

Join in, Join us!

This year, the Mothers' Union is celebrating its 150th anniversary. On 10th June, 1650 members, senior church leaders and partners from within the Anglican Communion, attended a glorious celebration service in St Paul's Cathedral, and others were able to join in watching the live stream. Those attending the service in person included Hazel Williams, as one of the Ely Diocese Vice Presidents, and Revd Paula Spalding, as Diocesan Honorary Chaplain.

Hazel's diocesan role meant an overnight stay in London so that she could attend the Annual Gathering on the following day, where she gave a well-received presentation about AFIA (Away From It All Holidays) in Ely Diocese – a number of Burwell families have enjoyed holidays in the past 3 years due to this initiative. Paula made the most of lunch and an afternoon in St Paul's before the 5pm service. A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to robe and process in St Paul's made all the more special by being asked to consecrate additional wine needed during communion as Mothers' Union members surprised St Paul's with the numbers going forward to receive – an unexpected call that came as a result of sitting on the end of a row near the vestry!

The World-Wide President, Kathleen Snow, gave an inspiring testimonial about MU's history, its present and future work and impact and its Patron, The Most Reverend and Right Honourable the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, presided at the communion service, and praised the Mothers' Union in her homily. The Archbishop of Canterbury said she had seen first-hand the profound impact of its work in communities around the world, "in family life, healthcare, education, social projects – challenging poverty, injustice and violence. . . In fact, I often say, if I need something doing, ask the Mothers' Union to do it."

Her sermon on Ephesians had asked: "How do we sustain ourselves as we serve? How do we nourish our own spiritual, mental, and physical well-being, whilst we are tending to the needs of others?"

The answer, she suggested, lay in St Paul's words: "I pray that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

She continued. "May you know the depth of God's love in the grass-roots work that you do throughout the world. May you know the breadth of God's love as you strive to serve this global movement. You are salt to our world, in the ordinary, everyday ways you make such a difference to the people you serve, and in the fellowship that you offer to one another."

As part of the 150th anniversary celebrations, MU branches have been asked to make a Sunday Takeover of a service in their parish. Here in Burwell, MU will be leading the service on Sunday 9th August, which is also Mary Sumner Day, the day on which it celebrates its founder, whose radical vision took action from mothers' meetings in her home to the worldwide organisation of 4 million members in 80 countries that it is today. Aiming to transform lives through faith, community and action, MU asks this year for you to Join In, Join Us in ending injustice, ending violence, and ending poverty, here at home and abroad.

Revd Paula Spalding



From the Parish Registers



Weddings

We congratulate

Chloe-Jeane Parsley and Ryan Llanes

Crystal Brain and Daniel Marsh

Funerals

Rest in peace

Pat Mingay

Bruce Lillie

Coasters of St Mary's

Two special edition coasters still available at £4 each, made by Burwell Print.

Available to purchase at a Sunday service or contact Wendy or Eleanor.



Chloe-Jeane and Ryan at St Etheldreda's



Crystal and Daniel at St Mary's

Handbell Ringing



A group of St Mary's ringers would like to have a go at learning some tunes on hand bells, and we wondered whether anyone else might like to join us? We'll meet at 6.30pm on Monday evenings in the church, in term time, starting on Monday 7th September.

Nicki Kelso

If you're interested, please email Nicki for more details or just go along on 7th September. Please send your message to pat@patchtcs.co.uk and I will forward it to Nicki. *Editor*

Christmas Carol Service 2026



Do you enjoy singing in a 4-part choir? St Mary's Choir will be singing at the carol service on the evening of Sunday 20th December 2026. Would you like to join us? We usually meet on Friday evenings in St Mary's for rehearsals and it is helpful to you and the choir if you can come to as many of the rehearsals as possible.

Please email kathy.ogilvie@gmail.com for more information.



Summer Fun Fridays with Refresh Café at St Mary's

Friday 10.00 - 11.45am

A friendly and welcoming space for pre-school children & their families

Older children welcome in holidays

Refreshments & simple lunch

No Café on August 28th

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



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

Connect Café
@ St Mary's
Summer Special
Wednesday
August 12th
3.30-5.00pm

**A Connecting Place
 for Families**

Connect with each other
Connect with God



Special Offer for the Summer Holidays
Free Books for Children!

All families are welcome to call in and collect a voucher from CentrePeace shop on The Causeway and they can collect **2 free books for each child every week** during the holidays.

