

St Mary's Church Burghfield

Welcoming all, growing faith, serving others

FEBRUARY 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.

Well 2025 has well and truly begun and here we are already issuing our February Newsletter! Normally at this time of the year we would be looking ahead to Lent, however as Easter is fairly late this year (20th April) Lent only begins in March rather than the more usual month of February.

Our year started well with the return of our Bump's, Babies and Toddler group as we celebrated its first anniversary. My grateful thanks to the wonderful members of the team who resourced and supported it throughout 2024. Life changes however as we all know well, and several members have stepped back for various reasons. We would love to have more team members as we are somewhat overstretched currently, so please see the information on page (**) and get in touch if you might like to join our team.

For me this is a month of hectic organisation, as I make sure everything is in place for my Sabbatical which starts from 1st March through to 31st May. A sabbatical is very biblical of course and is rooted in the command for a 'sabbath' day of rest. Leviticus 25 further describes a 'sabbath year', every 7 years for the land and people, though we clergy only have 3 months sabbatical, and in this Diocese unlike others, every 10 years not 7.

I am really looking forward to this time of retreat, rest and renewal. My sabbatical starts with an 8 day silent Retreat up in North Wales in one of my favourite places for retreat (St Beuno's). Catching up with family and friends is a key feature of sabbaticals, and we particularly look forward to a 5 week trip to Australia to see our daughters family.

I'm also looking forward to catching up on sewing and gardening and lots of rest too! Rest is so important for us all and the words of Psalm 23 spring to mind for me and the promise of rest in the lord, with my soul being restored sounds truly wonderful! It is important to note that I am still entitled to my annual 6 weeks in addition to my sabbatical so it will be a year when I will be available much less than normal.

*The Lord is my shepherd,
I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green
pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul
Psalm 23.1&2*

Please be aware that I will not be contactable at all during this time and neither will Wayne be worshipping at St Mary's as we intend to spend the majority of the time together, apart from my retreat. The churchwardens are in charge for any queries and Colin was appointed as a 'deputy churchwarden' at our January PCC for the remainder of the year, to assist Mike and Alison. All the services will be covered by visiting clergy, including several familiar faces and PCC members are aware of all the other arrangements which will have been put in place by then. We have such a wonderful church community and I'm confident you will all support and encourage one another through the 3 months of my sabbatical. Be assured of my prayers for you all and may you also be richly blessed in these upcoming months.

With every Blessing

Glynn



Here's What's Happening!

Sunday 2nd Feb	CANDLEMAS , 10am Parish Communion & via Zoom <i>We look forward to welcoming the Revd Mark Rhodes-Smith who will preside & preach today</i>
Mon 3rd Feb	8am Morning Prayer in Church 9.30-11am Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church
Saturday 8th Feb	9.30am-12.30pm Churchyard Cleaning
Sunday 9th Feb	10am Parish Communion & via Zoom 6pm Sunday@6 service
Mon 10th Feb	8am Morning Prayer in Church 9.30-11am Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church
Fri 14th Feb	6.30 - 8pm Youth Club, see page 4
Sunday 16th Feb	9am Breakfast@Church 10am Parish Communion & via Zoom
15th - 23rd Feb Schools Half Term	
Mon 17th Feb	9am Morning Prayer in Church No Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church
Sunday 23rd Feb	10am Parish Communion & via Zoom
Mon 24th Feb	8am Morning Prayer in Church 9.30-11am Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church
Wed 26th Feb	9.30am Ecumenical service at Burghfield Methodist Church
Fri 28th Feb	7.30pm Children's Society Quiz night, see page 5

1st March through to 31st May - Revd Glynn on Sabbatical leave

Sunday 2nd Mar	10am Parish Communion & via Zoom
Mon 3rd Mar	No Morning Prayer in Church 9.30-11am Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church

Christingle services

We were thrilled to see so many of our community join us for our 2 Christingle services on Christmas Eve. It's always lovely to see children getting involved and enjoying the participation of the service.



Connor as a human Christingle, who gave us all a wonderful talk on the meaning of all the different areas of the Christingle that we were able to take home with us at the end of the service.



We were thrilled to have raised £415.50 for the Children's Society



**The
Children's
Society**

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.



And hot off the press we have excellent news!

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





Important Updates for our Terracycling at Church

We have updated the information for our Terracycling area, part of our Eco Church focus, where we are committed to recycling items not recycled through the local council or in other drop off points.

These are the new items added to our list:

New - Trigger Heads – not the plastic bottles only the trigger heads

New - Burts Bees Terracycling only these items please -

Any Brand of used products taken - NO Glass, NO nail polish



To add to the exiting items which are :-

Milk Bottle Tops - Pill Blister packs (empty) - Dish Washing & Laundry -

Biscuit Wrappers - Bras - Ink Cartridges - Stamps

From the Diocese -Care for Creation Newsletter—January 2025



Some extracts, you may useful/informative: follow the link for full newsletter

Plentiful podcasts!

Whilst the weather is icy, why not curl up indoors with a cuppa and a podcast? Try...

