

St Mary's Church Burghfield

Welcoming all, growing faith, serving others

MARCH 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.

Usually by this time of the year we are already in Lent, however with Easter late this year, Lent only begins in the first week of March! We are finally seeing signs of spring as we note the numerous snowdrops in the churchyard and other spring bulbs and flowers. Spring is such a wonderful time of the year for renewal and regrowth as we see nature awakening from the cold winter. I for one am really looking forward to some warmer weather, brighter days, less rain (hopefully) and enjoying seeing God's beautiful creation come to life once more.



However, my Lent and Easter will be very different this year as I take my sabbatical, which you are all already aware of by now. My Lent this year will start in North Wales as I begin an 8 day IGR (Individually Guided Retreat) on Ash Wednesday. As clergy we are usually busy with services and Lent preparations at this time of the year, so it will be a rare treat for me to simply spend time with God in silence and reflection for 8 full days! I'm sure the silence of each day with just one's own thoughts and reflections, apart from one brief daily session with a Spiritual Director, would not appeal to everyone. Even the meals are eaten in silence! But there is something important about withdrawing and finding some time for silence, for prayer and drawing closer to God for all of us, so I do encourage you to find time and space for prayer and bible reflection as you journey through Lent.

The retreat centre, St Beuno's Jesuit Spirituality Centre, could not have a more beautiful setting, as the front of the building faces Snowdonia and overlooks the Vale of Clwyd. I'm looking forward to spending as much time outdoors enjoying the natural beauty of the surroundings.

It is a place where Gerard Manley Hopkins studied theology before entering the priesthood, and wrote many of his poems. Actually a whole wing at St Beuno's is dedicated to him. Many of his poems celebrate the beauty of God's creation and his enjoyment of the natural world. For instance, this one is so appropriate at this time of year, and I commend it to you as you enjoy the delights of Spring.

Easter too will be rather different, as we join our daughter's family in Australia and spend some quality time with them, including our two lively granddaughters, as well as other extended family. There we can experience a different way of doing and being church, yet even across the miles and oceans, we are all united in one common faith.

As I leave you all in very capable hands, I pray that you would arrive at Easter Sunday ready to celebrate the wonderful news once more of Christ's power and authority over death. Celebrate too the offer of love, forgiveness, reconciliation, restoration and more importantly the new life in Christ, freely offered to each and every one of us.

I will return in June and shortly afterwards look forward to celebrating the end of Eastertide in that glorious feast of Pentecost as we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, God's presence among us now, tomorrow and always.

With every Blessing in the next 3 months

Rev'd Glynn

Spring

Nothing is so beautiful as spring—
When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;
Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush
Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring
The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;
The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush
The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush
With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.

What is all this juice and all this joy?
A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning
In Eden garden. Have, get, before it cloy,
Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning,
Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,
Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.



Fri 28th Feb	7.30pm Children's Society Quiz night
1st March through to 31st May - Revd Glynn on Sabbatical leave	
Sunday 2nd Mar	10am Parish Communion & via Zoom
Mon 3rd Mar	NB - No Morning Prayer in Church whilst Revd Glynn is away 9.30-11am Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church
Wed 5th Mar	7.30pm Ash Wednesday service in Church
Fri 7th Mar	2pm World Day of prayer service at St Oswald's Church
Sunday 9th Mar	10am Parish Communion service & via Zoom 6pm Sunday@6 service in Church, see page 7
Mon 10th Mar	9.30-11am Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church
Sat 15th Mar	10am - 12noon Easter Crafty Church, see page 3
Sunday 16th Mar	9am Breakfast@Church 10am Parish Communion service & via Zoom
Mon 17th Mar	9.30-11am Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church 8pm PCC meeting held at the Parish Centre
Fri 21st Mar	6.30-8pm Youth Club held in the Parish Centre, see page 4
Sunday 23rd Mar	10am Parish Communion service & via Zoom
Mon 24th Mar	9.30-11am Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church
Sunday 30th Mar	MOTHERING SUNDAY 10am Parish Communion service & via Zoom,
Mon 31st Mar	9.30-11am Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church
Thurs 3rd April	10am Burghfield St Mary's school Easter service in Church
Fri 4th Apr	6.30-8.45pm Family Film Night in Church, see page 12
Sunday 6th Apr	10am Parish Communion service & via Zoom

Crafty Church

Saturday 15th March

10am - 12noon

Everyone's welcome to come along
and have a go at some fun
Easter Crafts.



