



contact

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

Times of change

For many of us, September is a time for fresh starts and new beginnings, after the long summer break, as well as some endings. Café Church on 7th September is a time to come together and mark this time of change. Anyone is welcome to bring something that represents the change they face eg backpack, pencil case, car keys, phone or briefcase, and there will be opportunity for a prayer of blessing, for children and young people with new beginnings at school, college or university, or adults facing changes in their home, work or family circumstances.

The last few weeks have brought changes to our usual pattern of opening St Mary's during the day, following an episode of vandalism. Thank you to all who have volunteered to be in the church, to allow us to open most days. As a new school term begins, we will be reviewing whether these precautions can be relaxed.

There will be big changes ahead for Peter Amirthalingam and his family, as he is ordained deacon on Sunday 14th September, in Chelmsford Cathedral. Peter, Christin and Benjamin have already moved and we pray for God's blessing on them. Later in September, we will be saying goodbye to Virginia, as she moves to the Three Rivers Group for the final months of her curacy. We are grateful for all she has contributed during her time in Burwell and Reach, and we will be praying for her as she continues her ministry.

Finally, please pray for our sisters and brothers of Trinity Church, as they have prayerfully decided that the time has come for the church to close. We give thanks for their faithfulness in service and for Trinity's witness over many years.

Eleanor Williams



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



St Mary's Open Day

**Explore local Burwell heritage
Climb the Tower for amazing views
Refreshments served throughout**



**September 27th 2025
1.00pm - 4.00pm**



**www.stmarysburwell.org.uk
www.facebook.com/stmarysburwell**

See page 3 for more details

From the Parish Registers Funerals

Rest in peace
Enid Suttle
Isabel Lucas
John Bird
Sylvia Carter



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/>

A Message from Revd Virginia

As many of you know, I shall be leaving the parish of Burwell with Reach at the end of September; my last service, my official farewell!!!, will be on Sunday 28th September. I finish my curacy early next year, and to prepare for that I am going to work for a few months with Reverend Steve Day, Rector of the Three Rivers Group, (Snailwell, Fordham, Isleham, Chippenham and Kennett). I did my placement there, earlier this summer, and it clarified for me that I am called to rural ministry in a multi parish church setting. To prepare for what I hope will be a post of that type, it is sensible to gain additional experience of working across multiple churches, and build on the valuable learning from my time here.

I will have much to say, and many to thank (you have been warned!) when I finish on the 28th September, but for now, I just want to say how very much I will miss the truly wonderful people here who, collectively, have set me on my incredible ministry journey. The warmth, love and support you have shown me over these past 2 years will remain in my heart, always.



**Songs of Praise
Sunday
14th September
4.00pm
Ness Court
Followed by tea
All very welcome**



A Message from Revd Laura Martin

Trinity Church Final Service

A Closing Service of Celebration
is to be held on

**Saturday 18th October
at 2pm**

To be followed by refreshments.

The service is open to all,
and you are very welcome to join us.

If you would like to join us,
please do let Revd Laura Martin know
by using the email address below
so that we can ensure
everyone is catered for.
revlauramartin@gmail.com

CentrePeace



At the beginning of August we held a jigsaw sale, one Saturday, on a stall outside the Co-op.

Apart from it being a good opportunity to publicise the bookshop, we raised £100 and sold over 30 jigsaws at £3 each. If you enjoy this pastime do call in as we have some very good quality 1000 and 500 piece jigsaws on sale.

We also have lots of good quality children's books at £1 each. An inexpensive way to encourage your children and grandchildren to read.

If you would like to volunteer in CentrePeace, please contact me, Hazel Williams hwill66@icloud.com

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

Connect Café

A connecting space for families

Wednesday 10th September
3.30 - 5.00pm
St Mary's, Burwell



Refreshments

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

**Connect with each other
and with God**



September 27th 2025

1.00pm - 4.00pm

Event Highlights

Climb the Tower

113 steps to the top
Chat with our bellringers
Adult £3, under 10s £1
(Must be at least 1 metre tall)

Explore the heritage

Displays of church history and treasures
Searchable database of old registers
Quizzes and trails
Information about our eco journey
Fun children's activities

Refreshments

Drinks and snacks available throughout

St Mary's Open Day

Tower

As you climb the 113 steps, there will be the opportunity to see and learn about our historic clock and bells and finally to see the beautiful views from the top of the tower. Please note that, if the weather is wet, there will be no access to the top of the tower due to safety reasons, but you will still be able to see the clock and bells.

