



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

## The hope of Easter

Recently, there have been a number of conversations about lighter mornings and increasing amounts of sunshine bringing early birdsong into consciousness as we wake: greenfinch, great tit, robin, and others. Now, I can identify the distinctive call of the great tit, which sounds like a squeaky bicycle pump, but not many others. What I hear is a generally pleasant sound of birdsong heralding the day, which lifts my spirits with its promise of spring. And, of course, birdsong was one of the things people noticed and enjoyed as we went into the first Covid lockdown five years ago on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. In the midst of our world being turned upside down, being separated from our families, friends, colleagues, usual routines and occupations, we sought out signs of hope. We listened to news bulletins, pronouncements, TV addresses, and Press briefings; to radio broadcasts from presenters' home, kitchen discos, Queen Elizabeth II's address in April – and again to her Christmas Day broadcast - virtual church services, video calls, and online meetings, appeals to 'Stay Home, Protect the NHS, Stay Safe', then, eventually, calls to 'Eat out to Help Out' and, thankfully, to make appointments to be vaccinated. The messages we heard as we listened were different on occasions, depending on how we were feeling at any given time. Sometimes it was difficult to hear the hope within the gloom. As with birdsong, we had to listen hard to distinguish the detail, and it got lost sometimes. The full impact of the Covid pandemic may not be known for many years, and many voices are being listened to during the ongoing enquiry. I wonder what is being heard.

As we journey through Lent, towards the world being turned upside down in Holy Week, we hold on to the hope of Easter Sunday. Jesus' disciples and followers had listened to his teaching, the good news of hope in his promised resurrection, but not always heard; the details were incomprehensible and got lost. The reality before them, they had to hear differently. I wonder what detail we will hear as we listen once again to the narratives we may know so well, what that will bring into consciousness, and how our spirits will be lifted by the promise and hope.

Rev'd Paula Spalding Associate Priest

## Easter at St Mary's Burwell & St Etheldreda's Reach



**Palm Sunday  
13<sup>th</sup> April**

10.00am Holy Communion  
at St Mary's, Burwell  
4.00pm Churches Together  
Songs of Praise  
at Ness Court

**Mon, Tues, Weds  
14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> April**

6.00pm Night Prayer  
at St Mary's



**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April**

5.00pm (approx) Pilgrim Cross visit

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's

**Maundy Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April**

7.30pm Holy Communion at St Mary's

**Good Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April**

10.30am Messy Easter at St Mary's

11.00am Churches Together

Walk of Witness from North St Co-op

2.00pm Reflective Service

at St Etheldreda's, Reach



**Easter Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

6.30am Churches Together

Early Service on Castle Mound  
followed by breakfast

8.30am Holy Communion

at St Etheldreda's, Reach

10.00am Easter Celebration

Holy Communion at St Mary's

### **Easter Lilies**

The Flower Ministry will be placing an arrangement of **Lilies at the Altar** at Easter in memory of loved ones who have died. Add names to the list at the back of Church along with £2 per name to be remembered.

## **Mothering Sunday Café Church**

at St Mary's Burwell  
Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March  
Refreshments from 10.00 am  
Followed by short service  
All very welcome to join us



Flower posies to be given out

### **Knitted Bible Exhibition in St Mary's 6<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> April**

**Over 30 knitted Bible scenes  
Free entry, donations welcome  
Limited access during services**

We are delighted that the Knitted Bible, which includes a new Noah's Ark scene, will be displayed in St Mary's for 3 weeks.

Do come in and see it. We are hoping to have worksheets and quizzes to help you explore more about the scenes depicted.



**Songs of Praise  
Ness Court  
Palm Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April  
4.00pm  
Followed by tea  
All very welcome**

### **Pilgrim Cross**

We are delighted to be welcoming the pilgrims once again. This year's schedule is different, with the walkers arriving between 4.00 and 5.00pm on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April, and then sleeping over in the Guildhall. We are proving some tea and cakes on arrival, then supper later in the evening. If you would like to help with providing or serving food, please speak to Virginia or Wendy.



