



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

Midsummer Musings

Well, here we are in August, summer is in full swing, the harvest is well under way, so the landscape around us in Burwell and Reach is changing as the fields move from the rich gold of ripe crops to the deep brown of ploughed furrows. Many people are perhaps enjoying time off, whether away or at home, and the gardens and hedges are a glorious riot of colour before they start to give way to the changes coming with shorter days over the next few weeks. Midsummer is often seen as a chance to pause, and reflect, perhaps rest (unless you have to keep lots of small children occupied!).

Perhaps too it is a time for looking ahead, planning for what comes after this respite in the year. School holidays are soon over, and lots of children will be excited, perhaps a little bit daunted, about starting school for the first time, or moving up a class or to senior school. Many children we know here in Burwell and Reach will be doing just that, and our prayers and blessings go with them.

For Christians, too, it is a time of pause. We have celebrated many festivals, Trinity is behind us, and we are in what we call Ordinary Time – a period without major church festivals but a time to reflect on the year past and also look ahead. Soon we will celebrate the bounty of harvest, and then we will remember others on Remembrance Day, then before we know it, here comes Advent! The Church year is full of light and shade, reflection and renewal, and as we bask in the glow of the warm sun, or welcome the summer rains, may we reflect on how we might give thanks for this space and time to be with our families and friends, before the hurly burly of life starts again.

A Prayer for August:

We praise you for days of rest and recreation; time to set aside the normal activities of our lives; to enjoy the beauty of the natural world, to inspire us, to renew us, to refresh us.
Amen.

Revd Virginia Moggridge



Summer Bible School
Wednesdays
30th July, 6th August, 13th August
7.30pm, drinks from 7.15pm
in St Mary's

It's 1700 years since the Council of Nicaea, and the Creed remains just as relevant to our faith today. We'll be looking at historical background, theological issues, and referring to the series 'We believe', available as booklet or app. You don't need this, but it may help and encourage you to go deeper in your own time. All very welcome!

From the Parish Registers



Baptisms

We welcome

Amelie Eady

Louie Leggett

FUN FRIDAYS

Friday mornings
at St Mary's

10.00am - 12.00pm

25th July - 22nd August

Activities for all ages

Refresh Café toddler area

Refreshments including
simple sandwich lunch

Free, donations welcome



Two Thank Yous

Pam Craig writes:

I would like to say 'thank you' to everyone for your kindness and prayers before and after my operation. I look forward to seeing you in church soon.

Love to you all.

Sarah Wingate writes

A huge thank you for all the kind wishes I received following my recent retirement from the surgery.

I've been overwhelmed by all the cards and messages I have received not quite realising the significance of retirement!! I am giving myself some time before I decide what to do next. In the meantime I will make peace with the change as the next chapter begins. Thank you.

CentrePeace



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

Non-stop prayer in every nation on earth

Monday 1st - Sunday 7th September 2025

At All Saints, Newmarket we're joining in with the Global Week of 24-7 prayer this September, and we would like to invite other churches to join in too. There will be a prayer room which will be open during the day, but we're mainly hoping that a lot of individuals from the surrounding area will sign up to cover an hour, wherever and in whatever way they find most helpful. We are hoping to fill most of the hours for a whole week, and given that this is happening all over the world, this means a lot of prayer and worship rising before God! There's an online sign-up calendar for people to add their names or groups. The location isn't important – home, in a church, walking, etc. It would be so encouraging if it started to fill up with offers!

Here's the link to the sign up form: <https://signup.24-7prayer.com/signup/e65290>

More information at

<https://www.24-7prayer.com/>

Connect Café

A connecting space for families
Wednesday 13th August

3.30 - 5.00pm

St Mary's, Burwell



Refreshments

Board Games Table Football

Activities

Crafts

*Connect with each other
and with God*

Report on Church Heating Meeting 23rd July

About 25-30 people attended the meeting, including the Conservation Specialist from Archangel Architects. The following is a brief summary of the matters discussed.

The current issues are the failing gas boiler and how to reach Net Zero Carbon (NZC) by 2030. The current gas fired heating system is giving problems because one of the two pumps that drive it has failed and the other is being kept running all the time, at significant cost, to prevent it from seizing up. The PCC has agreed that rather than replacing the failed pump, which would cost around £6000, we should consider replacing it with a more eco friendly system.

