

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

Reflecting on 15 years of ministry in Burwell & Reach

On 13th April 2026 it was 15 years since being licensed as Vicar of Burwell with Reach. A somewhat arbitrary, but nonetheless significant milestone. You could ask. 'What is there to show for it?' Let's look at statistics - 15 years – that's a lot of sermons preached, services led, eucharists celebrated, Messy Churches and toddler groups, baptisms, weddings, funerals. Reflecting on this, a lot of things that have been spoken, enacted, celebrated...but then are gone. Over. Finished. I've heard it said that vicars like building projects, because at least there is something solid and tangible behind after they leave.

It's been helpful over the last few weeks to reflect on the last 15 years in the light of 1 Corinthians 3:10-17. We have the account in Acts 18 of the apostle Paul visiting Corinth, where he stayed for a year and a half, preaching and teaching, making tents to support himself, and staying with Aquila and Priscilla. Many came to a faith in Jesus. Paul later wrote to them, to address issues that had arisen due to factions spitting the church. Paul wanted to bring them back to what it was all about, not whether someone followed Apollos, or Cephas, or Paul, but about the work of God in that place, in people's lives. Not about the achievements of one over another. Paul uses a metaphor of a building, with God as the builder. Paul acknowledges that it is only by God's grace, that, by his preaching and teaching, he has been able to lay the foundation, the ultimate strong and sure foundation – Jesus Christ. Then others had come along, and had to choose how to build. Paul contrasts different building materials, gold, silver, precious jewels - valuable, strong and durable, or wood, hay and straw - poor, weak, fragile. Paul could have built by relying on his family background and upbringing, social status, superior learning and education, rhetoric and clever words, but rather, he relied on the foundation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and challenged those who come after him to look carefully at what they are doing, what they are building with, and what they are relying on.

It's not going to be the fancy gimmicks and showy ad campaigns, or even the wonderful strategic plans that will bear scrutiny when we face God the builder, who will ask what we have built on the foundation of Jesus Christ, and will look at how that building work will stand the test of fire. Reading these words has given me much food for thought. Ultimately, what is it that we are doing? Paul goes on to write about the building as the place where the Holy Spirit dwells, no longer a physical building, but in the lives of those who follow Christ, who are the Temple of the Holy Spirit. Perhaps, as we build, we are helping each other to better be that Temple. What are we prioritising? How are we building? May we keep Jesus at the centre, as we work with God the Builder.

Eleanor Williams



Thank you from Eleanor for the cards and gifts to mark 15 years as Vicar of Burwell with Reach. The beautiful scarf has Scripture verses written in gold. Thank you!

New format for Contact

For many years, Contact has been produced using Microsoft Publisher. This software is being discontinued later this year, and we are now trying out alternative software, including Word, used for this month. Things may look a little different for a while, as we get used to it!

From the Parish Registers



Baptism

We welcome

Howard Davy-Mills

Austin Saunders

Jamie Mason

Confirmations

We welcome

Alison Carter

Jamie Mason

Joan Lonsdale

Jo Marchant

Wedding

We congratulate

Kylie See and Callum Newby



Mr and Mrs Callum and Kylie Newby



Monday 4th May

12.00noon - 5.00pm

We will be serving cream teas in St Etheldreda's at Reach Fair on Bank Holiday Monday and there will also be a CentrePeace bookstall.

We still need more help, so if you can help by making scones and/or serving teas, please sign the list at the back of church or contact Wendy Smith (wendyangele.smith@hotmail.co.uk)



Jamie, Bishop Dagmar, Ali, Harry and Eleanor

Book Exchange

For a couple of weeks from Sunday 24th May there will be free (second hand) books available in the church, themed generally on Faith, Hope and Charity.

If you have any books that you no longer want that you could contribute, please do bring them along or let Angela know and she can collect. And please help yourself to anything of interest when they are there. The books to borrow continue at the back of the church too.