Opening Hours

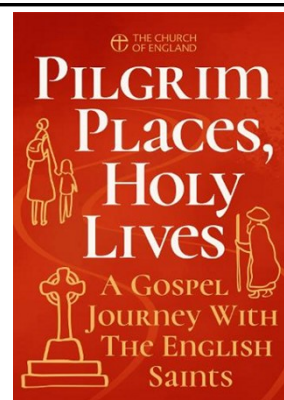
Tuesday	10.00am—12.0pm
Wednesday	10.00am—12.30pm 2.00pm—4.00pm
Thursday	10.00am—12.30pm
Friday	10.00am—12.30pm
Saturday	10.00am—12.30pm



Summer of Pilgrimage

Over the summer, Eleanor is leading a 4 week study group on Pilgrimage in Later Life, using the leaflet 'Being a Pilgrim' (available in both churches) and the booklet, 'Pilgrim Places, Holy Lives'. We will be looking at the questions: 'Where am I now? Where have I come from? Where am I going? What do I need for the journey, and Who is going with me?'

If you have not been able to join in now, but would be interested in a future group, please let Eleanor know. More booklets have been purchased and are available for contribution of £3, if possible.



What's on during August



**Art in the Afternoon
comes to St Mary's
with Local Artist
Hannah Cowper**

**Wednesday 19th August
2.00 - 4.00pm at St Mary's Burwell
Adults £7, children over 5 £3
Book in via Facebook page
to secure a place or call 01638 741262**

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

Hannah Cowper (was Hutchings) leads a very popular art class called Art in the Afternoon, at Burwell Baptist Church. We are delighted that Hannah has agreed to lead an art session at St Mary's on 19th August. This is open to all. Children are welcome, but must be accompanied. No experience necessary and age appropriate resources will be available.

Book in via our church Facebook page, or tell Eleanor.

Lammas Tide

Lammas (from the Old English *hlaf-mas*, meaning *loaf mass*) is an ancient Christian festival celebrated on **1 August**, marking the beginning of the cereal harvest. Once widespread across villages and rural parishes, it is now being joyfully rediscovered by many communities.

Traditionally, the first grains of the harvest were milled and baked into a loaf, then offered to God in thanksgiving during a special Eucharist—hence the name. This loaf, and the sharing of it, speaks powerfully of gratitude, community, and trust in God's provision.

Lammas is **older than the more familiar harvest festivals**, which celebrate the end of the season. By contrast, Lammas honours the *beginning*—the *first fruits*. In times past, summer could be a lean season: winter stores were gone, and the new harvest had only just begun. That first loaf would have carried deep spiritual and practical significance.

Join us at any point during the day, for a Lammas Tide Pilgrimage! Bring your own picnic.



**Summer
of
Pilgrimage**

**Lammas Tide
Pilgrimage Walk
Saturday 8th August**

**11.00am Service
at St Mary's, Burwell**

**Walk to Reach
along Devil's Dyke**

**12.15pm Service
at St Etheldreda's
Reach**

Picnic lunch

**Visit to local garden
or walk along lode**

**Walk back to Burwell
& final act of worship
at St Mary's**

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



Our celebration of our 150th year is in full swing and we will be holding our main Branch fund raising event – a Pop-Up Tea in St Mary's on Wednesday 29th July. The fund we accumulate will be used to further the work of the Mothers' Union wherever the need is greatest.

Then we will be in Ely Cathedral on 7th August for a combined Branches service with a parade of banners (so ours will be missing from the church for a few days), and on Sunday 9th August, our founder Mary Sumner's Day, the Burwell Branch will be leading the Sunday morning service in St Mary's. Do join us and help us celebrate the outstanding work undertaken here and around the world!

For those who enjoy a sociable lunch together, the next Fellowship Lunch at the Day Centre, open to all, members and non-members, will be on 12th August, book with me as usual.

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. We welcome women and men who support our aims, which relate to the Christian support of families and family life.

Philip Baker



CHURCH GATHERINGS

We have a number of small groups for adults meeting during the week or monthly, including Mothers' Union. Other gatherings include:

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

There are also bible study/fellowship groups that meet during the course of the month.

In response to a request, we are considering whether an occasional afternoon service would be a better option for some, with early morning constraints on their time. Please let Eleanor know if you would be interested.

Please also 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.



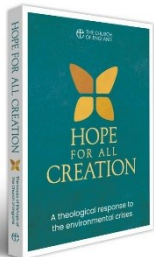
Environment Matters

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.

Eco tips for August

Looking after wildlife in the heat.

Times of drought and dryness can be dangerous for wildlife. You can help by providing water for birds and insects - put a dish of water out to help wildlife stay hydrated. Insects, small mammals, birds, and even badgers, foxes, and deer could benefit. A stone in a plant saucer helps bees to perch and drink without drowning. These small actions make a big difference and are just some of the ways we can live out our calling to care for God's creation. See our blog on looking after wildlife in the heat for more warm weather eco tips: arocha.org.uk/looking-after-wildlife-in-the-heat/.