Tickets are available via this link
<https://tickets.myiknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NTEzMC0z/t>

This months group met on Valentines day and we had a fun evening making friendship bracelets, photo to the right shows the ones created, playing games and had a great time talking about God as our friend.



FUN - GAMES - ACTIVITIES - SNACKS

st Mary's Church Burghfield

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Youth Club

6:30-8:00

17th January

14th February

21st March

**Years
6&7**

Questions? - stmarysburghfield@outlook.com

Our next Youth Club will be on Friday 21st March 2025.

This is a space for years 6's and 7'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!

Creation Care Scheme

St.Mary's Burghfield has been an Eco Church Bronze Award holder since 2021.

To achieve this we've assessed our environmental impact over the areas of Worship and Teaching, Buildings and Energy, Land and Nature, Community and Global Engagement and finally Lifestyle.

Have you ever wondered how your household would rate personally in terms of your Environmental impact? Now is your chance to find out.

I've signed us up with the "Creation Care" scheme, which allows you to measure your impact, and more importantly, see where you can improve, in relation to:



The scheme operates in a similar way to the Eco Church scheme, with Bronze, Silver and Gold awards for those achieving that status in each of the above categories. It is run by volunteers from a church in Dorset.

Participating in this scheme is our final action to achieve Silver Eco Church status.

Please sign-up your household at:

[Welcome to Creation Care | Creation Care](#)

If you link to St Mary the Virgin, Burghfield (in the drop-down alphabetical list of churches) then I'll get informed when you've achieved an award.

Thanks,

Mike Wood, on behalf of the Creation Matters team.



After submitting our application for our Silver Eco Church award, it was granted almost immediately.

Many thanks to Mike Wood who completed the in-depth online application, assessing all the required categories to gain this award.

Our Creation Matters Team have worked so hard, so in addition to Mike, my grateful thanks to Alison Eves, Margaret Thomas, Fiona Jones and Brian Thatcher, as each have made their own contributions and we have worked together as a wonderful team.

We could not have achieved this without the amazing support of our congregation and community, so thank you all too!

Revd Glynn

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 Arocha* Date **26 January 2025**
CEO, A Rocha UK



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



Terracycling at St Mary's Church as of February 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.



Dishwashing / Laundry Wrappers – Any brand of flexible dishwasher tablet, salt bags, or stain remover, cleaning products refills. Outer sleeves from aerosol air fresheners & Dishwashing tab bubs, Dishwashing cleaner outer packaging. **NO** bottles, tubs, cardboard, laundry, bleach, toilet or oven cleaning products.



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



Bottle Triggers

NO bottles only the Triggers



Burts Bee's

All brands not just Burts Bee's accepted for:-

Flexible Plastic & Metallic tubes for body creams & moisturisers, Lipstick, Lip Glosses, Lip Balms, Mascara, Eye Shadow Compacts)

NO GLASS OR NAIL POLISH PLEASE



Stamps



Bras



TERRACYCLING UPDATE



We need your help please



Please ensure you only leave items as described on our poster displayed in the entrance porch and on page 6 of our newsletter.

For example below we had to sort out all of these contact lens capsules which we **can not** recycle.

Did you know?

Boots Pharmacies have now got recycle bins for blister packs which would be really helpful to us if you could take your own blister packs to Boots to recycle. Follow the link to find out more. There is a complicated system where by you can download an app and gain points and spend money at Boots however you can simply deposit them in the box for recycling.

https://www.boots.com/shopping/boots-recycling-scheme/blister-pack-recycling?srsltid=AfmBOoqS34uXKa3n6nce1luKszUDL8dCkoTgRc7vDfNXam_QEL5b1bDV



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!

