

st Mary's Church Burghfield

Welcoming all, growing faith, serving others

AUGUST 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.

It seems only a few weeks since I returned to work after my sabbatical, and now suddenly 2 months later it's already the end of July! It's been really busy with all sorts of lovely services, engagements with schools, young people, meetings, and lots of other things happening too. Now, with schools closed for the summer holidays, we have a quieter period in the church, though it's also a good opportunity to prepare for the coming busy months in the autumn leading up to Christmas.

But let's not get ahead of ourselves! As we take some time to rest and regroup, it does provide us with an opportunity to spend more time with God, drawing aside from the busyness of life, in prayer and reflection. As I was looking ahead doing the rota, I was reminded of one particular feast which takes place midweek in August. Did you know that there are a number of Feasts in the Christian calendar which celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary?

However, in the Anglican Church, the primary feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated on August 15th, often referred to as the Festival of the Blessed Virgin Mary or the Assumption of Mary. This date commemorates the culmination of Mary's life and her unique vocation as the mother of Christ. It's a festival focused on celebrating her entire life, encompassing both her lowliness and glory.

For us the Blessed Virgin Mary, is especially important as she is our patron saint, with our church named after and dedicated to her. We hear little of Mary, after Jesus while on the cross, commends her into the care of John, the beloved disciple. Tradition has it that she went to live with John in Jerusalem and later in Ephesus as he spread the gospel there. I was reminded that when my husband and I were on a pilgrimage to Turkey and Israel in 2015, we visited the area in Ephesus thought to be where Mary lived till her death. There are several sites dedicated to her, remembering the Blessed Virgin Mary or 'Meryem Ana' as she is known there, with one in particular known as 'Meryem Ana Evi' which means 'the house of Mary'.

Photos of 'Meryem Ana' (Ephesus 2015)



As we think of our own 'house of Mary' during this summer, please do hold our future mission and ministry in your prayers, particularly as we try to reach out to younger generations, to individuals and to families. Please particularly pray for the Alpha Course which will be run jointly by local churches together in various small groups (see below) and for the friends, family members and neighbours whom you could invite to come and find a faith for themselves.

*With every Blessing
Glynn*

Alpha - Can you help?

We have been discussing with other local churches in Mortimer and Burghfield about doing an Alpha course in the Autumn term. Rather than one large joint one as we did in 2019, we would have the 'launch' evening and the 'Holy Spirit day' all together and otherwise a number of groups on various days and times through the week, would be offered in people's homes across the 2 villages. We believe it would be good to join in, and Don is willing to host a group, probably on a Wednesday night. Is there anyone else who might like to host a group? Are there any offers of help for a group as it needs more than one person to support a group.

The launch date is now booked in Burghfield Village Hall on Tuesday 16th September at 7.30pm with groups starting the w/b 22nd September. All are welcome.

Please speak to Don or Glynn if you'd like to know more, and please collect a prayer card from the back of church and pray for our mission and outreach through this Alpha course. Please especially pray that we may be led to invite people who're open to coming to know Jesus.

Questions
about life
or faith?





Here's
What's
Happening!

3rd - 9th August Revd Glynn on Annual Leave

Sunday 3rd August 10am Morning Worship Service (No Communion)
& via Zoom

Sunday 10th Aug 10am Parish Communion Service & via Zoom
6pm Sunday@6 service

Mon 11th Aug 9am Morning Prayer
12noon, Funeral service at West Berkshire Crematorium,
RIP Elizabeth Lynch

Sat 16th Aug 12-4pm Private party in the Parish Centre

Sunday 17th Aug 9am Breakfast@Church
10am Parish Communion Service & via Zoom

18th - 22nd August Parish Centre Closed for Annual Maintenance

Thurs 21st Aug 11am Communion service at The Hollies Care Home

Sunday 24th Aug 10am Parish Communion Service & via Zoom

Mon 25th Aug No Morning Prayer (Bank Holiday)

Wed 27th Aug 9.30am Ecumenical service at Burghfield Methodist Church

Fri 29th Aug 7pm Church Cleaning, any help appreciated.

Sat 30th Aug 2pm Whist Drive in the Parish Centre

Sunday 31st Aug 10am Parish Communion Service & via Zoom

2nd - 23rd September Revd Glynn on Annual Leave

Thurs 4th Sept 7.15pm Burghfield & Mortimer Photography Club meeting in
Parish Centre, Lower Room

Summer Soiree

What a delightful evening we all had listening to the beautiful voices of the Hurst Singers. Thank you to everyone that helped make this a

wonderful evening.



Burghfield St Mary's School Yr6 Reflection Day

A few images from our lovely afternoon with the Year 6 children from Burghfield St Mary's school's during their reflection day. The topics discussed were Sorry, Thanks, Wow, Please & Together. They rounded off the session with a short summary, talk, song & prayer.



st Mary's Burghfield

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Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group

Monday's

9.30-11am

(term time only)



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**

Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2025

8th September

15th September

22nd September

29th September

6th October

13th October

20th October

Half Term

10th November

17th November

24th November

1st December

8th December

15th December

Christmas Holidays



A couple of photos of the recent craft activities which took place at some of our sessions. See also the new dates for the Autumn term above. Printed copies are available from Church.

We will be back on Monday 8th September, we hope to see you all there but in the meantime have a lovely Summer break.

BIG CLEAN!

