



contact

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

Being Easter People

Easter lasts a lot longer than the Easter eggs usually do! The season of Easter begins on Easter Day - and lasts until Pentecost, exactly 50 days later. We light the Paschal (Easter) Candle to symbolise the resurrection at all services until Pentecost, to symbolise the presence of the risen Christ with us, and then it 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.

What difference does it make to live, each moment of each day, as those who believe that Jesus Christ is risen? What does it mean to be Easter People? It's like seeing the world, living 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 hope, forgiveness, and 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, as you open your heart to him. **Eleanor Williams**



Maundy Thursday 28th March

7.30pm Holy Communion at St Mary's

Good Friday 29th March

**10.30am Messy Easter Family Event
at St Mary's**

11.00am Churches Together

Walk of Witness from North St Co-op

2.00pm Devotional Service at Reach

Easter Sunday 31st March

7.00am Churches Together

**Sunrise Service on Castle Mound
followed by breakfast**

8.30am Holy Communion at Reach

**10.00am Holy Communion
at St Mary's**

followed by Easter Egg Hunt

**Cross Talk on Burwell Radio <https://burwell.radio/>
Sunday 8.30am & 4.30pm, Monday 7.00pm**

**From the
Parish Registers
Baptisms**

We welcome

Holly Catt

Weddings

Congratulations to

Tanya See and Shane Norley



Tanya & Shane - with our love and prayers

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

Sunday 7th April

in St Mary's Church

Approx. 11.15am

After the 10.00am Café Church

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 is now available in church and online.

There are several vacancies on the PCC and we are also looking for a new churchwarden. Nomination forms are available at the back of church. Please continue to pray for all in leadership positions, and for others to come forward, when some need to step back. Please speak to Eleanor for more information about joining the PCC, or volunteering for other roles in the church.

Treasurer and Administrator - New Arrangements

Treasurer

The new Treasurer is Sue Chase, who provides accountancy services to a number of churches in the diocese. She doesn't live in the parish and the following people will provide the links: Eleanor, Steve Martin, Ian Richards and Sally Swann.

If you want to request a payment **from** the PCC, please give the appropriate document, eg expenses claim, receipt for purchases or an invoice to Eleanor, Steve or Ian or one of the churchwardens, and they will forward it for payment.

If you want to make a donation or pay money **into the PCC**, please contact Ian or Sally.

Administrator

The new Administrator is Kathy Ogilvie. Please send any administrative queries to administrator@stmarysburwell.org.uk and Kathy will deal with them or pass them on to the appropriate person as necessary.

Please feel free to contact Terry and Pat about any matters not relating to these roles via their personal email accounts, which Kathy can provide if you don't already know them.

This month's Eco Living Ideas from Kathy



Why should Christians care?

Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Justmoney.org.uk writes:

Switching to a green bank is one of the most impactful climate actions you can take. Banks wield a huge amount of power and shape the world around us. If you are with HSBC, Barclays, Santander, NatWest, Chase, Lloyds or another big high street bank, it's likely that your bank is providing support, through loans and investments, to companies involved in fossil fuel extraction and expansion; the driving cause of climate breakdown. Since 2015, big banks have put over £4.4 trillion of financial support into the fossil fuel industry.

The good news is that greener, more ethical banks do exist, and it's easy to make a switch. This year The Big Bank Switch aims to equip thousands of Christians around the UK to care for God's creation and align their money with their values by switching to green banks. By switching together, we signal support for a finance sector that puts people and planet first.

The Big Bank Switch is a partnership between three Christian organisations – JustLove, JustMoneyMovement and Operation Noah - working in partnership with Switch It Green, an innovative online platform which supports individuals to switch to greener financial providers. Join in by taking The Big Bank Switch pledge and getting your church and community involved. Our first collective switching moment starts on Switch It Sunday (21 April 2024).

Find out more, make your pledge and get ready to switch: <https://justmoney.org.uk/the-big-bank-switch>.

Charity Spotlight

This month, we focus on some of the charities which are connected with supporting the work of the Church of England and, in particular, our clergy and lay ministries.



Eastern Region Ministry (ERMC)

www.ermc.cam.ac.uk

ERMC Provides full and part time courses for those training for ordained and licensed ministry in the Church of England and those engaged in ministry in the wider church. Students come from the East of England and Europe and have included Eleanor, Paula, Jo and Virginia.

Ridley Hall

www.ridley.cam.ac.uk

Ridley Hall was founded in 1881 to train people eager to devote their lives to ordained ministry. Over the years it has evolved and now prepares women and men of all ages to serve Christ in the Church through both lay and ordained ministry. It also offers opportunities for private study and spiritual renewal. Ordinand Peter Amirthalingam is at Ridley Hall.