**Messy Easter  
at St Mary's, Burwell  
Good Friday**

**18<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**10.30am - 12.00pm**

**Explore Easter Together  
with Activities & Crafts  
Outdoor Trails & Toddler Area  
Hot Cross buns & Easter Eggs**

**All Ages  
All Welcome**





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

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April  
in St Mary's Church  
approx. 11.20am  
after the 10.00am service**

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 will be available in church two weeks before the meeting and also on line.

We will be electing churchwardens, hoping to recruit a second warden to work alongside Wendy Smith.

There is also room for a couple more people to join the PCC. Information and nomination forms will be available in church during April.

**IMPORTANT UPDATE  
Heating St Mary's church**

As the gas boiler and heating system is now aging and prone to being unreliable, and the PCC has recently discovered that a significant amount of electricity is used to keep the pumps from seizing up, a group of PCC members has been looking at how to move from gas to electricity as a fuel for heating the church. The aims are 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.

A survey has been carried out which suggests that radiant electric heating may be the best solution. Radiant heating works in a similar way to the sun, in that it heats people, rather than just air. The current heating system heats the air. As warm air rises, most of the heat ends up near the ceiling, rather than around the people at ground level. Electric heating can easily be Net Zero if we use renewably produced electricity, which is what we already use at St Mary's.

There are still quite a few hurdles to overcome and decisions to be made, not least of which will be how to fund this change. One suggestion is that the money in the Building to Serve Fund (B2S) could be used towards some of the costs of changing the heating.

B2S was the name of the project to manage the re-ordering and improving of St Mary's building. It was set up in 2012 and a number of people have continued to donate to this Fund. It has already been used to pay for the kitchen and toilets in the tower, and the changes to the south porch and inner vestry, which were carried out in 2015. A new heating system was also part of the planned changes, so it seems appropriate to the PCC to suggest the use of the B2S fund for this work now.

Kathy Ogilvie



**CentrePeace**

**38a The Causeway, Burwell**



We are open every morning except  
Sunday and Monday and also  
Wednesday afternoon.

**Opening Times**

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

## What's Involved in Working with Families at Church?

In the first of our features focusing on the different ways you can help at church, we thank Sue Reynolds and Ena Hendry for telling us about their roles working with families. If this inspires you to offer to help, please speak to Eleanor.

### Refresh Café and Connect Café Helper

I am privileged to volunteer for Refresh Cafe on Friday mornings and also for our new initiative, Connect Cafe, after school once a month on Wednesdays. I help prepare the light lunch on Fridays as well as chatting to mums and their offspring. I enjoy meeting young mums and their children. It is a lovely safe place where we meet up with people with connections to the church or none. I remember when I was a young mum many years ago. It can at times be lonely and isolating with a new baby especially if you've given up work. Places to go like Refresh are vital places to meet other mums where you can share concerns and experiences and make new friends.

Giving up a Sunday to come to church is not always an option with the busy lives we all have these days. Sometimes, the hardest thing to do is to step over the threshold, especially with our heavy doors and everyone looking at you when the door opens. I think initiatives such as Refresh Cafe and Connect make it easier to come into church because it is relaxed and you are surrounded by people with babies and toddlers like you. I love it and have made so many friends and now we also have Connect after school. It's a lovely way to keep in touch with mums and their children who have moved onto school who we may not see as much. I find volunteering a very rewarding experience and hope to carry on for as long as I am able. I had a DBS check and did safeguarding and food hygiene courses. We always need new people to volunteer so if it's for you give it a try, you won't regret it. *Sue Reynolds*

### Refresh Café Helper

I volunteer at Refresh on a Friday morning, and it is one of the highlights of my week. All the families get to know each other and close friendships are formed. They know that the church is a happy place where they are welcome, and the children are an absolute joy to be with. We spend time with the children, playing and singing, and it is a privilege that some of the adults feel able to confide in us about anything that is worrying them.

