

SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our monthly newsletter, which we hope will keep you informed of what's happening in our parish life, the community and also more widely.

For many it's almost the end of summer and children, young people, students etc, are all looking ahead to the new academic year. We do want to hold all these young people in our prayers as some begin 'big school', some move to secondary school and others into college, university or work. Most will at least move up a year group. Perhaps some young people are wondering about the future following their GCSE, A level or university results. It can often be a time of anxiety as they transition from one stage of their schooling, training, or work life to another.

It can also be a time for new beginnings and new opportunities following rest, relaxation and time spent with family and friends over the summer. Of course, for others, life has simply kept on going as it always does.

As we look ahead to these next few months in our church life together, there will be many events and functions taking place, including our annual Eco Festival, Christmas Tree Festival, Fund raising events and so on. Do see our other pages filled with upcoming events and dates to put in your diary.

However, one thing we are very excited about, is our joint 'Alpha' venture between several churches in Mortimer and Burghfield. What is the 'Alpha Course' all about you might ask? It's a course that has stood the test of time, modernising along the way, with opportunity to explore the big questions about God and life, in a safe welcoming environment.



We live in times of so much doubt, anxiety, pressure and uncertainty and as local Christians we welcome the opportunity to offer the Alpha Course, to provide space for people to explore their own beliefs and in particular, Christianity. All details are further on in the newsletter and the QR code will take you straight to our dedicated page where you will find all the information you need. In a nutshell, the launch is taking place in mid-September and there will be several groups available for people to have a choice of time of day and day of the week. Please do pray for our joint efforts for our villages and in particular for those whom we can invite to attend, so they too can have a personal relationship with Jesus.

Just as the academic year begins again, I will be off on holiday to South Africa. We are very much looking forward to our time away, to have some rest and time to catch up with family and friends, including attending 2 family weddings. All is once again in good hands in the parish and please contact the wardens or our parish administrator if you need any help. I look forward to seeing you all for our Harvest Festival celebrations at the end of September.

With every Blessing
Glynn



Here's What's Happening!

Mon 1st Sept 9am Morning Prayer in Church

2nd - 23rd September Revd Glynn on Annual Leave

There will be no Morning Prayer during Revd Glynn's leave

Sunday 7th Sept 10am Parish Communion Service & via Zoom

Mon 8th Sept 9.30am Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church, see page 4

Sunday 14th Sept 10am Parish Communion Service & via Zoom

12noon Baptism in Church

6pm Sunday@6 service in Church

Mon 15th Sept 9.30am Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church

Tues 16th Sept 7.30pm Alpha Course Launch Party, see page 5

Sunday 21st Sept 9am Breakfast@church

10am Morning Worship Service (no Communion) & via Zoom

22nd September to 5th October - FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

Mon 22nd Sept 9.30am Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church

Wed 24th Sept 9.30am Ecumenical service at Burghfield Methodist Church

7.30-9.30pm Alpha Course held at Don Sinclair's home 1/9

Thurs 25th Sept 12noon - 2pm Alpha Course held at the Rectory 1/9

Fri 26th Sept 6.30-8pm Youth Club in the Parish Centre, see page 6

Sat 27th Sept 7pm Harvest Supper in the Parish Centre, see page 7

Sunday 28th Sept **HARVEST FESTIVAL**

10am Parish Communion Service & via Zoom

Mon 29th Sept 8am Morning Prayer in Church

9.30am Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church

Wed 1st October 7.30-9.30pm Alpha Course at Don's home 2/9

Thurs 2nd Oct 12noon - 2pm Alpha Course held at the Rectory 2/9

Fri 3rd Oct Family Film Night in Church, see page 8

Sat 4th Oct 11am-4pm **ECO FESTIVAL** see page 9&10

Maintenance Week in the Parish Centre and Church was certainly a productive and very busy one for our hard working team.

Below you can see some of the jobs undertaken by Eileen, Brian, Anne P, Anne E, Clive, Mike, Iain, & Glynn (sorry if I have missed anyone) who we thank you whole heartedly for all your time and effort to keep our Church and Parish Centre in tip top condition. The various jobs undertaken included cleaning the carpets in the parish centre, re coating the downstairs hall flooring, a deep clean of the vestry, car park pot hole filling, varnishing the wooden door in the vestry, painting the boot scrapers to name but a few. Eileen has also been working on the Church Terrier (the record of everything we have in Church) for a while to update it & Iain has been helping by updating photo's.





st Mary's Burghfield

Welcoming all, growing faith, serving others

Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group

Monday's
9.30-11am
(term time only)

Term Starts on Monday
8th September 2025

**To find out more take a look at our
Facebook page, Website or notice
boards in Church.**

**St Mary's Church,
Church Lane, Burghfield, RG30 3TG
Tel : 07979 871608, www.stmarysburghfield.org**

Don & Glynn will be hosting groups

Questions
about life
or faith?



