



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

## Opportunities to Pray Together

Daily Prayer

**THURSDAYS**  
9.00am  
St Mary's

We have restarted a weekly Morning Prayer in St Mary's, on Thursday mornings at 9.00am. All are very welcome. We usually use the Church of England's Daily Prayer app, which is a very helpful resource, with the full text of Morning, Evening and Night Prayer. It also has a full audio version of each service, sometimes including singing from St Martin's Voices. The app can be downloaded for Android and iPhones. If you can't access the app, don't worry, please still come, and we'll make sure that you can join in.

**Preparing for Advent  
Quiet Afternoon  
1.30 - 4.00pm  
St Etheldreda's, Reach  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November**

An opportunity to take some time out to prepare for the season to come, with reflections, prayer and times of silence.  
Contact Eleanor for more details and to reserve a place.



**COMMUNITY ANGEL AWARDS**

Community is so important to all of us, and to celebrate our amazing community St Mary's Church is partnering with North Street Co-op to celebrate this year's Community Angels Awards. Please send your nominations to [vicar@stmarysburwell.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmarysburwell.org.uk). You can nominate anyone who has made a difference to you, anyone you know, or in the community. All nominations please by 9<sup>th</sup> December, with the award Ceremony in St Mary's Churchyard on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December, hosted by the Co-op and St Mary's.

We are also hoping for lots of Angels to decorate the Church and Churchyard, and are hoping that individuals and groups will enjoy making them. Contact St Mary's for more information.



co op

St Mary's Burwell  
St Etheldreda's Reach

Loving God, Loving People

**From the Parish Registers  
Funerals**



*Rest in Peace*  
Sue Knight  
Audrey Holt  
Muriel Alexander

**Burwell Food Support Group**  
**Pop-up Pantry & Ely Foodbank**  
*working together*  
*to support our local community*  
**at Burwell Day Centre**  
**Fridays 2.00 - 3.00pm**

**Pop-up Pantry is working towards reducing waste and offers short life food and more as is available.**

Donations towards the Pantry are gratefully received and can be dropped off at the Day Centre. A voluntary contribution of £2 is helpful towards running costs.

**Ely Foodbank provides food for 3 days and can help with issues such as benefit changes, low incomes and more.**

**Citizen Advice** join the team on 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of month. If you require help from the Foodbank please ring 01353 468626 or email [info@ely.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@ely.foodbank.org.uk)

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



**Come & Sing!**

**Anybody interested in joining St Mary's choir for the Christmas carol service would be very welcome! Practices are on Fridays at 7:30pm in church so please come along and join us!**  
**Carols by Candlelight**  
**December 17<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm**



The General Synod of the Church of England will be meeting 13-15 November to discuss the steps being taken to implement texts known as *Prayers of Love and Faith*, which ask for God's blessing for same-sex couples. In February of this year, Synod agreed a motion welcoming the texts and calling on The House of Bishops to further refine and commend them for use in the Church of England, together with new pastoral guidance and proposals for pastoral reassurance. Earlier this autumn, the House of Bishops agreed in principle that the Prayers of Love and Faith should be commended for use. They also concluded that special standalone services for same-sex couples, based on the Prayers, should go forward for consideration to be formally authorised under canon law. Synod also voted for no change to the doctrine of the Church of England around marriage and sexual intimacy.

In November, Synod members will be presented with the work that the House of Bishops has carried out on the *Prayers of Love and Faith* since February, including draft pastoral guidance, specifically supporting the Prayers. The Bishop of London, Dame Sarah Mullally, who has co-chaired the Living in Love and Faith steering group, said: "This twin-track approach means that prayers asking for God's blessing for same-sex couples will be available for use in church very soon, as Synod has asked. A means of offering special, standalone services for same-sex couples will go forward to be considered for formal authorisation at a later stage. While we do not all agree about questions of marriage and sexual intimacy, a long period of discernment has shown that a majority of people would like to see a change in the Church of England's approach to same-sex relationships. Based on what the Church has told us, no change is not an option. "There are those who would like to see us go much further, and those who believe we are going too far. Yet we have expressed our heartfelt wish to remain together as one Church. The pastoral provision must protect and value both those who struggle so much with this that they need reassurance, and those who wish to place same-sex relationships before God in prayer. In other words, it will be 'both and', not 'either or'. We are implementing what Synod asked us to, prayerfully and with the hope of God's Grace." **Let us pray for the work of Synod.**

**Light a Candle  
To Remember  
a Loved One**



**A Service for  
Thanksgiving & Remembering  
Sunday November 5th  
3 pm  
St Mary's Church, Burwell  
Followed by refreshments**

Stars available for the Advent  
Remembering Tree

**BURWELL and REACH  
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY  
12<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**REACH**

**10.50am Act of Remembrance  
at Reach War Memorial  
11.05am Service continues  
in St Etheldreda's, Reach**

**BURWELL**

**2.30pm Act of Remembrance  
at Burwell War Memorial  
3.00pm Churches Together  
Service of Remembrance  
at St Mary's, Burwell**



**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.

**Mission Giving to Charity**

Every year, the PCC donates 10% of its regular income to support other charities. In all, almost 20 charities receive donations, some of them, especially smaller charities, being supported regularly every year and others receiving donations in response to particular appeals or situations.

