



# contact

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

## Lent continued...

How is Lent going for you? We started with a reminder of Jesus' temptations in the wilderness. One commentator links the temptations to challenges to Jesus's identity - and with things we face today. **Turn stones to bread** - I am what I can do - I can do it, so why not?

**Worship the devil** and gain all the riches of the world - I am what I own, what I possess. Never mind the hidden cost.

**Create a spectacle** by jumping off the pinnacle of the Temple - I am what others think of me.

All these are challenges to consider what is really important in our lives - what we do, what we own, what others think - are these the most important things for us? Or dare we ask how God sees us, and discover anew that we are beloved, precious, not for what we can do, or what we possess, or what others think.

These weeks leading up to Easter are an opportunity and a challenge. It's not too late to use this Lent period, especially as we draw closer to Holy Week and Easter, to take the opportunity to read, to reflect, and to pray, and allow ourselves to be drawn once again to the foot of the Cross, where grace and mercy meet, as we see the love of Christ poured out for us. And, when Easter Day dawns, may we experience the incredible joy of the Jesus's resurrection.

I am not what I can do...

I am not what I own...

I am not what others think...

I am...his...

Will we come and put our faith in him, and follow where he leads us?

Eleanor Williams

Sue and John are off to  
*Australia*  
Farewell Service  
at St Mary's  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March  
10.00am  
Followed by  
Bring & Share  
Lunch

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

## Mothering Sunday Café Church

at St Mary's Burwell  
15<sup>th</sup> March

Refreshments from 10.00 am  
Followed by short service  
Flower posies will be given out



## CentrePeace

We had a wonderful celebration in February, to remember the 20 years that CentrePeace has been part of the Burwell community. It brought together volunteers both past and present, as well as customers and visitors. The service also included a presentation of the journey from when we first started until the present day.

After the service we had tea and cake together. It was a great opportunity to catch up with Gill and Bob Smith (first chairman of management group) and Abi and Revd. Stephen Earl (our minister in 2006) and Revd. Olivia Coles, who came to join us for the afternoon. Although our basic income comes now almost totally from books, jigsaws and cards, we continue to welcome customers and visitors for a free cup of coffee or tea, a chat and a rest too if needed. We will be pleased to see you for many years to come.

Hazel Williams

### Opening Hours

|           |                                  |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Tuesday   | 10.00am—12.30pm                  |
| Wednesday | 10.00am—12.30pm<br>2.00pm—4.00pm |
| Thursday  | 10.00am—12.30pm                  |
| Friday    | 10.00am—12.30pm                  |
| Saturday  | 10.00am—12.30pm                  |

### Church Choir

St Mary's choir is planning to meet for a rehearsal and then to sing in a 10.00am service once a month, and would love some more members. Would you like to join us? You don't need to have choir experience or be able to read music.

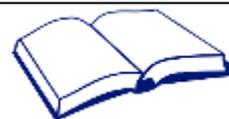
For more information and to be put on the mailing list, please email Kathy at [administrator@stmarysburwell.org.uk](mailto:administrator@stmarysburwell.org.uk).



### From the Parish Registers

#### Funerals

*Rest in peace*  
Keith Turner  
Chris Hall




**Save the Date**  
**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2026: 2-4pm**  
**St Mary's Church fete**

We will have the usual activities, BBQ, cream teas, craft stalls, bric-a-brac, raffle to name but a few.

Please contact Jo Proctor ([llm@stmarysburwell.org.uk](mailto:llm@stmarysburwell.org.uk)) if you are able to help in anyway or have ideas of activities we can include.

So, save the date!  
It is going to be a fun afternoon



### CONFIRMATION SERVICE

**26<sup>th</sup> April 2026**  
**3.00pm**  
**at St Mary's Burwell**

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. Candidates usually begin to take Holy Communion after Confirmation. 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 26<sup>th</sup> April. Preparation has started with several individuals, but there is still time to prepare, if there is anyone else interested in being confirmed at that service. Please let Eleanor know if you are interested.