Don will be hosting on Wednesdays 7.30-9.30pm at his home including puddings & Glynn's will be taking place at The Rectory on Thursdays 12noon-2pm including soup & rolls. Please get in touch with Glynn or Don if you have any further queries. For other groups available in Burghfield & Mortimer please scan the QR code for the dedicated website. Please pray about who you can invite to any of these groups and if you want to explore Christianity further please come and join us.

**YOU ARE INVITED
FOR A MEAL AND A TASTE
OF THE ALPHA COURSE
TUES 16 SEPT 7:30 PM
BURGHFIELD VILLAGE HALL**

Is there more to life than this?

**Stay Curious
Try Alpha**

Join the party!

Register with QR code,
email or website below.



**alpha@mortimerburghfield.org
www.mortimerburghfield.org**

Mortimer and Burghfield Alpha

A joint endeavour of area churches: Mortimer & Burghfield Common Methodists,
Mortimer West End Chapel and St Mary's Church Burghfield.

FUN - GAMES - ACTIVITIES - SNACKS

† Mary s Church Burghfield

Welcoming all, growing faith, serving others

Youth Club

6:30-8:00

FRIDAY

26TH SEPTEMBER

**YEARS 6,7 & 8
ARE WELCOME**

Questions? - stmarysburghfield@outlook.com

This is a space for years 6, 7 & 8's, where they can come and hang out, where fun and friendship come together! Meeting once a month, our club offers a safe and welcoming space for young people to connect, play games, and participate in exciting activities. Whether you're into board games, creative projects, or just looking for a place to hang out, there's something for everyone. We will also host discussions on topics that matter to you, giving you a voice and a chance to share your ideas. Come be part of a community where you can grow, laugh, and make new friends!

We take safeguarding seriously and parents/carers will need to come along to the 1st session attended to sign a registration form. Please be assured all leaders and volunteers have completed all necessary safeguarding requirements.



st Mary's Burghfield

Welcoming all, growing faith, serving others



Saturday 27th September
7.00 pm

Join us for a

Harvest Supper



Celebration



Tickets – £15 per person

A bar will be available on the night selling wine & soft drinks.

There will also be a super Raffle.

Places will be limited so book yours via Anne Pocock on

07713 911748

or bannepocock@aol.com





ECO SILVER AWARD

We are very proud that we now have our Eco Silver Award on display in the entrance porch of Church.

Thank you to everyone that contributed to gaining this award it really is a fantastic achievement.

PETITION

Require recycling facilities for blister packs in all dispensaries and chemists

We have finally got approval from the House of Commons for our petition to **require all dispensaries and chemists to offer a bin for recycling blister packs.**

We have been offering a recycling service for a few years now but the take up is overwhelming and our thoughts are that just relying on big branches of Boots and Superdrug to offer this service isn't really taking the service to the greatest point of need. Most people collect their prescriptions (Or have them collected for them) from much more local outlets and the incentive to recycle would be much enhanced if people could drop off blister packs at the point where they normally collect them.

As we have seen in our own church porch, the amount of blister packs in use these days is truly staggering and the thought of most of them ending up in landfill is quite horrifying.

I hope you don't mind us asking you to sign this petition which the St Mary's Creation Matters team has approved and hopefully circulating it amongst as many others as possible.

We have 6 months to get 100,000 signatures!

Copy & paste this link to see the petition and start sharing it:

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/714733>





It's great to be able to share a good news story with you, our vital and faithful supporters. You may indeed have already read the article in the NWN last week about the success of the Hungry Holidays initiative, but if not, I have attached a scanned copy. The scheme provided food and essential items during the school holidays to 1,152 children from 474 households across 47 schools. The detailed planning and organisation which started in March, the financial support from West Berkshire Council and Greenham Trust, corporate volunteers who offered their help and an army of willing volunteers resulted in the deliveries all being completed a week ahead of schedule. Fantastic!

However, there's always another side to the story. The donations this year from March to July totalled 34,056kgs compared to 39,863kgs in 2024, so more stock had to be purchased – 19,640kgs compared to 15,112kgs in 2024. The financial support was crucial for this. In June and July, the weight of purchased stock was almost equal to the weight of donations. It's not surprising that the result is that the stock level in the warehouse has fallen to approx. 20,000kgs despite almost the same amount having been purchased! To be able to continue to offer help to those who are facing difficulties this winter, the stock levels need to be built up again.