I had a DBS check, and did a Safeguarding course on line, a bit daunting for me, but there is support for volunteers at all times. Please consider volunteering, it is so rewarding, I get so much pleasure from my time at Refresh.

*Ena Hendry*



**Refresh Café**  
**@St Mary's Burwell**  
**Fridays**  
**10.00 - 11.30am**  
**Simple lunch from 11.30am**

**A café & play space  
for pre-school children  
& their parents  
& carers**  
**Refreshments**  
**No charge**  
**Donations welcome**

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

## Connect Café

**A new connecting space for families**  
**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 3.30 - 5.00pm**  
**St Mary's, Burwell**

**Refreshments**  
**Board Games Table Football**  
**Activities Crafts**



**Connect with each other  
and with God**



On the 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945 bells rang out across Britain as the nation took to the streets in celebration of Victory in Europe Day. Eighty years later bellringers across the UK are celebrate this momentous occasion by ringing church bells to re-create that moment at 6:30pm local time and pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we might live in a free world.

Would you like to join us in ringing St Mary's bells for this anniversary? Our band is made up of Burwell residents with ages ranging from 14 years to over 70 years, and we are looking for new ringers to join us. Like any musical instrument, bellringing takes time and practice, but if you start now, you will be ready to ring with St Mary's ringers for the celebrations in May. Everyone who rings will receive a certificate and a badge. Contact Dee Smith Tower Captain St Mary's Burwell 01638 615423 [rato@elyda.org.uk](mailto:rato@elyda.org.uk). Or just come along to a practice on Monday evening at 7.30pm.



## Save the date!

**St Mary's Church Fete**  
**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June**  
**2.00 - 4.00pm**  
**In the church and churchyard**

Plans for the church fete are now progressing nicely. It will be an afternoon of fun with lots of stalls, games and children's activities. There will be all the usual stalls along with cream teas and a BBQ for those looking for something more substantial!

Please be thinking of how you can help make this fete a success—more details will be in next month's Contact.

If you think you could help in any way, please do get in touch.

Jo Proctor  
[llm@stmarysburwell.org.uk](mailto:llm@stmarysburwell.org.uk)

## Milestones on the journey Taking the plunge!

For all of us on the journey of faith, there are milestones - times when we make a deeper commitment to follow Jesus, and want to mark that in some way. Would you like to find out about **Christening** or **Baptism** for your child, or perhaps for yourself? Or for children who over 7, the next step might be to prepare to receive **Holy Communion**. As a young person or adult, you may be ready to affirm your baptism promises for yourself in the service of **Confirmation**.

It's been lovely to speak to several of you who want to respond in some way. Over the next few months, we hope to have a group for adults preparing for confirmation, and possibly also a group for teenagers. Please speak to Eleanor about how to join a group.

## When and How?

**BAPTISMS** take place in our main 10.00am Sunday services, usually 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.

**CONFIRMATION SERVICES** are led by the Bishop, and there is a deanery Confirmation on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June at 4.00pm in St Vigor's, Fulbourn. There are also regular services at Ely Cathedral.

**ADMISSION TO COMMUNION** can take place in any service of Holy Communion, but it is lovely to be able to do this at festivals like Easter.

**SMALL GROUPS** for prayer and Bible study meet regularly, and we also have special courses during eg Lent.





## Threads Through The Bible Exhibition

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May - Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June**  
**at Ely Cathedral**

This inspiring exhibition of textile art by artist Jacqui Parkinson consists of 44 huge panels, which depict the story of the bible in brilliant colours and extraordinary stitching.

For more information and tickets go to: <https://www.elycathedral.org/events/threads-through-the-bible-exhibition>



### Burwell Branch News

By the time you read this we will have had our March Branch meeting, a joint meeting with the Anglesey Branch in Lode in which we held a service for Lady Day and we will also have had the Commissioning Service for Diocesan Officers on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March in Ely presided over by Bishop Dagmar – there is a lot happening!

Our next fellowship lunch after Holy Communion in St Mary's will be on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April and, as usual, it is open to all our friends in St Mary's but it is essential that you let me know by Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April if you would like to join us.

