



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



8 - 14 October 2023

“If prayer truly works, if our weak human rambling to God actually changes things, then we must call believing people to pray, and together we must pray for change where change is needed most.”

Why? To turn the world on its head. For one week: prisoners pray for police officers, victims pray for offenders' families, judges pray for prison leavers, prison officers pray for probation officers, crime-affected communities pray for those in prison and churches are praying for them all. This is the gospel to which we've all been called, upside down and back-to-front, requiring us to: love our enemies, do good to those who hate us and bless those who curse us.

For one week: 8-14 October 2023. Can you do it? It's uplifting. All of us praying together for those who need something to change – you never know, someone might be praying for you. Find out more at www.prisonsworld.org.

Hear more on CrossTalk, Sunday, 8 October on Burwell Radio: Sunday 8.30am & 4.30pm and Monday 7pm.

Revd Paula Spalding



**Café Church
St Mary's, Burwell
Sunday 1st October
10.00am**

**Family Service
St Etheldreda's, Reach
Sunday 15th October
3.00pm**

You're invited to bring harvest gifts for Ely Foodbank or produce for local distribution. You can also make cash or card donations towards Christian Aid

CURRENT SHORTAGES AT ELY FOODBANK

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BISCUITS • COFFEE • RICE • LONG LIFE MILK • TINNED FRUIT • TINNED MEAT • RICE PUDDING • CUSTARD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TOILET ROLLS PACK OF 4s PREFERABLE • LAUNDRY PRODUCTS • CLEANING PRODUCTS • MEN'S DEODORANT AND SHOWER GEL • SQUASH (1L) • LONG LIFE JUICE • TINNED TOMATOES |
|--|--|

**From the
Parish Registers
Baptism**



We welcome

Alice and Chloe Beedel

Funerals

Rest in Peace

Joan Smith

Delia Wake

Lucie Mordue

Doreen White

 **Baby Loss
Awareness Week**
9-15 October

St Mary's, Burwell, will be lit in pink and blue for the week, to raise awareness of the issues affecting those who have experienced the loss of a pregnancy or baby. Join in the **Global Wave of Light at 7pm on 15th October** by lighting a candle at home and posting a photo on social media.

**Supporting our local
community together**

**Burwell Food Hub
at Burwell Day Centre**
Supporting our local community
Wednesday Pantry
10.00am-12.00pm on Wednesdays
Pop-up Pantry
2.00-3.00pm on Fridays

For cupboard basics, short life fresh food items, toiletries and hygiene products.
No need for a voucher.
Anyone in financial need can access support to help them get back on their feet.
We are also glad of donations of in-date items that could help others out, and are pleased to be part of schemes to help reduce food waste from local supermarkets.

Ely Foodbank will be also be there on Fridays to distribute emergency food supplies to those who have been issued with a voucher.

Burwell Food Support Group links individuals and groups working to support those in need in our community, and includes Burwell Help Group, Open Arms, St Mary's Church, Burwell Baptist Church, Burwell & District Day Centre, Burwell Co-op



CentrePeace

38a The Causeway,
Burwell



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

We've got plenty of second hand books and jigsaws in stock, as well as a selection of greetings cards for all occasions. Complimentary tea and coffee are always available, so do drop in to chat and browse!



**Calling gardeners
and allotment holders**

Have you got a glut of produce? Would you like to share it, rather than see it go to waste? At the Pop-up Pantry we would love to have more fresh fruit and veg to give away, so if you can help, please drop off on Fridays before 1pm at St Mary's or at Burwell Day Centre.
THANK YOU!

Building Matters

Falling masonry

Unfortunately, progress with arranging the repairs to the two areas of damaged masonry has been slow over the summer for various reasons, including holidays.

The DAC's stained glass specialist visited to look at the area round the stained glass window and is considering how best to protect the window while the work is done. This is particularly important, since the window is architecturally and historically significant.

Further examination of both areas at close quarters is needed and so the scaffolding will be erected soon to enable the contractors to clarify the situation. For both safety and security reasons, the bottom of the scaffolding will be boarded as it was for the north aisle windows. We hope to keep disruption to a minimum.

Play area carpet.

A new carpet has been ordered for the children's play area and should be fitted on Thursday 5th October.