On Monday 28th July, members of our wonderful Bumps, Babies and Toddlers Team, got together to do our regular clean and sort out of all our resources. We had a lovely time together as we worked and chatted and finished up with a delicious bring and share lunch for those who were able to stay on. We are so grateful for the team who support this much needed and valued ministry, and also wish them a restful and relaxing summer.



Bradfield Deanery Day with Bishop Mary



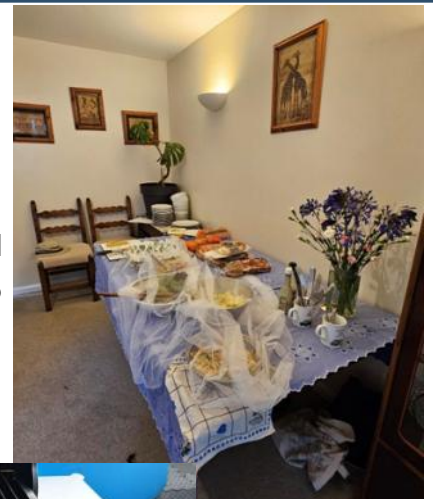
On Tuesday 15th July, Bishop Mary spent a day in Bradfield Deanery at various functions including school visits, lunch with clergy and ended the day where we hosted an afternoon tea for lay people in the deanery. Many thanks to those who helped set it all up & provided delicious goodies, and packed it all down again at the end.

Bishop Mary's Afternoon Tea Visit, which ended with a Q&A session.



PCC Summer Social

On Saturday 26th July, Wayne and I hosted our PCC Summer Social. We were blessed with wonderful weather, great company and delicious food as we enjoyed a 'Braai' (South African version of BBQ!). We are so grateful to all our PCC members (and their supportive spouses) who contribute so much to the life of our church, and it was great to spend time relaxing together, as a change from our regular meetings.



The round ring is proper South African sausage called 'boerewors'



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.



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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





Wildflowers

Below are a couple of photos of the Wild Flowers growing in our Churchyard, which helped towards achieving our Silver Eco Church award. We just thought they were beautiful, so wanted to share the images. Do go and look for yourself.



Mini Oaks

The observant among you, might also have noticed that Mini Oaks have been trying to grow vegetables in their planters around the car park. The hot summer has not been kind to their efforts, however the children and staff have had great fun seeing the tomatoes, oregano, lavender and sun-flowers growing from seed and small plants.



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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.**



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



Our '**Fabric Committee**' and team work so hard behind the scenes and have recently been working on the holes in the large car park, along with the pathway from the car park towards church. We are very appreciative of these and all their other efforts to help maintain, our church, parish centre and grounds.



**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 10th August 2025 at 6pm

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!

Click this link to see your petition and start sharing it:

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





Dear Friends,

As we approach the school holidays, families should be looking forward to a time of joy and relaxation. However for many this brings the worry of putting food on the table. When schools close, free school meals stop. For the 10th consecutive year, West Berks Foodbank is addressing this issue with the Hungry Holidays project. 87 Schools in West Berkshire, primary and secondary, have been contacted and asked to identify families that they know are going to be struggling over the summer holidays. So far 46 schools have replied (48 in 2024) so we will be providing support to at least 478 households (555 in 2024) with 1026 under 18 year olds (1276

in 2024) – so the this year's figures are very comparable to last year's. The food will be sent to the schools, who will distribute it before the end of term. **This is a major undertaking and we really need your support to make it successful.** I have included below a graph of the stock in and out for the first 3 months of the year. You can see that the stock in from donations and purchased goods is not matching the stock distributed.

Last year the stock sent out in July

alone, which included the Hungry Holidays parcels, totalled 23,000 kgs! With your help, this year's Hungry Holidays project can succeed in supporting all these families. I have attached a list of items that are urgently needed and will email an updated list in a couple of weeks. Please circulate this appeal amongst your church communities and wider if possible. Cash donations are also needed as for the schools with large deliveries, an order will be sent directly from a supermarket paid for by WBF. Details for giving can be found on the website at <https://westberks.foodbank.org.uk>

I conclude with a comment from a grateful family last year:

I received a food delivery today and am so grateful to you all. I can't believe it.

It has made me very tearful today.

I can't thank you enough for your generosity and I can't believe how much food I have received for my family. It's going to help so much.

By continuing to work together, we can support those in need and also ensure that no child in West Berkshire goes hungry this summer.

Thank you.

Sheila Moore

Churches Collections Manager, West Berks Foodbank

07778 992862

Email: Churches@westberks.foodbank.org.uk



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



Foodbank Shopping List 01/06/2025

Items needed for Hungry Holidays 2025

Ambient Sponge Pudding (shelf stable, ready to eat, cans or tins)

Biscuits Cereal

Cereal Bars

Instant Noodles

Jam

Long Life Juice

Sugar

Tinned Fruit

Tinned Meat Meals Spag Bol/Curry/Stew

UHT Milk Full Fat or Semi-skimmed





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 -

30th August, 2pm - Whist Drive in the Parish Centre

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



Church Cleaning

Please join our happy band in cleaning our Church. **Our next cleaning date is Friday 29th August, 7pm.** Any help is much appreciated.

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.

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 Holden* 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/stmarysburchfield) 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 currently 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)

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


TUESDAY

Pilates For Life with Marianne 7pm (upper room)

WEDNESDAY

Yoga with Janet 9.45-11.45am (upper room)

Contact: janetdacre@hotmail.com

 **WeightWatchers** 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

FRIDAY

Yoga with Amanda 9.15-10.30am (upper room)

Contact: amandaefox@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





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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**