Hope for All Creation: A Theological Response to the Environmental Crises

is a landmark teaching document authored by the Faith and Order Commission and adopted by the House of Bishops. The document sets out

a Christian understanding of the environmental crises facing the world, rooting care for creation in the biblical story of creation, redemption and renewal, structured around the themes See, Reflect, Respond. The document argues that care for creation is not an optional concern but a core part of Christian discipleship and mission. It presents environmental action as an expression of hope rooted in God's purposes for creation, highlighting the Church's role in responding to ecological crises alongside people of good will across society and around the world.

Available free online from C of E website.

Praying together in Elite Football

One of the striking images from the recent World Cup was a photo of 7 players from the England and France teams in a circle, with arms around each others' shoulders, praying together after the match, which saw England beat France in the third place play-off. Opponents in the game, but coming together as one in their faith.

75 per cent of professional football clubs across England and Wales have Christian players in their first-team squads, according to a recent study commissioned by Christians in Sport. The study, supported by Eido Research, also revealed the extent of Christian activities taking place within elite football: 75 per cent of clubs within the top six tiers of men's football include Christian players. 40 per cent of clubs regularly host events such as Bible studies and prayer meetings. From a 90 per cent response to the study from Premier League clubs, half reported regular Christian gatherings. More than a third of these activities are player-led.

The research was based on feedback from 134 clubs (164 clubs were contacted). Dr Graham Daniels, general director of Christians in Sport and a former footballer at Cambridge United, said: "Christianity is not disappearing from professional football; it is far more present than most people realise."

Christians in Sport, whose vision is 'reaching the world of sport for Christ', celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.



Image from Unsplash by Fauzan Saari

What's on this month

8.30 10.00	Sunday 2nd August Trinity 9 Holy Communion at Reach Café Church at Burwell	Wed 5 Fri 7 Sat 8	10.30 10.00 9.00 Various	Holy Communion at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers Lammas Tide Pilgrimage Walk (see page 4)
10.00	Sunday 9th August Trinity 10 Holy Communion at Burwell	Wed 12 Fri 14 Sat 15	10.30 15.30 10.00 9.00 13.00	Holy Communion at St Mary's Connect Café at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers Wedding of Joseph Matta and Alice Digby at St Mary's
8.30 10.00	Sunday 16th August Trinity 11 Holy Communion at Burwell All ages together service with Baptism at Burwell	Wed 19 Fri 21 Sat 22	10.30 10.30 10.00 9.00	Morning Prayer at Reach Holy Communion at Ness Court Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers
10.00	Sunday 23rd August Trinity 12 Holy Communion at Burwell	Wed 26 Fri 28 Sat 29	10.30 10.00 9.00 14.00	Holy Communion at St Mary's NO REFRESH CAFE Village Green Pray-ers Wedding of Jack Williams and Amy Stokes at St Mary's
8.30 10.00 14.00	Sunday 30th August Trinity 13 Holy Communion at Burwell All ages together at St Mary's with Thanksgiving for the Gift of a child Wedding of Charles Sorensen and Parvati Churchman at St Mary's	Wed 2 Sept Fri 4 Sat 5	10.30 10.00 9.00	Holy Communion at St Mary's Refresh Café at St Mary's Village Green Pray-ers



RIDE+STRIDE
for Churches

SATURDAY
12TH **SEPT.**
2026

**Discover and support
Cambridgeshire's
historic churches.**



Join us and get sponsored to visit beautiful churches and chapels by bike, foot, horse or whatever way takes your fancy. All money raised will be shared between the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust and your chosen church or chapel of any denomination and will help to repair and maintain these amazing buildings.

join us

Your local church is

St Mary's Burwell
and St Etheldreda's Reach

Please contact

Vicar, Churchwarden or Administrator



For more information visit www.camhct.uk
or email r-s-treasurer@camhct.uk

Find out more at
www.camhct.uk

Charity number 20986

Supported by the
National Churches Trust





St Mary's Open Day

Explore local Burwell heritage
Climb the Tower for amazing views



September 26th 2026
11.00am - 2.00pm

Event Highlights

Climb the Tower

113 steps to the top
 Chat with our bellringers
 Adult £3, under 10s £1
 (Must be at least 8 years old)

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 Burwell
St Etheldreda's Reach



Leading God, Lifting People

Contact us
 01638 741262

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

Pop-Up Pantry
at Burwell Day Centre
 Usually 1st Friday of month
Friday 7th August
and Friday 4th September
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 £5 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

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>

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