## Thank You! From Revd Virginia Moggridge

I wanted to say a heartfelt thank you for the fantastic support given to me at my Institution in Dullingham on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. It was so wonderful to see so many of you there, on such a filthy night too!, with gifts and cards which still happily festoon the Rectory. I was really delighted and not a little overwhelmed to see my Burwell friends in such numbers, and big thanks to Ken for sorting it out. It was a really joyous occasion, and I felt a real wave of encouragement and love, speeding me on my way to this next chapter of my ministry. My thanks again, and I will keep you all in my prayers.



## Groups for Children, Young People and Families

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

# Refresh Café @ St Mary's

**Fridays 10.00 - 11.45am**

A friendly and welcoming space  
for pre-school children  
and their grown-ups  
Refreshments & simple lunch

If you'd like to find out more about joining any of these groups, or about becoming a volunteer helper or supporting us in prayer and other ways, please speak to Eleanor, Paula or Jo.

## Connect Café

A connecting space for families  
**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March**  
3.30 - 5.00pm  
St Mary's, Burwell

*Connect with each other and with God*

- Drinks
- Snacks
- Board Games
- Table Football
- All Age Activities
- Arts & Crafts

## New for young people YOUTH CAFÉ for Year 7+

**Fridays after school**  
**in St Mary's Church**  
**Dates to be confirmed**

- Games & Arty Stuff
- Snacks & Drinks
- Suggested donation £2

## Report on the General Synod 9<sup>th</sup> — 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### New Archbishop of Canterbury

Sarah Mullally DBE legally became the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury on 28<sup>th</sup> January at a special service at St Paul's Cathedral and will be Installed at a service at Canterbury Cathedral on 25<sup>th</sup> March. She will begin her public ministry and full programme of public engagements following her Installation. She recently co-chaired at the Church of England's General Synod in London, where she delivered the Presidential Address, in which she said

"With God's help, I will seek to guide Christ's flock with calmness, consistency and compassion. These are times of division and uncertainty for our fractured world. I pray that we will offer space to break bread together and discover what we have in common – and I pledge myself to this ministry of hospitality. I am committed to equipping the Church to be a kind and safe place that cares for everyone, especially those who are vulnerable, as we rise to the challenge of God's call to justice, equity, peace and the care of creation".

### Next Steps on Living in Love and Faith

General Synod has given its backing to formally conclude the Living in Love and Faith process (LLF) which was originally set up in 2017 to explore the Church's approach to identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. LLF led to the introduction of public prayers of dedication, thanksgiving and asking for God's blessing for same-sex couples – known as the Prayers of Love and Faith, in 2023. as part of regular Church of England services but the House of Bishops confirmed last month that, based on legal advice, new special or 'bespoke' services using Prayers of Love and Faith would need full formal authorisation under canon law, Canon B2.

A new Relationships, Sexuality and Gender Working Group will be set up, which will report back to the General Synod with recommendations within the first two years after the forthcoming triennial elections.

Among other things, the working group will explore the approval process for bespoke services under canon law and what legislation would be needed to license or ordain same-sex married clergy.

A new Pastoral Consultative Group will also be set up to advise bishops and archdeacons on specific cases in the interim and facilitate consistent practice across the Church.

In a recent statement, the House of Bishops spoke of the need for careful consideration of next steps, stating that lessons need to be learned from the process of the last three years. General Synod and the House of Bishops both recognised and regretted the deep hurt, particularly to LGBTQI+ people, caused by the recent decisions and process and stressed that it is important to avoid a further cycle of hopes or anxieties being raised only to be disappointed.

### Other Key Measures include:

- Agreement to redouble efforts to combat poverty and to speak out about the causes of poverty, as well as helping people in need through practical work such as food banks.
- A new strategy designed to rebuild trust and deliver professional, independent safeguarding across the Church of England, including the creation of a new independent national safeguarding charity.
- A new safeguarding code of practice which builds on current guidance to set out clear requirements for recruitment and people management within the Church.
- A new Clergy Conduct Measure (CCM), including a major overhaul of the approach to discipline and complaints against members of clergy.
- Proposals to call on the Government to focus on a new national care covenant, as it delivers on its manifesto commitment for a National Care Service.
- A plan to encourage churches and cathedrals to explore ways of arranging flowers that are both beautiful and environmentally responsible.