Heritage

There will be information about the history of the church and you will be able to see into some of the hidden corners and features. The fabulous altar frontals and hangings will be on display and you can see the items used in church services up close. We also have plans of the church yard and a database of church registers going back to the 16th century.

Activities

There will be children's activities and trails and quizzes to follow. Can you find the funny faces hidden in the chancel and the monkey and the elephant on the roof?

Help Needed

Donations of cakes would be welcome for the refreshments. We will also need people to set up the displays and act as stewards on the day. Relevant training on the church history will be given! Please see Eleanor or sign the list in church if you can help.

Church Cleaning

Saturday 20th September is Church Cleaning Day.

If you could spare some time to help, please come along anytime from 10.00am to 4.00pm

There will be a variety of general cleaning jobs to cater for the different abilities, including dealing with cobwebs, cleaning the children's area and sorting out the notice boards. There is a list of jobs that need to be attended to at the back of church, so please add your name if you can help. Basic cleaning materials and equipment will be provided, but feel free to bring your own as well.

We are also looking for regular volunteers to clean the brass and silverware or to assist with general cleaning on a monthly / bimonthly basis. Please contact Wendy Smith for more information.



Burwell Branch News

Our meeting in July was our traditional Bring and Share Garden Party, which was well attended as usual and included the enrolment of our latest new member. Our founder, Mary Sumner, was remembered on 9th August, which has been designated Mary Sumner Day. We do not plan a normal meeting in August, but I welcome anyone to join me for a cup of tea and a chat and several of us enjoyed a pleasant afternoon. An advanced note for our following meeting, on 24th September, which will be a visit to Kings Hotel in Newmarket for afternoon tea - not to be missed.

Our next fellowship lunch after Holy Communion in St Mary's will be on Wednesday 10th September and, as usual, it is open to all our friends in St Mary's. Please let me know by Sunday 7th September (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 (19th August 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.

Blooming Flowers!

What's Involved being a flower arranger

We at the St Mary's Flower Ministry are a friendly 'bunch' of flower lovers from Burwell and Reach who have the privilege of decorating both churches with our displays and we hope that our efforts have contributed to making these beautiful spaces welcoming places to worship – you may have noticed and enjoyed our arrangements from time to time and if you haven't, we hope you will take a look when you are next there.

We were formed over 15 years ago by Pauline Miller, who has generously shared her expertise with us beginners through her workshops, which covered all the basics of flower arranging – did you know that flowers and foliage need to be conditioned or that roses will last longer if dipped in boiling water for 30 seconds? (We didn't either.) Although Pauline has recently stepped back from her leading role, she is still involved and continues to offer advice when sought.

We meet in church about four to five times a year and over coffee and biscuits to plan for the various festivals in the Church calendar. Easter and Christmas are high on our agenda when we each decorate a window ledge and the porch. Other significant dates are Pentecost, Harvest Festival, Patronal and Remembrance Sunday. Often one of our more experienced members will volunteer to do a pedestal or the welcome table and we also put together posies for Mothering Sunday, ensuring that there are sufficient for the congregation of both churches. Other major events such as the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee and King Charles's Coronation were also in our remit, and occasionally we are asked to do the church flowers for weddings which is a major undertaking but also very enjoyable. Sometimes we use flowers from our own gardens which we arrange simply in vases or we purchase supermarket flowers which are often good value. For special events Wendy and Janet travel to a Flower Wholesalers where there is a greater selection.

Our funding is independent of the church and our main source of income is from the Easter Lily names displayed at the altar on Easter Sunday. The wedding flowers are also a good source of revenue. We use the income to purchase flowers and other materials we need. We remain solvent and in the past when we have had a healthy surplus we have been able to donate to charitable causes.

As a group, we always make sure we have an annual outing; this is usually a pub lunch although this year we are also considering a trip to a local garden centre.

We really would welcome new membership and you don't have to have experience; most of us have learned 'on the job,' and regular church attendance is not a requirement. If you would like to join our group please speak to Wendy.

Pat Burton

Editorial Comment

On behalf of the congregation and community may we take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the Flower Ministry for all that they put into the amazing floral displays in both churches. Your dedication and hard work is much appreciated!