Last year, Illuminous, a low carbon consultant was asked to carry out a survey and to advise the PCC about how to work towards the C of E goal of achieving Net Zero by 2030. They suggested that electric radiant heating, which heats the people, not the air, would be the best option for St Mary's, possibly with solar panels on the roof. Air or Ground Source Heat Pumps would not be appropriate because the building is not used all the time. installation would be very expensive and have issues, archaeologically. Underfloor heating would necessitate the removal of the pews, levelling the floor and insulating and laying a new stone floor. This would have other advantages, but would be a lengthy and expensive project.

Modern radiant 'Halo' heaters, produced by Hershel, give a smoother, gentler heat than the older red radiant heaters. The heaters would be designed to spread out to cover most of the pew area and would also be beneficial for the fabric of the church. It may also be possible to have one in the chancel or the area could be heated with electric radiators. The bellringing chamber could also have small radiant heaters.

The next steps are a survey of the building; developing a design; obtaining necessary permissions and installation. A Building Survey was carried out in 2017, but did not cover all of the church.

Of several types of survey available, the PCC and the meeting agreed to request the one that provided partial interior and exterior modelling.

The architect explained that we will need to appoint a Mechanical and Electrical Engineer to provide the costs and heating design and advise on the products available. The architect would produce the designs needed to apply for a faculty (the C of E's version of a planning application) and would work with a specialist to design the cabling and controls. If we were to add solar panels to the roof, the design would also need Planning Permission. A bat survey, fund-raising and grant applications can take place in parallel with this and might affect the time the work can be carried out. When permissions have been obtained a contractor for the installation can be appointed through a tender process. Installation might take about one month, when the church would likely be closed. If all goes smoothly, it may be possible to have the new heating system for October 2026.

The architect confirmed that the views of various Heritage and Advisory Bodies have changed because views in the country as a whole have changed due to recent global events, and that they would be likely to be happy to approve the use of Halos as long as the system has been well designed. The Diocesan Heating Adviser would help and provide guidance to suggest different possible options.

There is no doubt that this is a major project, which would require the help, not only from the professionals listed above, but also practical help from within the congregation to engage in fund raising, apply for grants, act as treasurer for the project, communicate with the contractors, the congregation and the general public—not to mention give encouragement and make the tea.

If you would like more details of the matters discussed at the meeting or have any comments to make, please speak to Eleanor.

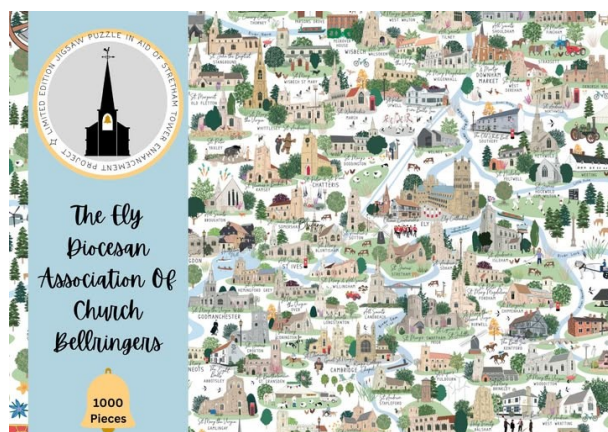
Ely District Bellringers Tower Open Day 30th August 2025

On Saturday 30th August St Mary's Burwell is one of the 25 Church Towers in the area which will be having their bells run by ringers from across the UK. Bellringers like to collect lists of towers where they have rung the bells, and this open day will give them the chance of ringing the bells at all the Ely District churches in one day!

The entire day is being held to raise funds for S. T. E. P. or the Stretham Tower Enhancement Project. St James Church in Stretham village is our local Ringing Education Centre (REC for short). Learning to ring bells is the same as learning to play a musical instrument, but ringers cannot take the instrument home to practise. Stretham tower has 6 bells and a mechanism where the bells are rung silently, but their noise can be heard on a computer. So, ringers can practise without disturbing the neighbours! It also means that ringers can have extra bellringing lessons from qualified bellringing teachers.

So, why the need for fundraising? Stretham REC is 10 years old in August, and the bells are showing signs of wear and tear. We also would like to install 2 training bells so we can (using the computer) ring 8 bells, so more ringers can practise at once.