## Looking towards Holy Week and Easter

### About our Easter Services

Easter is one of the most important periods in the Christian calendar and we have special services and events on Easter Day and the whole of the week preceding it, Holy Week. If you haven't been to some of these services before, here's what to expect.

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March Palm Sunday

On this day we celebrate Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem on a donkey, when the crowds waved palms and welcomed him with shouts of 'Hosanna!' Everyone who attends one of our services is given a Palm Cross. Our main service will be Café Church at 10.00am. This year, the Churches Together Songs of Praise service will also be on Palm Sunday 4.00pm at Ness Court.

### Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April

Each evening there is a short service of Compline, on Monday to Wednesday in St Mary's at 6.00pm. This quiet, gentle service of night prayer lasts less than half an hour and helps us to reflect on the events in Jerusalem during Jesus' last week.

### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April Maundy Thursday

On this day, we celebrate the Last Supper with a special service of Holy Communion in St Mary's at 7.30pm. The events of Jesus' last evening with his disciples, including how he washed their feet, are described. At the end of the service, all the hangings round the altar are removed, leaving just a bare table and a large wooden cross. Some then leave in silence, while those who wish can remain to keep watch and pray, recalling the time Jesus spent praying in the Garden of Gethsemane before being taken away to trial.

### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, Good Friday

Good Friday commemorates the day of Jesus' death. In the morning at 10.30am, there is Messy Church - for all the family to Explore Easter together with crafts & activities, story and songs, ending with hot cross buns and an Easter egg hunt.

A little later, beginning at 11am, is the Churches Together Walk of Witness, in which some people from all the different churches in Burwell meet near the Co-op in North Street and walk through the village to Burwell Baptist Church on North Street, stopping at various places along the way for a hymn, Bible reading and prayer.

In the afternoon, at 2.00pm, there is a service of Meditation at Reach, in which we think about Jesus' death on the cross, with readings, reflections and hymns. The service lasts about an hour.

### Easter Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>

The celebration of Jesus' resurrection starts early, with the Churches Together Sunrise Easter service. Early risers meet near the Guildhall a little before 6.30am and walk across to Castle Mound where we sing praises as the birds start to sing. This short service is followed by breakfast in St Mary's. This is suitable for all ages, as long as they can manage the rough ground of Castle Mound – and we also quite often have a dog or two!

The first Holy Communion of Easter is a said service at Reach at 8.30am and this is followed by an All Age Communion service at Burwell at 10.00am. This joyful occasion includes well-known Easter hymns and songs, as well as activities for children. While the grown-ups drink coffee at the end, the youngsters have an Easter egg hunt in the churchyard.

### The Pilgrim Cross (formerly Student Cross)

Every year for many years, on the Tuesday before Easter, St Mary's has hosted the London Leg of the Pilgrim Cross, as a group make the week-long journey on foot from just outside London to Walsingham.

The pilgrims carry a large wooden cross to witness to Christ's final journey to the Cross on Good Friday. This year, as last, they will arrive at St Mary's at about 4.30pm for tea, and will stay overnight in the Guildhall. Anyone is welcome to come and meet them at St Mary's. Help will be needed to provide tea and an evening meal for the pilgrims. Please speak to Wendy if you would like to help. More here about the Pilgrimage. <https://pilgrimcross.org.uk/>

**Pilgrim  
Cross**



## PCC Away Day – January 31<sup>st</sup>

At the end of January, the PCC took time away to reflect on all that has been accomplished as a church and to look ahead to the future — asking ourselves what more might God be leading us to do and what our vision might be for the years to come. It was a busy but exciting day of discussion and prayer. To help us focus on thanksgiving to God, Eleanor shared 1 Samuel 7.12: ‘Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, “Thus far the Lord has helped us.”’