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 (or Hazel). We welcome men and women who support our aims, which relate to the Christian support of families and family life.

*Philip Baker (19<sup>th</sup> March 2025)*

## UPDATE ON ST ETHELDREDA'S CHURCH BUILDING & REACH FAIR

We are very pleased to report that the work to restore the perimeter walls has now been completed, along with some additional work on the arch. Cambridge Stonecraft have done an excellent job. We are still working out some of the best ways to use the new features in the church, including the renovated clock, which stopped recently during a power cut. It was decided to wait until the hour changed to stop the clock again and restart at the correct time. Hope you enjoy popping in and enjoying the beautiful space inside and outside.

### REACH FAIR - MONDAY 5<sup>th</sup> MAY from 12.00pm

We'll be serving cream teas in the church at Reach Fair, along with a bookstall from CentrePeace, so if anyone can help make scones, donate jam, or help serve teas on the day, please speak to Wendy.



## What's on in our churches this month

Date	St Mary's Burwell	St Etheldreda's Reach
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	10.30am Holy Communion	
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	9.00am Morning Prayer	
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	10.00am Refresh Café and Lunch	
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> April 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	10.00am Café Church and Baptisms	8.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30am Holy Communion	
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	9.00am Morning Prayer	
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	10.00am Refresh Café and Lunch	
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> April Palm Sunday	10.00am Holy Communion	
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	6.00pm Compline (Night Prayer)	
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	5.00pm Visit of Pilgrim Cross 6.00pm Compline	
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30am Holy Communion at Ness Court 6.00pm Compline	10.30am Holy Communion
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> April Maundy Thursday	7.30pm Holy Communion followed by the Watch	
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> April Good Friday	10.30am Messy Church 11.00am Churches Together Walk of Witness starting at the Co-op	2.00pm Reflective Service
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> April Easter Day	6.30am Sunrise service 10.00am Holy Communion	8.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	10.30am Holy Communion	
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	9.00am Morning Prayer	
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	10.00am Refresh Café and Lunch	
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> April Easter 1	10.00am Holy Communion Followed by APCM	
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30am Holy Communion	

Please check the weekly news sheet for updates or our website. Refreshments are served after the 10.00am 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.

**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, including Saturday 9.00am The Prayer Group at Village Green Coffee Shop.

**WORSHIP AT HOME ONLINE:** Join us to pray, to worship, to share together. Most weeks, we aim to live stream the Sunday 10.00am service on Facebook, apart from Café Church and when there is a baptism.

**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**  
**Holy Week only - change of day**  
**to Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April**

**Pop-up Pantry** is working towards reducing waste and offers short life food and more as is available.  
 Anyone in financial need is welcome to access support to help them get back on their feet. Donations towards the Pantry are gratefully received and can be dropped off at the Day Centre. A voluntary contribution of £2 helps 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



## 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 speak to our Gift Aid Officer, Ian Richards or Email: [administrator@stmarysburwell.org.uk](mailto:administrator@stmarysburwell.org.uk)

## Vicar

**Rev'd Canon Dr Eleanor Williams**

22 Isaacson Road 01638 741262  
[vicar@stmarysburwell.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmarysburwell.org.uk)

## Associate Priest

Rev'd Paula Spalding 07849 936085  
[associatepriest@stmarysburwell.org.uk](mailto:associatepriest@stmarysburwell.org.uk)  
 Duty days Wednesday, Friday and Sunday

## Curate

Rev'd Virginia Moggridge 07566 773020  
[curate@stmarysburwell.org.uk](mailto:curate@stmarysburwell.org.uk)  
 Day off Tuesday

## Priests in retirement

Rev'd David King  
 Rev'd Dr Roger Williams

## Licensed Lay Ministers

Jo Proctor

Kevin Powell

## Churchwarden

Wendy Smith 01638 741888

## Churchwardens' Assistants

Stephen Martin 01638 742667

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

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/](http://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!**

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