Farmers Market Refreshments

Burwell Farmers Market takes place in Mandeville Hall on the second Saturday of every month and we at St Mary's serve the refreshments on alternate months, ie 6 times a year. We make the tea and coffee for stall holders and customers and also serve cake, which is provided by one of the stall holders.

If you could spare 2 or 3 hours occasionally on a Saturday morning to join the small band of helpers, please contact me, Pat Chalmers at pat@patchtcs.co.uk



PEACE WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2025

Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. The 2025 Symbol is inspired by Isaiah 32:14-18. Titled "Garden of Peace," it depicts a white dove flying over a tree. The left side of the tree is barren, with roots digging into dry soil, surrounded by an arid, desolate landscape. In contrast, the right side of the tree is lush and green, standing amidst a flourishing landscape. The dove, carrying an olive branch in its beak, flies toward the right - symbolizing peace as a transition from a war-torn, overexploited land to one that is fertile, thriving, and hospitable. Let us remember that humanity was originally called to tend a garden.

Through this year's Season of Creation, there will be time for reflection on the connection between caring for creation and fostering peace, and prayer for our world.

Charity Update

Solar Aid ([SolarAid | Combatting poverty and climate change](#)) was one of the charities the PCC supported last year as part of its Mission Giving. It aims to provide simple solar powered lamps to communities in sub-Saharan Africa, which enable people to work and learn safely after dark. We recently received this update on their work:

We're so excited to share that we have made history! All of the 8,813 homes in the community of Kasakula, Malawi are connected to solar power - that is 100% of households. Not only that - 12 of the schools in the community now also have light, and the rural health centre will be able to treat patients after dark. We even have a repair centre in the community to ensure sustainability of the products.

Thanks to your incredible support, we have reached 100% of this community with clean, safe, and affordable solar power. You have helped hit this major milestone.

Alice Perry



Environment Matters

The way our food is produced, transported and prepared can affect the environment, so here are some ideas of things you can do to reduce the negative impact.

Use your **LOAF** – buy **local, organic, animal-friendly** and **fairly traded** goods.

Freezing fruit and vegetables is easy and most taste just as good when used later. Take advantage of local offers to stock up and perhaps go blackberrying.

Look out for markets and Farm Shops that feature local producers. Some advertise on the internet and will even deliver.

It helps to reduce food waste if you plan meals and only buy the items and quantities that you need. It's also a good idea to think of ways to use left overs.

Buying unwrapped fruit and vegetables not only avoids collecting plastic wrapping, but means you can buy smaller amounts. If you grow your own fruit and veg and have some to spare, why not donate it to the Pop Up pantry in the church porch, where short life products are also available to prevent the food being wasted.

If you're only cooking a small amount of food, consider using a microwave oven or air fryer rather than an oven. Consider batch cooking meals, or simply cooking double the quantity you need, and freezing portions for use another time.

With thanks to Kathy, who first published most of these tips in Oct 2023

What's on this month

10.00	Sunday 31st August Trinity 11 Holy Communion at Burwell	Mon Sep 1 Wed 3 Thurs 4 Fri 5 Sat 6	12.00 10.30 9.00 10.00 9.00	Funeral of Enid Suttle at St Mary's 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	Mon 8 Wed 10 Thurs 11 Fri 12 Sat 13	12.30 10.30 9.00 10.00 13.00 9.00	Funeral of John Bird at Cemetery Chapel 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	Mon 15 Wed 17 Thurs 18 Fri 19 Sat 20	12.00 10.30 9.00 10.00 9.00 10.00	Funeral of Sylvia Carter at St Mary's Holy Communion at Reach (also at Ness Court) Morning Prayer at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers Church Cleaning Day at St Mary's
8.30 10.00 15.00	Sunday 21st September Trinity 14 Holy Communion at Burwell Holy Communion at Burwell Café Church and Baptism in Reach	Wed 24 Thurs 25 Fri 26 Sat 27	10.30 9.00 10.00 9.00 13.00	Holy Communion at St Mary's Morning Prayer at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers Church Open Day at St Mary's
10.00	Sunday 28th September Trinity 15 Holy Communion at Burwell	Wed 1 Oct Thurs 2 Fri 3 Sat 4	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 5th October Trinity 16 Holy Communion at Reach Café Church at St Mary's	Wed 8 Thurs 9 Fri 10 Sat 11	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
	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, or are wondering whether baptism and/or confirmation might be the next step for you on your faith journey.

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

**September 5th
and October 3rd
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

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 (leaving end of September)

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>

**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

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