Mitcham memorial plaque

The new memorial plaque for the Mitcham family, who have been significant benefactors to the church building, has been installed in the chancel. They donated the central section of the east window and the late Michael Mitcham, whose name has been added to the plaque, was a member and supporter of The Preservation Trust for many years. Some minor installation damage to the surrounding plasterwork will be made good when the builders are on site to deal with the problems in the aisle and window.



Church Candles



The three pairs of candles used on the altars and in front of the chancel screen in St Mary's are oil filled, rather than wax, a system which is much more convenient to use and less messy. They are over 20 years old and have now become badly stained, and so it is time to replace them. They are quite expensive and, while church funds could bear the entire cost, it may be that some people would like to make a donation towards it. Perhaps this could be in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for a special blessing. It would not be possible to list the names of donors on a permanent notice or plaque, but you would know that your gift was in use every week.

If you would like to contribute, please contact Wendy to make a cash donation or me for the details of other ways to pay.

Pat Chalmers

Refresh Café and Messy Church

We have a really exciting ministry with children and families at Refresh Café every Friday morning, and at Messy Church, monthly Sunday afternoons. We are hoping to recruit more team members to help with activities and with preparing food, and would love you to pray with us for those that God is calling to share in this lovely and very special ministry.

If you would like to know more, please speak to Eleanor or Paula. All team members need to complete the Church of England's Safer Recruitment Process, and be prepared to have a DBS check and undertake some safeguarding awareness training.

This month's Eco Living Ideas from Kathy



Some easy actions which will save damaging the planet further, and also save you money:

- * switch off lights when you leave a room
- * switch off any outside lights you have – they disturb wildlife
- * turn the tap off when brushing your teeth
- * have a shorter shower (saves the energy used to process and to heat the water)
- * save the water that runs from the hot tap while you're waiting for it to warm up, and use for other purposes

Other ideas which may cost a bit now, but will save you money in the longer term:

- * Use draught excluders along the bottom of doors
- * Grow climbers and trees around your house to help keep it cool in summer
- * Use a motion sensor on outside lights
- * The aim is to consume less, which helps both you and the planet.

Why should Christians care for God's earth?

“Future generations will never forgive us if we miss the opportunity to protect our common home. We have inherited a garden; we must not leave a desert for our children.”

Joint statement from Pope Francis, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury.

www.stmarysburwell.org.uk

ChurchEdit, the organization that hosts our website, has made major changes to its software recently and so, over the next few weeks, our website will be upgraded to the new format. This means that it will look very different, but the information it contains should all still be there. There may be some minor disruption while ChurchEdit are actually working on our site, but you should still be able to look up services, read the weekly news sheets, make a donation or whatever else you usually do on the website.

If you are responsible for a church group or activity, please take this opportunity to look at your page and, if you think its content should be updated or improved, please send your suggestions to me or Rob Proctor and we'll make the changes (when we've learned to use the new format!)

Finally, we'd like to find someone who could help with keeping the website up-to-date on a regular basis. This would mean adding services and other events to the calendar and updating pages whenever necessary. You don't have to be a Website Wizard, but you do need to be fairly familiar with this sort of technology and have a little time available. If you think you could help with this, please get in touch.

Pat Chalmers



Shoebox Appeal 2023

If you have any empty shoeboxes could be used to fill with gifts for a child at Christmas, please contact Ann Briggs or Pat Chalmers. For more information about how to pack a box go to www.samaritan-sp.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/

Reflection

How can one describe a relationship? In my case I could describe my relationship with my wife of many years, Susan, as “we met in 1960, 63 years ago, married in 1967, 56 years ago, and I was parted from her in 2020, 3 years ago.” All true, but very incomplete; there is no mention of our mutual reliance on each other or even of the love that bound us together. I am aware that probably most of you reading this will have been through some form of “parting” like the one I have described and will know from first-hand experience what it involves on an emotional level. One of the measures is the frequency of feeling “I wish you were here”.

As the years pass (all so quickly yet seeming so slowly) I have found that this wish has become inverted. Realising that Susan has passed into the better care of our Heavenly Father, a much better place than anywhere on earth, I have come to appreciate that it is selfish to wish for her return here and instead I find I am increasingly looking forward to joining her there. In other words, instead of “I wish you were here” I now feel “I wish I was there”.