Next Sunday@6 is on Sunday

9th March 2025 at 6pm

Theme - Temptation



st Mary's Burghfield
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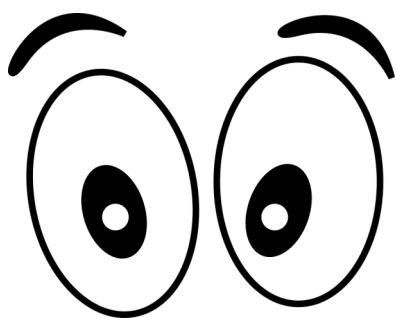
Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group

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**



Can you Help Please?

Several of our original team have needed to step back for various reasons, and we need some new members to help resource our team.

If you have some time on a Monday morning, enjoy being with families and small children and are happy to complete the Safeguarding Requirements (a DBS through the Diocese of Oxford and 2 online Training Courses of about 1 hour each), please do get in touch with us.

We would love to hear from you so we can have more helpers to relieve the pressure on our current team.

Revd Glynn and the BB&T Team

A prayer for the process of Appointing the new Archbishop of Canterbury



Please join us & pray for this important process and all those involved.

Heavenly Father, shepherd of your Church, send us a faithful pastor to lead with wisdom, courage and love, proclaiming your Gospel, celebrating the sacraments and guiding your people in unity and truth.

Strengthen your Church, we pray, and direct us in your ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

In the Year's Mind

You may be aware that sometimes our weekly intercessions include the names of loved ones remembered by members of St Mary's congregation around the time of the anniversary of their death.

It is open to all members of the congregation to ask for their remembered one to be included. Your loved one does not have to have been a member of the congregation themselves, **just you, the person making the request.**

The names are read on two consecutive Sundays on either side of the date of their death.

You do not have to make the request each year. Once the name is on the list, it will be included annually.

If you would like a loved one to be recalled in this way just let Margaret Thomas know the name you would like remembered, the date of their death and their relationship to you.



My contact details are in the Church Directory or you can have a word with me in church.



*Many congratulations to
Steve and Lucinda Shreeve on
the birth of their baby boy,
Zachary Apollo Shreeve,
born on
Sunday 23rd February, weighing 5lb 14oz.
We are so thrilled for them and pray that
Zachary will bring many blessings
into their lives.*



CHURCHYARD TIDY

A massive thank you to those that came along on a very chilly Saturday morning to help give our Churchyard a tidy.

Hopefully you will agree all areas are now looking tidier. Hopefully we can all help to maintain this throughout the year.

Burghfield & Mortimer Volunteer Bureau

- Can you spare any time during the week to help the elderly and less-mobile get to and from medical appointments?
- As our drivers become unable to help, we need to replace them. Also in our ageing community the number of people needing our services is increasing.
- **Have you recently retired?**
- **Looking for a way to give something back?**
- **Have a car and enjoy driving?**
- **Enjoy meeting people and chatting?**

You should join us as a volunteer driver!



Please call 01189831814 or email our team at bureauorganiser@gmail.com



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 click [Here](#) 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

Foodbank have this [link](#) that you can follow and add to your Instagram feed:

Can you help?

We are looking for a second Foundation Governor for St Mary's Church of England School in Burghfield.

What is a Foundation Governor?

Foundation governors have the same core objectives as any other member of the governing body. In addition THEY have a special role in, and responsibility for, ensuring that the Christian Character of a Church of England School is secured, preserved and developed and that the school is run in accordance with any trust deed relating to the school.

Requirements:

There are only two requirements to be a Foundation Governor. One is that you're over the age of 18 and the second that you are a practising Christian.

There's not a specific 'person specification' when it comes to the other skills you need, suffice to say all governing bodies need a wide range of people sitting on them.



If you have any questions please speak to Revd Glynn.

