 25th October Trinity 21 Holy Communion at Burwell	Wed 28 Fri 30 Sat 31	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 1st November All Saints Holy Communion at Reach Café Church at Burwell Remembering Service at Burwell	Wed 4 Fri 6 Sat 7	10.30 10.00 9.00	Holy Communion at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers

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.

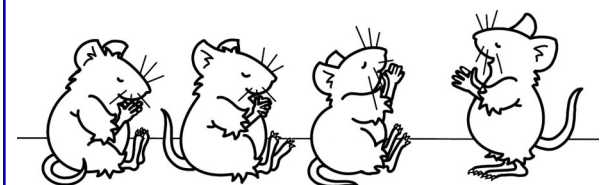
Please also speak to Eleanor if you would be interested in joining a bible study group, or are wondering whether baptism and/or confirmation might be the next step for you on your faith journey.

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.

There will also be a sign-up sheet at the back of St Mary's, for you to indicate your preferences.



Pop-Up Pantry
at Burwell Day Centre
 Usually 1st Friday of month
Friday 2nd October
and Friday 6th November
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

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>

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

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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