Westcott House

www.westcott.cam.ac.uk

Westcott House is a diverse and inclusive Anglican theological college rooted in the sacramental tradition. It offers a range of training and academic courses for ordained and licensed ministries in the Church, as well as study opportunities for those already in ministry.

Parish Nursing

www.parishnursing.org.uk

Parish Nursing UK supports Christian communities across the UK to establish enduring, accredited Parish Nursing services that promote comprehensive health and well-being. Sue Evans served as Parish Nurse here for many years.

Church of England Pensions Board

The Pensions Board provides pensions for those who work for the Church of England, as well as managing Retirement Homes and welfare and housing advice..

Pat Chalmers for

The Mission Giving Group

CentrePeace



38a The Causeway, Burwell

Selling second hand books and jigsaws and a range of greetings cards

Opening Times

Tuesday 10.00am—12.30pm
Wednesday 2.00pm—4.00pm
Thursday 10.00am—12.30pm
 1.00pm—3.00pm
Friday 10.00am—12.30pm
Saturday 10.00am—12.30pm

We rely on our wonderful volunteers, pictured below at a recent get-together. It was good to hear how much they all enjoy making new friends and talking to the customers and helping to run the shop. If you would like to join them, please contact Hazel Williams or call in at the shop for an application form.



Books to borrow

We now have some new books to borrow on the shelves at the back of the church by the vestry. Please help yourself and record what you have taken in the notebook. The books change from time to time, so please check back for more. If you have any particular requests please ask, or if you have any suitable books or DVDs to add for others to borrow that would be great too.

Happy reading!

Angela Bellis



Burwell Branch

I hope you all enjoyed the service on Mothering Sunday, planned and led by the Mothers' Union, during which I was delighted to enrol two more candidates to our movement. Hazel spoke about the annual appeal for funds to be put towards helping women and families escape poverty and build lives based on a proper education. This has been going well, thank you for your generosity towards this exceptionally worthy cause.

As I write this, our next meeting we will be on 27th March, when we will meet in Mill Bungalow as usual at 2.00pm for a Lent Reflection (and not at Reach as previously advertised). The meeting is open to all, although you will probably not read this until afterwards. Our April meeting is scheduled to be a visit to Simpsons Garden Centre (plants and cake – a perfect combination!).

All are welcome to attend our meetings, which include a time of prayer as well as shared food, and there is more about what the Union stands for and campaigns about on the Worldwide Mothers' Union website.

Philip Baker Mill Bungalow, Mill Lane.
philip.bakerhome@ntlworld.com

Mothering Sunday collection

Thanks go to all who contributed to the collection for the Mothers Union to help buy a 'Gift of Dignity' to help empower women to transform their lives and reach their full potential. The sum raised was an incredible £400 which will allow many women to train in healthcare, literacy and numeracy and be able to start their own businesses.

Hazel Williams
Burwell's Branch Treasurer.

General Synod Report

At its meeting in February, the General Synod discussed a wide range of issues, some of which related specifically to church affairs and others addressing the wider issues facing the world today. Here are some of the highlights.

Living in Love and Faith

This General Synod was the first since the prayers of dedication, thanksgiving and seeking God's blessing for same-sex couples (known as Prayers of Love and Faith) came into limited use during public worship in the Church of England, for churches that have opted to use them.

A vote on the main motion was deferred until a later meeting, at which firm proposals for a settlement to enable the C of E to move forward together amid deep differences on questions of sexuality and marriage will be presented.

Speaking after the debate, Bishop Martyn, the lead bishop for the 'Living in Love and Faith' process said: "We've had an opportunity for an open, thoughtful, and gracious debate about how we might move forward together as a church in the next stage of the implementing our decisions on Living in Love and Faith and the work of reconciliation amid our divisions. There is more work to be done to develop concrete proposals on really important questions we face. What I'm picking up very clearly, though, is a growing desire in parishes for the Church of England to reach agreement and get on with serving our nation, so that will be my priority in the next few months as we seek to develop concrete proposals.

Code of conduct for PCCs

General Synod has voted in favour of a motion asking the Archbishops' Council to explore a Code of Conduct for PCC members and lay volunteers.

Whereas clergy are subject to the Clergy Discipline Measure (CDM) process, lay volunteers currently face no significant consequences for persistent departures from acceptable standards of behaviour. For example, there is no mechanism to remove a member from the PCC if they persistently behave in an obstructive, bullying or otherwise unacceptable manner. The code of conduct will aim to encourage healthy cultures, and to give a possible remedy for behaviours that damage people and the work of the church.