So please would you consider supporting the Foodbank this Harvest? We really need your help and support to spread the good news about the success of the Hungry Holidays initiative but also the impact that this has had on our stock levels.



Harvest appeal

Help support your food bank this Harvest

In the three weeks leading up to Harvest, the food bank will provide over 230 food parcels for local individuals and families facing hardship. In gratitude for all the gifts God gives us, let's show compassion and give what we can.

Donate food



Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your community.

Donate money



Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.



Shopping list

Tinned meat/fish

Tinned veg/fruit

Cooking sauces

Coffee

Milk (UHT or powdered)

Cereals

Fruit juice (long-life)

Tinned rice pudding

Jam

Instant mashed potato

West Berks Foodbank

westberks.foodbank.org.uk

Registered Charity in England & Wales (1151996).





Local Outlet -St Oswald's Church on Fridays between 1-3pm

local food collection points are as below:

St Mary's Church- collection point in our church porch.

Tesco Express in Burghfield – opening hours 6.00am –11pm

Co-op in Mortimer—opening hours 7.00 am –9pm

Donations may be made directly to their bank account, with the following details:

Lloyds Bank, Newbury: Sorting Code 77-95-05

West Berks Foodbank: Account No. 72784660

Or, you may send a cheque payable to “West Berks Foodbank” and send to: The Treasurer, West Berks Foodbank, 23 Charter Road, Newbury, Berks. RG14 7EW.

You may also wish to complete a **Gift Aid form to add 25% value to your donation**

Please copy & paste this link <https://westberks.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/> to find out what food donations are urgently needed at the foodbank.

St Marys Food Bank contact person:

Anne Eatwell

07747 535540 or

0118 9832666

If you have any questions or would like to offer help in any way please get in touch with Anne.

Foodbank have Instagram a page that you can follow and add to your Instagram



'We at St Mary's are once again collecting food donations for the Food Bank at our annual 'Harvest Festival' on Sunday 28th September. Please bring your donations to the service at 10.00am or alternatively drop them off at church when convenient to you.

Here is a link on how to the Foodbanks website so you can see all the ways you could help & donate

<https://westberks.foodbank.org.uk/>

(you might need to copy & paste it to your web browser)

st Mary's Burghfield

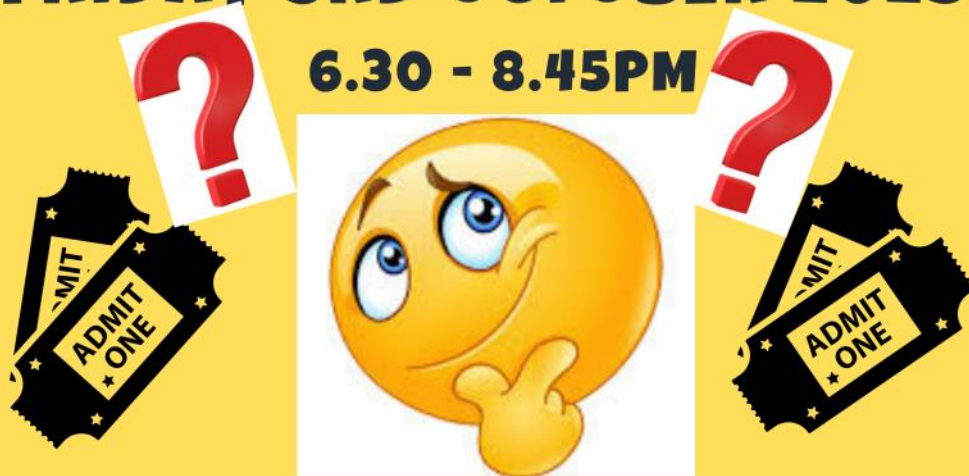
Welcoming all, growing faith, serving others

FAMILY FILM NIGHT

JOIN US FOR ANOTHER FUN EVENING

FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2025,

6.30 - 8.45PM



WHAT COULD THE **ECO THEMED FILM BE THIS TIME, FOLLOW THE LINK TO FIND OUT!!**

To book your FREE tickets follow the link below:-

<https://tickets.myiknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NTEzMCo3/t>

**SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN 6YRS & OVER,
CAN ALL CHILDREN PLEASE BRING ALONG
A WATER BOTTLE**

st Mary's Burghfield

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ECO FESTIVAL



Promoting Care for our Planet

SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2025



11-4PM



**Talks, Stalls, Displays,
Children's Activities &
Refreshments
throughout the day.**

**Go to our website, Facebook
page - St Mary's Burghfield
or scan the QR code to find out
more.**



ECO FESTIVAL

Conscientious Shopper Tombola

We are looking to run a "Conscientious Shopping" Tombola at the Eco Festival in October and are hoping for contributions of Fair Trade products such as tea, coffee, wine, preserves etc and Eco friendly cleaning products such as Ecover products, laundry sheets, bamboo alternative products etc & maybe a few treats too.