Have you bought one of our fundraising jigsaws yet? The picture contains most of the church towers in the Ely Diocesan area, including St Mary's Burwell.



You may also have seen in St Mary's on the table at the back our voucher to give you a free bellringing lesson at Stretham. Why not contact us and have a go at bellringing?

So, now you know why the bells will be ringing out at St Mary's on Saturday 30th August 2025 from 11.15am to 12.15pm. For further details of how to buy the jigsaw or if you would like to come along to St Mary's Burwell Bellringing practice and see the bellringers in action; please contact Dee Smith dee.fsmith@ntlworld.com St Mary's Burwell Tower Captain.

Please note the St Mary's Burwell Open Day, when you will be able to climb to the top of the tower and enjoy the view will be on **Saturday 27th September 2025.**



What's Involved in being a steward/welcomer

I am part of the team who usually arrive one hour before the 10am service to help with setting up the church. I talk to the church wardens to find what needs doing, then check whether the candles are in position, and if not set them up and light them.

I then start welcoming people as they arrive. It's very enjoyable to see everyone turning up with a smile, a chat and sometimes a hug! It's a very satisfying job. I also count the number in the congregation. The Church of England requires us to keep a record of how many people attend every service for its annual statistics. After I've counted them, the churchwardens pass this information to the Vicar so that she knows how many communion wafers to prepare.

After the service, I collect the candles and the cross and take them to the vestry. Before putting them away, I carefully refill the candles with oil ready for the next service, making sure there are no dirty fingerprints on them as, if there are, it doesn't please Wendy!

Finally, I look round the church and collect any items that have been left on the pews, putting away what I can and perhaps returning such things as gloves and glasses to their owners wherever possible. After that, maybe a cup of coffee!

Being a steward and welcomer is a very worthwhile job, so if you feel you could join the team, please speak to the Vicar or Churchwardens. There's a little bit of training to do, but the role is very satisfying.

Tony Thacker

Welcome!

Environment Matters



A recent new report has revealed that churches across the country have reported saving money on their energy bills after making changes to their buildings to lower their carbon emissions.

The latest Net Zero Carbon 2030 Impact Report, which covers all of 2024, shares stories from parishes who installed solar panels, LED lighting, heat pumps and more – with many saying they have experienced unexpected lower energy bills and wider engagement with their local communities. One church in Stroud slashed its heating bill by 80% after removing its gas boiler and switching to an all-electric heating system and a busy church in Tonbridge has saved over £2,500 on its energy bills in just four months since switching to LED lighting.

The Net Zero Programme was established after General Synod, in July 2020, voted for the whole of the Church of England to achieve net zero carbon by 2030. The programme aims to equip, resource and support all parts of the Church to reduce carbon emissions from the energy used in its buildings, schools and through work-related transport.

More than £30 million has been allocated so far to a series of grants and projects with a focus on reducing carbon emissions from the Church of England's highest emitting buildings.

Julian Atkins, Net Zero Programme Director, said: "We're delighted to publish our second Impact Report. We recognise that achieving net zero is a complex challenge and many churches are finding it harder to achieve for a whole host of reasons – that's why we have dedicated grants and support available to help them on this journey. We're so encouraged by what has been achieved so far and our hope is that readers of this new Impact Report will be encouraged and inspired too."



Starting Back Café Church

Blessing of the Backpacks Prayers for New Beginnings

At the start of the new school year

New school?

New class?

Bring your bag
or pencil case!



**Sunday 7th September
from 10.00am**

at St Mary's, Burwell

Refreshments, time to chat,
play area for young ones

Short service with hymns & prayers

Church Cleaning Day Saturday 20th September

We plan to deep clean the church, including high level dusting. Please put the date in your diary if you can spare an hour to help. More details will follow next month.

If you are able to join a regular rota to help with cleaning, please speak to Wendy.



Burwell Branch News July 2025

Another month gone, and by the time you read this we will have had our July Branch meeting, a Bring and Share Garden Party in the garden of Mill Bungalow. With luck it will have been a glorious, sunny summer day, but we will have fun whatever we are given. We should also have enrolled our latest new member. We are not planning to have a meeting in August, but I will be home at Mill Bungalow and pleased to offer a cup of tea and a chat to anyone who would like to join me.