Angela Bellis



CentrePeace

Opening Hours

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

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



Join us this **Christian Aid Week** 10-16 May

Christian Aid Week Service
Sunday 10th May 10.00am
St Mary's Church, Burwell

Annual service to support the work of Christian Aid
Donations may be made at the service or online at our giving page - just scan this QR code



Groups for Children, Young People and Families

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

Connect Café @ St Mary's
Wednesday 13th May
3.30-5.00pm

A Connecting Place for Families

*Connect with each other
Connect with God*

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

Youth Café @ St Mary's
Friday June 26
3.30 - 5.00pm
Year 6 welcome after half term

Meeting place for year 7+

Games, Activities, snacks

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

Get in touch to request Parental Consent Form

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.

St Mary's Church Fete Saturday 6th June 2.00 – 4.00pm



The Fete is now just a few weeks away, so it's time to get more specific about the help we will need to make it a success.

Do you enjoy baking brownies? If so, why not enter our Brownie Bake-Off? As part of this year's cake stall, we're hosting a competition—so grab your apron, get creative, and see if you can earn that coveted handshake! Of course, we'll also welcome all other cakes for the stall. And for those who love traditional treats, we'll need plenty of scones for our ever-popular cream teas.

As you're doing your spring clean, please set aside any unused items suitable for the tombola, as well as good-quality pieces for the bric-a-brac stall. And if you have green fingers and a greenhouse full of surplus plants, our plant stall team would be delighted to hear from you.

We're also looking for contributions towards raffle prizes—bottles of wine and food items are perfect for creating fantastic hampers. There will be all the usual favourites, including Splat the Rat, Bowling for a Pig, and the Human

Fruit Machine. This year, we'd love to expand our lineup with more classic village fête games such as Tin Can Alley, a Coconut Shy, and Beat the Goalie. To make this happen, we'll need volunteers to help run the stalls—so if you're able to lend a hand, please do get in touch.

Finally, we're lucky to host a number of local craft stalls each year. If you—or someone you know—would like to showcase handmade items, we'd love to hear from you. For all enquiries, please get in touch with Jo Proctor: llm@stmarysburwell.org.uk

Also in June...

Building Carer
Friendly Communities



St Mary's Church Burwell
Annual Carers' Service
to thank and support unpaid carers
Sunday 7th June 2026
at 3pm, followed by tea
with special guest Charlotte Cane
MP for Ely & East Cambridgeshire
All very welcome



Carers Week
is an annual awareness campaign
to celebrate and recognise
the vital contribution made
by the UK's 6.5 million carers.
For more information visit carersweek.org

ELY CONSORT

PSALMS, SPIRITUALS & SONNETS

John Rutter - *Psalmfest*

James Bassi - *Harpsonnets*

Jack Halloran - *Witness*

Moses Hogan - *The battle of Jericho*

Norman Luboff - *Were you there?*

Anne Reece - *piano*

The Quintessential Ensemble

Matthew Rudd - *conductor*

SATURDAY 27th JUNE 7.30 PM

ST MARY'S CHURCH, BURWELL

Tickets: £20 (U18's free)

www.ticketsource.co.uk/elyconsort or on the door
and in Burwell from CentrePeace, Post Office & Tina's

2026



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elyconsort.org.uk



info@elyconsort.org.uk

2026



Greetings from Geelong, Victoria, Australia!

Well, it's been a month since we made the big move! Firstly, we want to say a huge thank you for our wonderful sending off service; the smashing gifts and moving photo display and lastly, the flag waving farewell which will remain in my memory for a long time!

So, we have been blessed with very good weather since we arrived, much warmer than I was expecting. But since the clocks went back (we spring back over here!) It feels like autumn is coming, especially with the darker evenings.

We had a nice little 3 week holiday getting acclimatised till our bungalow was ready, then a busy week getting moved in. The girls have made it as easy as possible so we are now settled and comfy but looking forward to when our container arrives next week and we can get some pictures up and it will feel more like home.

Lots of things are different here but we have got booked in with a lovely GP who is organising things for me; they are open 7 days a week. You have to pay but I now have a Medicare care card so a portion is refunded. There seems to be more provision with little waiting time to have X-rays and see consultants.

This week we are getting our Australian driving licences; we have bank accounts and a new tel number (+61 459 790331) but the email is still the same.

Our new church is very welcoming and we are starting to make some friends there. I have been struck by the number of flowers out in peoples gardens still; roses, dahlias, geraniums, all very colourful. We haven't got much garden but are looking forward to planting some spring bulbs in tubs. I was surprised to see daffodil bulbs on sale!