Please let Margaret Thomas know if you can contribute & she will start collecting in September. Many Thanks





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Photo Competition

“Favourite Photo of Nature”

To run alongside our
EC FESTIVAL
[4th October, 11am - 4pm]

Please send us your favourite photo that you have captured of nature.

Open to all ages,
so let's see your wonderful photos.

Scan the QR code to view our competition page on our website



Come and see all the entries displayed on screen during the festival.



Please send them through to
ecophotocompetition@stmarysburghfield.org

UPDATED

Terracycling at

St Mary's Church August 2025

Ink Cartridges (NO toner cartridges)

Milk Bottle Tops – Red, Blue, Green & Clear tops from supermarket milk bottles only.

Biscuit Wrappers – Biscuit, Crackers, Cake (single & multipacks) Cereal Bars, Rice Cakes, Flapjacks, Scones, Mini Cheddars, Ryvita types, Cheese Straws, Wafer Biscuits, Twiglets, Breadsticks, Naked Bars, and other fruity /oaty snacks and kid's biscuits.

Disposable Gloves – latex, vinyl, nitrile, polyethylene, any colour

Marigolds - Marigolds durable gloves, disposable gloves & plastic packaging **BRAND ONLY**

Pill Blister Packs (Empty, NO plastic or paper bags or foil)

Candles

Any candles that are no longer wanted, part burnt candles, we can even take ones that are in glass containers.

Alternatively you can recycle candles at Waitrose, Thatcham

Stamps

Bras

NO OTHER ITEMS CAN BE LEFT AT OUR COLLECTION POINT PLEASE

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WE ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTING TOOTHPASTE TUBES , BURTS BEES/MAKE UP ITEMS OR ANY OF THE CLEANING PRODUCTS (TRIGGERS & PACKAGING), PLEASE ONLY LEAVE ITEMS ABOVE.



The
Children's
Society



Fish & Chip Supper Quiz in aid of The Children's Society.

Friday 10th October in the Parish centre, 7.30 pm

£12 per ticket, teams of a maximum of six people.

Bring your own drinks.

Contact Colin Thompson to book your tickets on colin@coltbus.plus.com



We are thrilled to announce that Burghfield & Mortimer Photo Club are joining us in the Parish Centre for their fortnightly meetings.

Their 1st meeting is to be on Thursday 4th September and then fortnightly thereafter.

If you would like more information about the club, please contact the Club Secretary at burghfieldsec@gmail.com

Their website is www.bmphotoclub.uk



A Service every second Sunday of the month.
An informal service for **all ages** including worship,
teaching, prayer and of course refreshments.

We look forward to seeing you!

The next service is
on Sunday 14th September 2025 at 6pm

Christmas Tree Festival

**Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th
December, 12-4pm**

Arrangements are well underway for this years
Christmas Tree Festival with the theme of
'SILVER'

This theme has been chosen for 2 reasons, firstly
it's the 25th anniversary of the opening of the
Parish Centre & secondly to celebrate our
achievement in gaining our Silver Eco award
earlier this year.

This is sure to be a wonderful event with hopefully
more trees than ever decorated by our local
community representing their club, organisation,
charity or local business.

If you'd like to take part please email Jo at
stmarysburghfield@outlook.com for details on how
to join in.



st Mary's Burghfield

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St Mary's Fundraising



2025 Dates for your diaries

More details for each event as we near them but if you could pop the dates into your diaries you'll be sure not to miss out -

27th September, 7pm - Harvest Celebration.

24th October, 7-9pm - Autumn Craft Evening,

14th November, 7pm - Games Night

6th December, 12-4pm – Christmas Craft Market

6th December, 7pm – Music, Wine & Canapés

23rd Jan 2026 Quiz & Curry Evening

For more information & to book your place at any of the above please contact Anne Pocock on

bannepocock@aol.com or 07713 911748

The cost to run our Church in 2024 was £9,244 per month which is £303 per day !!



What an amazing total of Funds raised since June 2022!

A huge Thank you to everyone that has contributed & to all those that put in an amazing amount of time & effort behind the scenes to provide us with such wonderful events throughout the year.