The World Situation

Archbishop Justin Welby, who visited Ukraine ahead of the second anniversary of the Russian full-scale invasion, made the following comments:

"We live in a world of suffering. And unlike in the past, it is a world where we are aware of the suffering. In Europe, the Ukrainian Russian war is frozen. And the suffering of the people in Ukraine has increased. They are paying for our security with money but also with blood. Our support needs to be long-term"

But there is much more. Sudan, Myanmar, northeast India, the South Pacific, the Philippines, Korea, Pakistan, Nigeria, Mozambique. With modern developments in military technology including the development of AI-assisted drone attacks, we are in a state of global uncertainty and great change. Like all such periods, minorities are blamed for uncertainties, conspiracies are assumed where there is uncontrollability and leaders are criticised where the future is hard to see.

In 1939, George Bell wrote an article on the behaviour of the Church in a time of war. 'What should the Church do in a time of war?' it was entitled. "His simple conclusion was that the right strategy... is to be even more the Church. Suffering and enemies are faced best in communities that trust across divides, rather than in self protecting, and reinforcing huddles, because the very act of trusting across the divides builds our resilience and our ability to see the best in others"

Synod overwhelmingly supported a motion calling on all UK political parties to affirm their continued support for Ukraine and supporting the work of churches and others working for "peace, justice and reconciliation in Ukraine".

Biodiversity

The General Synod backed a series of measures to promote biodiversity on C of E land, from churchyards as havens of wildlife and plants, to the stewardship of agricultural and forestry land.

Members of the Synod welcomed progress already made by the Church Commissioners, the National Church Institutions, dioceses, parishes, cathedrals, and schools to manage their land for climate and nature, one bishop commenting that our churchyards should be places of the living, not just the dead.

UPDATE ON ST MARY'S CHURCH FETE

Sadly, we have decided that it is not realistic to plan for a Church Fete this year, due to a number of significant constraints, including regular helpers being on holiday and unexpected changes to practical arrangements. Events like this take time to prepare, and need a lot of volunteer helpers, before and on the day.

We hope to have several smaller events during the year, which may include something on the day that we would have hosted the fete, June 8th 2024.

Jo and Rob Proctor would still very much like to hear from you if you have ideas for new events, and would be willing to commit to helping.

Jo's email is
LLM@stmarysburwell.org.uk

Rob's email address is
tech@stmarysburwell.org.uk

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 1st Friday of month.

If you require help from the Foodbank

please ring 01353 468626

or email 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



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.

Thursday 9.00am Morning Prayer in St Mary's

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 |](http://www.stmarysburwell.org.uk)

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

What's on in our churches in April

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 refreshments, themed activities for all ages, then a short service.

Date	St Mary's Burwell	St Etheldreda's Reach
Friday 29th March Good Friday	10.30am Messy Church 11.00am Churches Together Walk of Witness starting Co-op	2.00pm Reflective Service
Sunday 31st March Easter Day	7.00am Sunrise service 10.00am Holy Communion	8.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 3rd April	10.30am Holy Communion	
Thursday 4th April	9.00am Morning Prayer	
Friday 5th April	10.00am Refresh Café and Lunch	
Sunday 7th April Easter 2	10.00am Café Church 11.15am APCM	8.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 10th April	10.30am Holy Communion	
Thursday 11th April	9.00am Morning Prayer	
Friday 12th April	10.00am Refresh Café and Lunch	
Sunday 14th April Easter 3	10.00am Holy Communion	
Wednesday 17th April		10.30am Holy Communion
Thursday 18th April	9.00am Morning Prayer	
Friday 19th April	10.00am Refresh Café and Lunch	
Sunday 21st April Easter 4	8.30am Holy Communion 10.00am Holy Communion	
Wednesday 24th April	10.30am Holy Communion <i>10.30am Holy Communion at Ness Court</i>	
Thursday 25th April	9.00am Morning Prayer	
Friday 26th April	10.00am Refresh Café and Lunch	
Sunday 28th April Easter 5	10.00am Holy Communion	
Wednesday 1st May	10.30am Holy Communion	
Thursday 2nd May	9.00am Morning Prayer	
Sunday 5th May Easter 6	10.00am Café Church	8.30am Holy Communion

PRAYER MINISTRY

We are now offering prayer for individuals during our services. Most Sundays, there will now be an opportunity to ask for prayer, in confidence. With changed arrangements for communion, we propose to have an area near the font where two of our pastoral team will be available, if you would like to go there, after going forwards to receive communion or a blessing. The team could also come to pray with you where you are seated. We hope that this will be a means of encouragement, blessing, and healing to many.

Eleanor

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.

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

Curate

Rev'd Virginia Moggridge 07566 773020

curate@stmarysburwell.org.uk

Day off Monday

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>

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