There is so much for which we can give thanks. We have seen significant changes to our buildings, from the reordering in Burwell - including the addition of a kitchen and toilet - to the extensive reordering of Reach, made possible through the generous legacy of Maisie Whitehead, to whom we are deeply grateful. The kitchen in Burwell has enabled us to expand our hospitality, offering a wide variety of refreshments, including pizza at the end of Refresh Café and drinks before and after services.

We have also been awarded the A Rocha Eco Church Bronze and Silver awards for both our churches, in recognition of our care for the environment, indoors and outdoors, and the Wildlife Bronze Award for St Mary’s Churchyard.

Embracing technology has allowed us to livestream services so that those unable to attend in person can still join us. During Covid, we made full use of Zoom and social media to ensure worship continued even when our church doors were closed.

We are deeply thankful for our musicians, past and present, who faithfully lead our sung worship each week, and for Eleanor, Paula and our lay ministers who preach and lead our services.

Alongside these blessings, there have also been challenges and times of sadness. We have said goodbye to many key members of our worshipping community over the years, while also welcoming new faces into church life. One of our greatest ongoing challenges is an ageing congregation. With so many roles to fill in the life of the church, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find volunteers for every need, and a vital area for us is looking at succession planning for key roles.

Yet we cannot stand still. There is still much to do. A priority for us is addressing our heating system, which is no longer fit for purpose. As we work towards Net Zero Carbon, there is an urgent need to find a sustainable and effective replacement.

We were reminded of the Ely Diocesan Strategy Prayer:  
We praise and thank you,  
God of the journey,  
for all your gifts to us in the past.  
We look to you as fellow-traveller  
and faithful companion on the way ahead.  
Shelter and protect us  
from all harm and anxiety;  
give us grace to let go  
of all that holds us back;  
and grant us courage to meet the new life  
you have promised us  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

As we reflected on God’s gifts to us, now and in the past, we spent some time asking what makes us anxious, and what might hold us back, and what might be the new life before us - the vision God is leading us towards, for the next stage of our journey, and finally, we looked at next steps. A key next step is to pray, to discern the Lord’s will for us. We acknowledged the need to learn from those who have gone before us, to be willing to serve and support each other, as we seek to be a living Church in the community.

Our vision extends beyond our buildings. With new housing developments off Newmarket Road, we recognise the importance of outreach as a vital part of our mission. We explored what this might look like in practice, including the possibility of establishing a youth club. Continuing and growing our mission is not without its challenges, but with the right resources and support, we are confident that the work we have begun will flourish. A heating group has been formed to explore solutions, and we are trialling a youth club for 10–18 year-olds.

If you would like to be part of this exciting chapter in our church’s life, please speak to Eleanor. We will soon be looking for new members to join the PCC, and if you would like to take on a more hands-on role, perhaps serving as Churchwarden might be for you.



## Environment Matters

A Rocha is the organization that supports churches and their congregations to take practical action on caring for God's earth, including Eco Church and a monthly calendar of ideas for small actions that we can all take as part of our commitment to a greener lifestyle.

### A ROCHA March Eco Tips

You could take part in a local litter pick or beach clean during The Great British Spring Clean (Friday 13<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March), the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign. Litter picking benefits the environment by removing rubbish that can be hazardous for wildlife and helps bring people together.

Burwell Litter Pickers usually meet on the last Saturday of the month at 10.30am at the Jubilee Reading Room. Contact Helen McMenamin-Smith for more details. Email [helen.McMenamin@icloud.com](mailto:helen.McMenamin@icloud.com) or 07584 201981

If you join the Litter Pickers, you could pray for your local area as you do as you collect the litter, and if you aren't able to join in, you could pray for the group and ask God for opportunities to share why they are doing it.

### Burwell Swish

Spring Cleaning also provides a good opportunity to refresh your wardrobe. The parish Council is organizing a Swish Event in the Gardiner Memorial Hall on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March from 1pm - 4pm. You can bring along clean, unwanted clothes and take away new ones that others have donated. There is no charge, but donations are welcome and are used for eco projects in Burwell, like Repair Café and Swish.



