



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

A New Year - New Joys and Challenges

Near the beginning of a New Year we have an opportunity to look back on the last year – and God's presence with us. We look back on our own journeys of faith, the highs and the lows. Times of joy and times of sorrow. Times of gladness and times of pain. Things we are pleased we did, and things of which we are ashamed. All that we have experienced is part of who we are – folded in, becoming part of who we are today. Nothing wasted in God's economy. All woven together. As we move into the New Year, there will be changes, challenges, opportunities. This is a prayer poem written by a friend, Revd Tina Hodgett, that I found very helpful. May it be a blessing to you.

Eleanor Williams

*May you this year find rich soil to nourish you.
May the goodness in your roots
make you outgrow your plot.*

*May you find your inner life as miraculous
and generous as your outer one.*

*May you bud with newness,
blossom abundantly,
and bring joy to the world around you.*

*May you fruit with seeds to feed those
who come to nest in your branches.*

*May you offer shelter to those
who need refuge and a place to belong.*

*May you shed your leaves of loss
and grief authentically in season,
and have courage to stand stark
and bright through lonely winter days.*

*And may you receive these gifts
from the open hand of God the Gardener,
Jesus Christ the Apple Tree,
and the Spirit who makes your branches
dance in the wind.*

Tina Hodgett

NEW YEAR'S EVE COMMUNION - Wednesday 31st December 10.30am - time for reflection

Open House at the Vicarage 22 Isaacson Road

Saturday 3rd January 2026 11.00am – 12.30pm

Pop in for a drink and a snack - all very welcome!

Refresh Café at St Mary's
Every Friday 10.00 - 12.00
Snack lunch from 11.30am
A café & play space
for pre-school children
& their parents & carers
Refreshments, Toys,
Crafts, Songs,
Bible Story
Restarts Friday 2nd January
Older children welcome in school holidays



Connect Café

especially for families

Wednesday 14th January

3.30 - 5.00pm

**Refreshments, games
& activities for all ages**

**Connect with each other
and with God**

From the Parish Registers

Funerals

Rest in peace

Joan Rickett

Phil Hudson

Canon Jim Garrard



Thank You for the Angels!

It has been a great joy to celebrate our Community Angels, and to welcome so many incredible creations into St Mary's. Thank you to all who have helped. A special thank you to Sara Phipps, who has done a lot of the behind the scenes organizing. And thank you to all our angels helping our Christmas services and events run smoothly.

Thank You!

Knitted Christmas Stockings: the Visitor Centre staff and volunteers at HMP Whitemoor deeply appreciate our contributions; the stockings are being extremely well-received, and they are so grateful for the time and effort that has clearly been put into them. There were a few left-over packs of Smarties which I asked the staff & volunteers to share, and they are enjoying those. Thank you all so much, we sent 150 stockings this year.

Paula

CONFIRMATION IN 2026



Confirmation is a time for making a public declaration of faith, and for receiving the laying on of hands by the bishop, to seek the blessing of the Holy Spirit.

You're never too old, and for young people, including those who have been admitted to Holy Communion at a younger age, Confirmation can be a very significant time of making a public declaration of your faith, as you approach adulthood.

A Deanery Confirmation service is planned to be at St Mary's on Sunday 26th April 2026. Preparation will begin in the New Year for anyone interested in being confirmed at that service. Please let Eleanor know if you are interested.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Revd Virginia**

Moggridge, who has been appointed as Rector of the **Raddesley benefice**, to start in February 2026. Details of the installation service will be published when available.

CentrePeace



CentrePeace is a good place to do your Christmas shopping, without breaking the bank! We have a wide range of books of all types for adults (£2 each) and children (£1 each), as well as jigsaws (£3 each), all of which are in good condition. We also have greetings cards for all occasions, including Christmas cards, and Advent Calendars so why not drop in to see us?

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

Christmas Holiday

CentrePeace will be closed from Christmas Eve (24th) until New Years Day (1st) inclusive.

Date for Your Diary CentrePeace's 20th Birthday

We'll be celebrating with a special service in St Mary's Church at 3pm on Sunday February 8th 2026. Look out for more details next month.

New Book About Burwell History

Frank Czucha has asked us to include the following message about his new book, which covers the recent history of Burwell:

St Mary's is again featured in Frank Czucha's follow up to his popular 2017 'Memories Of Burwell' book. 'Burwell Revisited' contains more than 300 colour photos illustrating Village life and is on sale at Tina's shop in North Street. Postal requests can be made by emailing burwellrevisited@gmail.com

What's on this month

10.00	Sunday 28th December Christmas 1 Holy Communion at Burwell	Wed 31 Fri 2 Jan Sat 3	10.30 10.00 9.00	Holy Communion at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers
8.30 10.00	Sunday 4th January Epiphany Holy Communion at Reach Café Church at St Mary's	Wed 7 Fri 9 Sat 10	10.30 10.00 9.00	Holy Communion at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Prayers
10.00	Sunday 11th January Epiphany 2 Holy Communion at Burwell	Wed 14 Fri 16 Sat 17	10.30 15.30 10.00 9.00	Holy Communion at St Mary's Connect Café at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Prayers
8.30 10.00	Sunday 18th January Epiphany 3 Holy Communion at Burwell Joint Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at St Mary's	Wed 21 Fri 23 Sat 24		Holy Communion at Reach (also at Ness Court) Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers
10.00	Sunday 25th January Epiphany 4 Holy Communion at Burwell	Wed 28 Fri 30 Sat 31	10.30 10.00 9.00 10.00	Holy Communion at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Prayers PCC Away Day
8.30 10.00	Sunday 1st February Holy Communion at Reach Café Church at St Mary's	Wed 4 Fri 6 Sat 7	10.30 10.00 9.00	Holy Communion at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Prayers
	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.			

NEW YEAR'S EVE COMMUNION - Wednesday 31st December 10.30am

This will be a slightly longer service, with time for reflection, prayer, looking back and looking Forward to the coming year. All welcome, even if not a Wednesday regular!

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
January 2nd
and February 6th
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)**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**Administrator**Kathy Ogilvie
administrator@stmarysburwell.org.uk**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

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