A Rocha International's [Field Notes](#)

The Diocese of Coventry net zero carbon podcast [Zero Interest](#)

The [Leading](#) podcast shares interviews by Rory Stewart and Alastair Campbell with interesting people, such as Mark Carney (episode 44) and Christiana Figueres (episode 49).

In [Outrage and Optimism](#) Christiana Figueres, Tom Rivett-Carnac and Paul Dickinson discuss climate science and policy.

[The Climate Question](#) from the BBC World Service is informative.

[Let us know](#) your recommendations.

Biodiversity action of the month

In January the RSPB run the [Big Garden Birdwatch](#) citizen science survey. Spend an hour watching between 24–26 January. The data gathered each year is valuable to monitor species trends. Take part in your own garden and/or in your churchyard. There is also a [Big Schools Birdwatch](#) from 7 January – 14 February.

Also think about providing spring flowers for food for the invertebrates likely to emerge, hungry, in early spring. The following are particularly helpful: dandelions (no need to weed the lawn!), wallflowers, pulmonaria, hawthorn and crab apple. Detailed guidance is available: [Take action for insects](#).

BBOWT campaign

The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust are asking us to write to our MPs about increasing protection for chalk streams, one of the rarest habitats on earth. For more information see [Save our Chalk Streams](#).

And finally...

If you can't get outside to enjoy God's creation currently, or struggle with the dark of winter, three short [films from Plantlife](#) provide virtual exploring and relaxation opportunities. While considering wellbeing, here are [nine things](#) to do for both your health and our planet.

Terracycling at St Mary's Church as of February 2025

Ink 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 the bottles only the Triggers



Bras



Burts Bee's

All brands 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





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 February 2025 at 6pm
Theme-'Fishing'**

FUN - GAMES - ACTIVITIES - SNACKS

St Mary's Church Burghfield

Welcoming all, growing faith, serving others

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 14th February 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!

st Mary's Burghfield

Welcoming all, growing faith, serving others

Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group

Monday's

9.30-11am

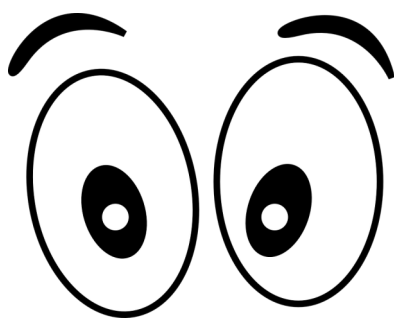
(term time only)



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**

First group back after the Christmas break



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

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.



Quiz Night with a Fish & Chip Supper

FRIDAY 28TH FEBRUARY, 7.30pm

In aid of The Children's Society

Teams of up to 6, £12 per person.

Bring your own drink and cutlery please.

To book your tickets please contact either

Colin Thompson on 0118 9832603 or Pat Glover on 0118 9833812



The Children's Society

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



Church Maintenance Continues

Three of the high level flood lights at the back of the Church failed making it very dark in the rear of the Church. The fabric team set to work, erected the church tower scaffold and replaced the three flood lights.

Many thanks to Don, Clive, Colin, Iain and Brian for giving up a morning and bringing light back into the Church.



CHANGES IN OUR CAR PARK

You may have noticed over the past month or so a few changes taking place in our carpark. Mini Oaks preschool have requested permission to change over their old, damp sheds for a lovely new one, below is the stages of work.

Hoping to report next month when the new shed arrives.





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.

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>

2025 Fundraising THINKING CAPS ON PLEASE

Our small Fundraising Team are discussing some events and would welcome your help with suggestions and some new ideas, please. What would you like us to arrange? Please tell us, so that we can plan events that you, your friends and family would like to enjoy and join in with.

Many thanks for your very generous support so far and we hope we can all enjoy some fun sociable events throughout this year.

Margaret Lesley Alison and Anne.



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



Easyfundraising Update



So far 13 people have raised an incredible £433.93 by using Easyfundraising when doing online shopping.

We have been paid £254.99 and expect a further circa £100 when the next Quarterly payment is made in mid February.

Thank you to everyone who has used this easy and free opportunity to boost our Church finances.

If you haven't already used Easyfundraising and you shop online, Please speak to Anne Pocock, if you'd like to know more about how to help us raise even more for Church funds.



Church Cleaning

Please join our happy band in cleaning our Church. **Our next cleaning date is Saturday 22nd February 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



HS Pilates.com

Pilates with Heather 9.30-11.30am (upper room)

Call Heather on 07785 25431

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 - 8.30 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: amandacfox@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





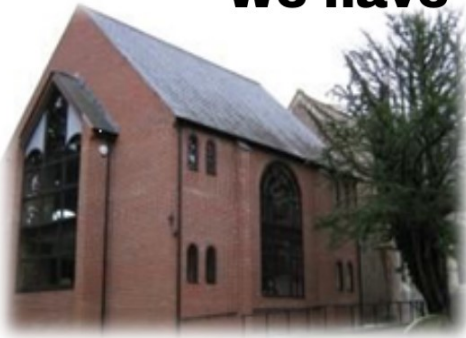
st Mary's Burghfield

Welcoming all, growing faith, serving others



**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**