We started our year with a simple service of Holy Communion at Mill Bungalow, followed by our Branch AGM – all fine and no changes. We are looking forward to an exciting year with Parish, Deanery, Diocesan and National events marking the 150<sup>th</sup> year of MU!

Our first celebration will be in the Deanery with a combined Lady Day service in St Mary's, Ely on 27<sup>th</sup> March, led by Paula, our diocesan Chaplain. All welcome, let me know for transport.

We also had our best yet attendance for our monthly Fellowship Lunch at the Day Centre, following the Wednesday Communion Service in St Mary's. The next opportunity to join us at this open event will be on 11<sup>th</sup> March. Our March Branch meeting will be afternoon tea at Kings Hotel in Newmarket.

Throughout the year we will be contributing towards a "Pictures and Prose Anthology", recording the ways we are celebrating our 150<sup>th</sup> year in the Ely Diocese; more on this as it develops.

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 (or join one of our events to see us at work and play), please contact me (or Hazel). We welcome women and men who support our aims, which relate to the Christian support of families and family life.

*Philip Baker*

### JOIN IN WITH EARTH HOUR 8.30 - 9.30pm Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Turn off your lights for an hour as a symbol of commitment to the planet.

Earth Hour is a worldwide movement organized by the World Wildlife Fund.



## What's on this month

|                        |  |   |  |   |
|------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| 8.30<br>10.00          | <b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March<br/>Lent 2</b><br>Holy Communion at Reach<br>Café Church at Burwell   | Wed 4<br>Fri 6<br>Sat 7   | 10.30<br>10.00<br>9.00   | Holy Communion at St Mary's<br>Refresh Café at St Mary's<br>Village Green Pray-ers  |
| 10.00                  | <b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March<br/>Lent 3</b><br>Holy Communion at Burwell   | Wed 11<br>Fri 13<br>Sat 14  | 10.30<br>15.30<br>10.00<br>9.00  | Holy Communion at St Mary's<br>Connect Café at St Mary's<br>Refresh Café at St Mary's<br>Village Green Pray-ers   |
| 8.30<br>10.00          | <b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March<br/>Mothering Sunday</b><br>Holy Communion at Burwell<br>Café Church at Burwell  | Wed 18<br>Fri 20<br>Sat 21  | 10.30<br>10.00<br>9.00   | Holy Communion at Reach<br>(also at Ness Court)<br>Refresh Café at St Mary's<br>Village Green Pray-ers  |
| 10.00                  | <b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March<br/>Lent 4</b><br>Holy Communion at Burwell  | Wed 25<br>Fri 27<br>Sat 28  | 10.30<br>10.00<br>9.00   | Holy Communion at St Mary's<br>Refresh Café at St Mary's<br>Village Green Pray-ers  |
| 8.30<br>10.00<br>16.00 | <b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March<br/>Palm Sunday</b><br>Holy Communion at Burwell<br>Café Church at Burwell<br>Churches Together Songs of<br>Praise at Ness Court       | Mon 30<br>Tues 31<br><br>Wed 1 Apr<br><br>Maundy<br>Thurs 2<br>Good<br>Friday 3 | 18.00<br>16.30<br><br>18.00<br>10.30<br>14.00<br>18.00<br>19.30<br>10.30<br>11.00<br>14.00 | Compline at Burwell<br>Visit of Pilgrim Cross<br>(approx. time)<br>Compline at Burwell<br>Holy Communion<br>Pop-Up Pantry at Day Centre<br>Compline<br>Holy Communion<br>followed by the Watch<br>Messy Church<br>Churches Together Walk of<br>Witness starting at the Co-op<br>Reflective Service at Reach |
| 6.30<br>8.30<br>10.00  | <b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April<br/>Easter Day</b><br>Sunrise service on Castle<br>Mound, followed by breakfast<br>Holy Communion at Reach<br>Holy Communion at Burwell |   |  |   |

### 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.**



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

**Pop-Up Pantry**  
**at Burwell Day Centre**  
**Usually 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of month**  
**FRIDAY March 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**and WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> April**  
**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  
**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](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

**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!**  
**Send to Pat Chalmers, Contact Editor at pat@patchtcs.co.uk**

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