Our next fellowship lunch after Holy Communion in St Mary's will be on Wednesday 13th August and, as usual, it is open to all our friends in St Mary's. Please let me know by Sunday 10th August (or earlier) 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 (17th July 2025)



SEPTEMBER 13TH 2025

Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust (CHCT), supports churches of all denominations in the county with their repair and improvement costs and Ride and Stride for Churches is their main annual fundraising event. This year it takes place on September 13th. You can take part by biking, walking or riding around the area, stopping off at as many churches and chapels as you can along the way and seeking sponsorship for the number you visit. You can go alone, or as a family, or perhaps we could enter a team this year. Many churches will be open, with forms for you to sign to show you have visited and welcomers present to sign your form. You could, therefore also support the campaign by being a welcomer in our church.

The money raised is split between CHCT and the local church of your choice. If you'd like to take part, more information is available on the CHCT website www.camhct.uk or contact Eleanor if you'd like to take part as a team.

What's on this month

		Fri 1 Sat 2	10.00 9.00	Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers at Village Green Coffee Shop
8.30 10.00 15.00	Sunday 3rd August Trinity 7 Holy Communion at Reach Café Church at St Mary's Tea at the Vicarage	Wed 6 Thurs 7 Fri 8 Sat 9	10.30 19.30 9.00 10.00 9.00	Holy Communion at St Mary's Summer Bible School (drinks 19.15) Morning Prayer at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers
10.00	Sunday 10th August Trinity 8 Holy Communion at Burwell	Wed 13 Thurs 14 Fri 15 Sat 16	10.30 19.30 9.00 10.00 9.00	Holy Communion at St Mary's Summer Bible School (drinks 19.15) Morning Prayer at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers.
8.30 10.00	Sunday 17th August Trinity 9 Holy Communion at Burwell Holy Communion at Burwell	Wed 20 Thurs 21 Fri 22 Sat 23	10.30 9.00 10.00 9.00	Holy Communion at Reach (also at Ness Court) Morning Prayer at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers
10.00	Sunday 24th August Trinity 10 Holy Communion at Burwell	Wed 27 Thurs 28 Fri 29 Sat 30	10.30 9.00 10.00 9.00	Holy Communion at St Mary's Morning Prayer at St Mary's NO REFRESH CAFÉ Village Green Pray-ers
10.00	Sunday 31st August Trinity 11 Holy Communion at Burwell	Wed 3 Sep Thurs 4 Fri 5 Sat 6	10.30 9.00 10.00 9.00	Holy Communion at St Mary's Morning Prayer at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers
8.30 10.00	Sunday 7th September Trinity 12 Holy Communion at Reach Café Church at St Mary's	Wed 10 Thurs 11 Fri 12 Sat 13	10.30 9.00 10.00 13.00 9.00	Holy Communion at St Mary's Morning Prayer at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Wedding of Dianne and Daniel Village Green Pray-ers
10.00 16.00	Sunday 14th September Trinity 13 Holy Communion at Burwell Churches Together Songs of Praise at Ness Court followed by tea	Wed 17 Thurs 18 Fri 12 Sat 13	10.30 9.00 10.00 9.00	Holy Communion at Reach (also at Ness Court) Morning Prayer at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers
	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, activities for all ages, then a short service. Most weeks, we aim to live stream the Sunday 10.00am service on Facebook, apart from Café Church or when there is a baptism. You don't need to have a Facebook account, and to make it easier to find, there is a direct link from our website to the Facebook page.			

WEEKLY GATHERINGS: We have a number of small groups meeting during the week, including:

Monday 7.30pm St Mary's Bellringers meet to practice most weeks (check pew sheet)

Friday 10.00am Refresh Café and lunch for babies, pre-school children and their grown-ups

Saturday 9.00am A Prayer Group meets at Village Green Coffee Shop

Please speak to Eleanor if you would be interested in joining a bible study group

**Pop-Up Pantry
at Burwell Day Centre
First Friday of month**

**August 1st
and September 5th
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 £2 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

**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 Tuesday (on placement June/July)

Priests in retirement

Rev'd David King

Rev'd Dr Roger Williams

Licensed Lay Ministers

Jo Proctor

Kevin Powell

Churchwardens

Wendy Smith

01638 741888

Sue Reynolds

Churchwardens' Assistants

Stephen Martin

01638 742667

Caroline Smith

We're also on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysburwell>

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

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