The causes the causes the charities support vary greatly. Some operate overseas, relieving hardship in troubled places or supporting development and Christian mission. Others are UK based, some supporting the work of the Church of England and others, serving those in need. Look out for information about some of these charities in future editions of Contact.

The Mission Group meets once or twice a year a year to identify possible charities to support make recommendations to the PCC.

If you would like to join this group, please contact Pat Chalmers, administrator@stmarysburwell.org.uk.

**This month's Eco Living Ideas from Kathy**



Keep warm by going for a walk and enjoy the changing colours and seedheads in gardens and in the countryside, and then, as the evening draws in, remember to close your curtains at dusk to keep the heat in.

Draught proof your chimney with a commercially available bag, or make your own with a pillow case filled with scrunched up newspaper. Hang something from the bag/case so that you remember to remove it before lighting a fire.

Increase the life of your clothes by darning or patching to mend any holes or tears, and sewing buttons back on. It's quite fashionable now to turn the mended part into an embellishment (embroider a daisy around a hole, or make a tartan patch on a jumper) – try looking up 'visible mending' for ideas.

Look out for good news stories about how people are trying to make a difference and taking care of God's creation. Be glad that what you do does make a difference, and share what you are doing with others to encourage each other.

**Why should Christians care for God's earth?**

Genesis 2:15 reads: *"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."*



**Church Candles**

Thank you to those who have already made a donation in response to the article in last month's Contact about the St Mary's candles. There is still time to contribute if you wish. Please contact Wendy to make a cash donation or me for the details of other ways to pay. **Pat Chalmers**

**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**

**Email Gremlin**

The newsheets are circulated to about 160 people each week by email and usually this works well. Sometimes, however, emails sent to the 22 people who have .btinternet addresses bounce back. Usually, a second attempt works, but not always. No-one has been able to suggest a reason.

If you are one of these 22 people and don't get your news sheet on a Friday, I'm very sorry. You can always access it on the website [St Mary's Burwell with St Etheldreda's Reach | Pew Sheets \(stmarysburwell.org.uk\)](http://www.stmarysburwell.org.uk), or pick up a paper copy from church.

## Reflection by Philip Baker

Have you noticed how a “promise” somehow does not seem to mean what it used to? Many promises seem to fail, in fact, I am doubtful that many of them are made with the intention of keeping them. Politicians of all persuasions make promises, especially before elections and usually concerning things like lower taxes, better services, a smaller and more efficient civil service. And what do we receive? Higher taxes, worse services, an expanded civil service. I think that the matters involved are usually more complicated than expected and are doomed to failure. The same is true about products, which do not always deliver the performance that the manufacture promised. Or food, which usually fails to live up to the promise of the illustration on the packet. Thank goodness that there is one source of promises that we can depend on – those made by God. He keeps His promises and is faithful in His love, so that, with confidence, we can have faith and trust in Him.

God’s promises come in various forms, eg those He made directly and unambiguously through the Prophets and His Son, and those which are less clear and open to interpretation. Humans have problems with both of these, but only because we tend to overthink things, rather than take them at face value.

The first type includes God’s promise that He will return to us again and His promise that our sins will be forgiven if we accept His grace and mercy, freely given to those who ask in penitence. Given our experience of human promises, it is tempting to question this, asking When? and How? If we believe that God created the universe, the world and everything in it, why not believe that He cares enough to deliver on this promise? There is simply no way that we can know the when or how until our time is up and we return to God – then we will understand all things. Until then all we have to do is make ourselves ready and follow what we understand to be the rules of life as decreed by God and explained by Jesus.

The second type includes those promises such as “God promises to hear us when we pray”. The difficulty for us here is that although God does listen when we pray, it is not always in His plan to deliver exactly what we ask for. But there is no promise that God will give us what we want, only that He will listen to our prayer. I know from personal experience, as will many of you, that when we pray sincerely and from the heart, God will deliver what is good for us in His eyes, but not necessarily what we would like to be good for us. If we were destitute and prayed for relief, we would receive relief we

need, not necessarily the Lottery win we might like. So reflect on this: although you cannot trust others, you can trust God, who always keeps His promises, even if we need faith for those yet to be answered and do not always notice or appreciate His solution at the present time.