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FAMILY FILM NIGHT

JOIN US FOR ANOTHER FUN EVENING

FRIDAY 4TH APRIL 2025,

6.30 - 8.45PM



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

To book your tickets follow the link
below:-

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

**SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN 6YRS & OVER, CHILDREN
UNDER 8YRS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.**

St Mary's Fundraising

2025 Dates for your diaries



Friday 11th April, 2pm – Whist Drive

Friday 25th April, 7pm

Spring Crafts Evening & Fabric sale



Saturday 24th May, 7pm

Curry Evening

Wednesday 28th May, 2pm Whist Drive



Saturday 14th June

Cake & a Cuppa

To book your place at any of the above events please contact

Anne Pocock on

bannepocock@aol.com or 07713 911748.

Fundraising
Total

£23,792.17



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

Easyfundraising Update



So far we have raised a grand total of £444.46.
There are 10 people who regularly shop online via
Easyfundraising and who help to increase this valuable
and free way to raise funds for our Church.
Thank you to those who support our Fundraising
using this opportunity.

st Mary's Burghfield

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Whist Drive

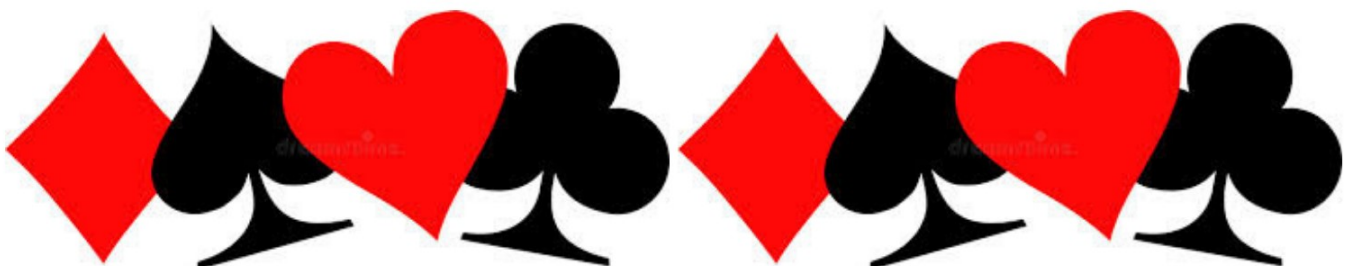
Friday 11th April, 2pm

Enjoy a friendly game of cards.

Tea & Cake will be served.

Donations welcome to church funds.

**To book a place contact Anne on 07713911748 or
bannepocock@aol.com**



**SPRING CRAFTS EVENING
&
BRING & BUY
FABRIC / HABERDASHERY
SALE**

Friday 25th April 7pm

Come and get creative.
With lots of things to make &
ideas to celebrate Spring.

There will be a charge of £15 to
cover the cost of materials and
refreshments.

To reserve a place contact
Anne on 07713911748 or
bannepocock@aol.com



Church Cleaning

Please join our happy band in cleaning our Church. **Our next cleaning date is Saturday 22nd March 2025 at 10am. 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.

Can we help?

Bland's School Foundation Trust is a Burghfield charity which provides small sums to support the education of children who need financial assistance and live or attend school in Burghfield. The charity looks at education in the widest sense and donations have been made for school trips, scout trips, courses and educational equipment.

The charity was founded by Deed Poll on 6 January 1872 with an Endowment provided by Horatio Bland.

If you think you might qualify for a donation towards a specific activity please do not hesitate to contact:

Lotte Plant (Secretary and Trustee) 01189 832205 or email carlottaplant@gmail.com



We at St Mary's now offer an online donation page!

If you would like to donate, please click on the link:

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/77b371b3-68f6-4729-a808-8fd58d9c589f>

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 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

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

 **WeightWatchers** with Sarah 5.50-7.30pm (lower room)

Pilates with Heather 6.30 & 7.30 pm (upper room)

THURSDAY

Pilates For Life with Marianne 6pm (upper room)

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**