A totally FREE way to raise funds for our Church. Sign up and every time you spend money online through a participating store they donate to us, it's so easy and costs you nothing so please sign up today. Click this link (you might need to copy & paste it) to sign up or refer friends & family to the scheme, then search **St Mary's Burghfield**
https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=49900&invite=lvzji&referral-campaign=s2s&utm_campaign=web-referral

Emmaus

What's Emmaus about?

It's a group of friends who meet twice a month on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday mornings of the month (10-11.30am) to enjoy reading & talking about the Bible together, drinking coffee, munching biscuits & generally have a good chat. You don't need to be a Bible scholar because we all learn together & help each other along the road. We usually meet at Margaret's house in Loves Close. Just ask Margaret, Susan Potter or Lesley Brigden about it.

We'd love you to join in.



ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

Silver Eco Church Award Certificate

This is to certify that

St Marys Church Burghfield

has won a Silver Eco Church Award in recognition of their efforts to care for God's earth in each of the following areas (as applicable):

Worship and Teaching
Management of Buildings and Land
Community and Global Engagement
Lifestyle

Signed Andy Atkin Date 26 January 2025
CEO, A Rocha UK



ecochurch.arocha.org.uk
arocha.org.uk



We at St Mary's now offer an online donation page!
If you would like to donate, please scan the QR code
Thank you for supporting our ministry and mission



Contact Details

Rector -Revd Glynn Lautenbach

07979 151598 or Email: rector@stmarysburghfield.org

Parish Administrator Tuesday –Friday 08:45 –12:45 Office location & Homebased

If you need a face to face meeting please email or call on the below to arrange a date and time

Office Mobile– 07979 871608 Email: admin@stmarysburghfield.org

To Contact the Churchwardens:

Michael Wood– Email: mike.wood@stmarysburghfield.org

Alison Eves—Email: alison.eves@stmarysburghfield.org

Website: www.stmarysburghfield.org

Find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/stmarysburghfield) too! Photos and news of upcoming and recent events on our page “St Mary's Church Burghfield”.

Address: Church Lane, Burghfield Village, Reading, Berks, RG30 3TG

The PCC of St Mary the Virgin Burghfield is a Registered Charity No.1167639



Groups and Clubs held in our Parish Centre

MONDAY

Pilates with Heather 9.30 & 10.30am (upper room)

Call Heather on 07785 254313 or hsfitnessuk@mac.com

Pilates For Life with Marianne 6.30pm (upper room)



TUESDAY

Pilates For Life with Marianne 7pm (upper room)

Contact on 07985 085597 / hello@pilatesforlife.org.uk

WEDNESDAY

Yoga with Janet 9.45-11.45am (upper room)

Contact: janetdacre@hotmail.com

 with Sarah 5.50-7.30pm (lower room)

Pilates with Heather 6.30 & 7.30 pm (upper room)

THURSDAY

Yoga with Julie 7.30-9pm (upper room)

Contact: julie_yoga@btinternet.com

Burghfield & Mortimer Photo Club 7.30pm (lower room)

Contact: burghfieldccsec@gmail.com



HS Pilates.com

FRIDAY

Yoga with Amanda 9.15-10.30am (upper room)

Contact: amandafox@protonmail.com

Pilates with Heather 12.30-1.30pm (upper room)

SATURDAY

Yoga Dance with Julie 10-11am (upper room)

Fitsteps with Burghfield Dance Club 10.30-11.15am (lower room)

Contact Ewa: burghfielddanceclub@gmail.com



PLENTY OF FREE PARKING FOR ALL GROUPS USING THE PARISH CENTRE



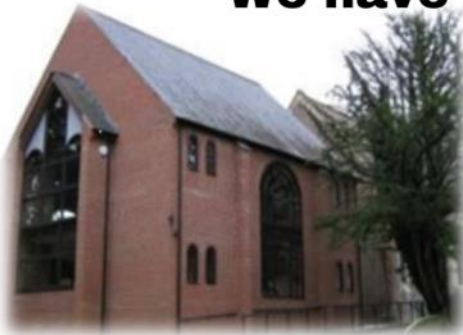
st Mary's Burghfield

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**Do you need a venue for a
Work Lunch Meeting, Venue for Training,
Childs Birthday Party,
Social Occasion or a Community Class?
St Mary's Parish Centre could be the ideal
location for you.**

We have plenty of FREE Parking.



Downstairs Room



Upstairs Room



Upper Room Mobile Served

**Please contact our Parish Administrator if you would
like to book or have a look around our facilities.**

**Either by calling 07979 871608 or email to
stmarysburghfield@outlook.com**

**Hire charges are:- Weekdays up to 6pm £14.65 &
Weekdays after 6pm & Weekends £17.40**