We think of you all often; you are a very special group of people and we feel so blessed to have been with you for so many happy years. We are sending a couple of photos of the meal with our family on our very first evening, and John and I having a small sherry on the night we moved into the bungalow.

With our love and prayers, Sue and John xx



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Ely

Burwell Branch April 2026

Our April Branch Meeting was enjoyed with an excellent Afternoon Tea at the Kings Hotel in Newmarket and, by the time you read this, we will have held our April meeting, when we intend to plan all our celebrations for the Mothers' Union 150th Anniversary.

Two other recent events of note, and greatly enjoyed, were the Diocesan Lady Day Service in Ely (with tea!) and the MU Diocesan Day and AGM, held this year in Waterbeach.

Our Next Branch Meeting on 27th May will be a visit to the local attraction at Fullers Mill and our next Fellowship Lunch will be on 13th May. All church members are invited to join us at the lunch, but please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to come.

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



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 May Eco Tips

Support pollinators.

Nothing says Spring like the buzz of a bee! But these precious pollinators are declining due to habitat loss, climate change and agricultural intensification. Wednesday 20 May is World Bee Day, so look around to see how you can improve habitats for bees and other pollinators.

To find out more about bees, butterflies and habitats that support them in our Target 25 resources at arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/target-25. You could sow a pollinator friendly seed mix, make or buy a bee hotel, let some wildflowers grow in your garden, and don't use pesticides.

Please pray that our pollinator populations will increase. For more about World Bee Day visit: awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/world-bee-day/



Days & Times

Friday 9.30am-1pm, 1pm-4.30pm, 6.30pm-9pm sessions

Saturday 9.30am-1pm, 1pm-4.30pm sessions

Pre-Booked Tickets: £10
(£5 for children aged 3-15)

Tickets on the door: £12
(£6 children aged 3-15)

More information and ticket booking on Ely Cathedral's website <https://www.elycathedral.org/>

What's on this month

8.30 10.00	Sunday 3rd May Holy Communion at Reach Café Church at Burwell with baptism	Mon 4 Wed 6 Fri 8 Sat 9	12.00 10.30 10.00 9.00	Reach Fair cream teas in St Etheldreda's Holy Communion at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers
10.00	Sunday 10th May Christian Aid Service with Holy Communion at Burwell	Wed 13 Thurs 14 Fri 15 Sat 16	15.30 10.30 10.00 9.00	Connect Café at St Mary's Holy Communion at St Mary's for Ascension Day Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers
10.00	Sunday 17th May Holy Communion at Burwell	Wed 20 Fri 22 Sat 23	10.30 10.00 9.00	Morning Prayer at Reach (also at Ness Court) Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers
8.30 10.00	Sunday 24th May Pentecost Holy Communion at Burwell Holy Communion at Burwell	Wed 27 Fri 29 Sat 30	10.30 10.00 9.00	Holy Communion at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers
10.00	Sunday 31st May Holy Communion at Burwell	Wed 3 Jun Fri 5 Jun Sat 6 Jun	10.30 10.00 9.00 2.00	Holy Communion at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers Church Fete at St Mary's
8.30 10.00 15.00	Sunday 7th June Holy Communion at Reach Café Church at Burwell Carers' Service			

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)

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

See page 3 for activities and groups for children, young people and families.

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.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Saturday 6th June 2.00 – 4.00pm

St Mary's Fete

Sunday 7th June 3.00 – 4.00pm

Carers' Service at St Mary's

Sunday 14th June 4.00pm (tea at 3.00pm)

Admission of churchwardens, Ely Cathedral

Friday 19th and Saturday 20th June

Ely Cathedral Home & Garden Show

Sunday 21st June 3.00pm

Installation of Bishop Sarah (tickets only)

Should be available to watch on livestream

Saturday 27th June 7.30pm

Ely Consort Concert at St Mary's

Saturday 28th June 10.30am

Dean Mark Bonney's leaving service
at Ely Cathedral

**Pop-Up Pantry
at Burwell Day Centre**
Usually 1st Friday of month

**Friday 1st May
and Friday 5th June**
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)

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

Kevin Powell

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>

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 and on our website

Views expressed are those of the individual and not of St Mary's and St Etheldreda's PCC