*Philip Baker (26<sup>th</sup> October 2023)*

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

**Burwell Branch**

Since I last wrote the Burwell Branch has enjoyed three well-attended and varied meetings. In August, when we do not usually meet, we gathered at short notice to sort out the Programme of Events for 2024, Nearly all the “regulars” turned up and we made short work of the Programme, even having ideas to spare and also dealt with the events for 2025. We ended up holding a full impromptu meeting, which was delightful.

At our September meeting, branch member John Evans gave us a fascinating insight into the work in prisons. It was good to hear about the enthusiasm and thanks expressed by the prisoners themselves and that many of them are being baptised as Christians. I used to hear this from Susan when she was doing voluntary work in prisons and it is good to know it is still happening. Paula reported on a little-known group of Diocesan Mothers’ Union members who are working more strategically. For our October meeting, we had a brilliant evening of craft activity, turning unwanted books into angels. We thank Kathy Ogilvie for her time and enthusiasm. Branch members ordered their Mothers’ Union Christmas cards and these good-quality and good sized cards, which contain a suitable verse are now available to everyone. Prices are typically around £4.50 for 10. Money goes towards supporting Mothers’ Union Projects. Hazel will take orders and the cards are also available in CentrePeace

Some of us attended the recent Diocesan Autumn Meeting in the wonderful modern facilities of Waterbeach Parish Church. We heard of the work of the Task Groups: Finance – we are doing very well and have finances to fund our ongoing projects; Faith in Action – we have been able to send 12 families on holiday this year, usually their first break for years and sometimes ever; Praying our Faith – producing Prayer diaries and organising a Quiet Day which our Chaplain Paula will lead next spring; Communications – maintaining the flow of information in a variety of ways suitable for all those who need it, as well as organising events for members who do not

have a local Branch. We also heard from Canon Matthew Bradbury about Modern Slavery. Matthew delivered a fascinating outline of the unbelievable things going on under our eyes – evil in plain sight – and he also gave an insight into the history of slavery. There is more about what the MU stands for and campaigns about on its website and on a notice board at the back of St Mary’s. If you share our beliefs, whether you are a man or a woman, and are interested in work to support families and family life locally and around the world, as well as issues like gender based violence and modern slavery you would be very welcome to join us – talk to me about enrolment (next one being planned for next March).

*Philip Baker (26<sup>th</sup> October 2023)*



## 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!

### ‘Memories Of Burwell’ Book

Frank Czucha has asked us to draw your attention to the fact that, due to renewed interest, he has reprinted copies of his 2017 book ‘Memories Of Burwell, Cambridgeshire.’ The book which includes articles and photos of St Mary’s is on sale at Tina’s shop in North Street price £12.99p.’

## COMING SOON...



Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November  
10.00am St Mary’s Burwell



**Messy Advent Family Event**  
**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November**  
 4.00 - 5.30pm  
 at St Mary’s, Burwell



**For the young & young at heart**  
 Join us for activities, crafts,  
 songs and a meal together  
 as we prepare for Advent & Christmas  
**All Ages, All Welcome**  
*No set charge but make a donation if you can*

### WATCH THIS SPACE!

We hope to host the Knitted Bible, towards the end of November to early December. More details to follow!



## November 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
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November</b> <b>All Saints</b>	10.00am Café Church 3.00pm Service for bereaved	8.30am Holy Communion
<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November</b>	10.30am Holy Communion	
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> before Advent</b> <b>Remembrance Sunday</b>	8.30am Holy Communion 2.30pm War memorial 3.00pm Remembrance Service	10.50am War memorial 11.00am Remembrance Service
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November</b>	10.30am Holy Communion	
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Before Advent</b> <b>Safeguarding Sunday</b>	8.30am Holy Communion 10.00am All Age Service	
<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	<i>10.30am Holy Communion at Ness Court</i>	10.30am Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November</b> <b>Next before Advent</b>	10.00am Holy Communion 4.00pm Messy Church	
<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November</b>	10.30am Holy Communion	
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b> <b>Advent 1</b>	10.00am Café Church and Baptism 4.30pm Christingle service	8.30am Holy Communion
<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December</b>	10.30am Holy Communion	
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>Advent 2</b>	10.00am Holy Communion	
<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>	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](http://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:St Mary's Burwell with St Etheldreda's Reach |)*

*[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](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 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](http://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](mailto: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