How do these thoughts translate into our relationship with God? We have no comparable timeline for a start, unless you can put a date on when your belief in our Creator first arose. But what we do have is the knowledge that we rely on God and that He loves us. So we do have those aspects of relationships which are deeper than just a timeline of key events. We also know that God will not leave us, never be “parted” from us. Moreover, He is waiting for us to join Him when we have completed our allotted time on earth. This all adds up to making a perfect match; different from human relationships, but just as real. It also makes perfect sense of “I wish I was there” because “there” is where God is too.

God’s second greatest Commandment is to love our neighbour as ourselves.

Extending this, it is logical that this requires us to love everybody. God loves us, unconditionally forgiving us through His unbounded Grace. This makes love the “glue” that holds everything together, connects all us humans to each other and to God, whilst also eliminating the difference between “I wish you were here” and “I wish I was there”. When I married Susan 56 years ago we made a vow “‘til death us do part”. Well, I do not feel that death has parted us except in the physical sense and if we are not “parted” then what is the difference between “here” and “there”? Love still binds us.

I find this comforting. We do not need to understand how it works. Let us just take the Good News that God is with us, and that our loved ones, even those departed this earth, are also with us. In due course our time will come and God will gather us up and we will be together in a common, united manner, but in the meantime, we have to complete the tasks set out for us, even though we may not be clear about them either!

I write these words on the third anniversary of Susan’s passing and I was going to apologise for raising the subject again. But instead I am going to say that I hope someone reading this will find comfort and encouragement in it, especially if they are going through a loss.

Philip Baker (23rd September 2023)



Burwell Branch
Meetings are usually on the last
Wednesday of the month. New
members are always welcome.

For more details of forthcoming
meetings, please contact
Philip Baker,
Burwell Branch Leader,
philip.bakerhome@ntlworld.com

Do the Bible and Science contradict each other?

For the Christian, the Bible is God's Word to us; it tells us about His character and creative purposes, how He has related to people in the past, and His promises for the future. Science is a specific way of studying the world, exploring the physical properties of things – a wonderful way to explore God's creation. So, the question to ask if the Bible and Science seem to be contradicting each other is, have we made a mistake in interpreting one or the other?

Science is very good at answering certain types of questions: 'What size is it?', 'How fast does it travel?', 'What is it made of?', and so on. Questions like 'What's it for?', 'What should I do with it?', and 'What's it worth?' can't be answered using scientific methods. Some of the misunderstanding in discussions of Science and Religion come from not recognising the limits of science.

It's also important to recognise what the Bible is, and what sorts of questions it can answer. The Bible was written well before people began to investigate the world in ways we would recognise as scientific. Of course, people in the Ancient Near East were studying the world around them, observing the movements of the stars, the processes of life and death that happened all around them, the seasons, the behaviour of physical objects, and so on. But they did not study the mechanisms underlying these things systematically using the tools of science, and they did not see or describe the world in scientific terms – not because they weren't intelligent, but because Science, as we know it, wasn't happening at that time.

Instead, the biblical writers used words that were commonly used in their own cultures to record events, share truth and wisdom, and tell stories that convey deep truth about God's character. If we want to understand God's intention in inspiring these words, we need to do some careful work to connect with those ancient writers and find out what they meant, before we can discover what those words mean to us today.

These principles can help us have far more fruitful conversations about Science and Christian faith. If we allow any apparent conflict between Science and the Bible to fuel our search for understanding, not only will we learn as individuals, but we will be able to draw others into a conversation that is relevant to wider society today.

This is from a series of articles written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

What's happened to live-streaming?

One of the positives to come out of the pandemic has been that we have extended our online presence, to include live-streaming services. Over the three years since the first lockdown, we have prepared sermons and services as videos on Facebook, then added Zoom services, then hybrid services, with a congregation in the church building, and others joining in via Zoom, then finally moving to live-streaming on Facebook.



We are still committed to providing this opportunity to join in worship with us, or to catch up later on, with the recorded video. You don't have to be on Facebook, as there is a link from our website. It's quite low-tech, run from a smartphone by just a few of us, so there may be weeks we can't offer this. Also, we don't live-stream Baptisms or Café Church services, because of the greater likelihood of children moving around the church into camera view, so that we preserve the privacy of families. If you can't get to church, or would like to find out more about church, and what we do, why not join us online!

October Services

Please check the weekly news sheet for updates or our website. Refreshments are served after the 10am Sunday service and our Wednesday midweek service. Café Church is usually on first Sunday of month, beginning with pastries and drinks, themed activities for all ages, then a short service.

Date	St Mary's Burwell	St Etheldreda's Reach
Sunday 1st October Trinity 17	10.00am Café Church	8.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 4th October	10.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 8th October Trinity 18	10.00am Holy Communion	
Wednesday 11th October	10.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 15th October Trinity 19	10.00am Holy Communion	3.00pm Harvest Service
Wednesday 18th October	10.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 22nd October Trinity 20	8.30am Holy Communion 10.00am Holy Communion	
Wednesday 25th October	<i>10.30am Holy Communion at Ness Court</i>	10.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 29th October Last Sunday after Trinity	4.00pm Messy Church	10.00am Holy Communion
Wednesday 1st November	10.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 4th November All Saints	10.00am Café Church 3.00pm Service for bereaved	8.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 8th November	10.30am Holy Communion	

OPENING OF OUR CHURCH BUILDINGS

Both of our churches are open to the public every day, except when there is another event, such as a wedding or a funeral.

WEEKLY GATHERINGS

We have a number of small groups meeting during the week. Ask Eleanor for details.

Fridays 10.00am Refresh Café in St Mary's *For pre-school children with their parents & carers*

Saturday 9.00am The Green Prayer Group (at Village Green Coffee Shop)

More information in our regular emails to families and on our Messy Church and Refresh

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/messychurchburwell. Join the mailing list via with

our Keeping in Touch online form. [St Mary's Burwell with St Etheldreda's Reach |](mailto:StMarysBurwellwithStEtheldredasReach@stmarysburwell.org.uk)

[Keeping in Touch \(stmarysburwell.org.uk\)](http://stmarysburwell.org.uk)

WORSHIP AT HOME ONLINE *Join us to pray, to worship, to share together*

Most weeks, we aim to live stream the 10am service on Facebook, apart from Café Church and when there is a baptism.



Churches Together in Burwell has a regular slot on Burwell Radio called 'Cross Talk' on Sundays 8.30am and repeated at 4.30pm Sunday and 7.00pm Monday. To listen you can either go to the station's website <https://burwell.radio>, or play via an Amazon Echo smart speaker.

Activities for Children and Young People and their Families

Sunday Mornings @ St Mary's

Families, children and young people are welcome at all our services. Café Church once a month.

Refresh Café

Every Friday 10.00-11.45am

For toddlers & babies & their parents and carers. Free play, crafts, refreshments, with nursery rhymes, songs and a short bible story, followed by a simple lunch.

Messy Church and Café

Events for families and children of all ages, often on Sunday afternoons, and sometimes meeting outdoors in the churchyard. Also cafés in school holidays with games and activities, drinks and snacks, for children and families..

Eleanor sends out a regular update email to families. If you'd like to join the mailing list, fill in the Keeping in Touch form on our website.

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

Curate

Rev'd Virginia Moggridge 07566 773020

curate@stmarysburwell.org.uk

Priests in retirement

Rev'd David King

Rev'd Dr Roger Williams

Licensed Lay Minister

Jo Proctor

Churchwardens

Stephen Martin 01638 742667

Wendy Smith 01638 741888

Churchwardens' Assistant

Caroline Smith

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 contact the Treasurer, Terry Chalmers.

Telephone: 01638 742006

or Email:

administrator@stmarysburwell.org.uk

Keeping in Touch

During the coronavirus outbreak we started sending the pew sheet by email and phoning and posting information to those without Internet access. Both the pew sheet and Contact are also available to download from our website: www.stmarysburwell.org.uk/contact-magazine

QR code for church website home page



We welcome your contributions to Contact. Please do keep sending them!
 Send to administrator@stmarysburwell.org.uk

To join the circulation list please fill in a Keeping in Touch form available in our churches or on our website