

JANUARY 2026 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.

I recently heard of a survey of over 2000 UK adults, conducted for the Christian Charity Tearfund, where nearly 50% planned to attend a service over Christmas this year. I found that hugely encouraging! Over the years we have heard of and seen so much decline, and it's really good to hear a more positive response. At Christians we know the joy and delight that comes from knowing Jesus, and to hear of more people willing to explore that relationship with God for themselves, is really promising.

Christmas is almost upon us, and we have enjoyed many services and functions so far. In the busyness, I pray that you have also had time to prepare your own hearts, minds and souls, to welcome anew the Christ Child. To explore the wonder of his birth and all that means for us as God's people, and as his individual beloved children.

At our recent Sunday@6 where we explored the theme of 'Rejoice', I was speaking about the difference between 'happiness' and 'joy'. Happiness or being happy, is often momentary and dependent on circumstances, people and emotions. Joy on the other hand is something very different and I really found this definition helpful; *Joy is an unshakeable spiritual reality found in God's presence.* Or as the letter in 1 Peter 1 describes it,

⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

Despite our circumstances, our emotions, even the reality of our lives, we can all know that deep inner joy that comes from knowing and loving our awesome God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

As Christians we celebrate this good news always, and at particular times of the year even more so.

What we can hope and pray for, is that our rejoicing, our praise, our joy, and our lives of faith, may be a witness for others to come to know the deep, inner peace that only Jesus Christ brings into a chaotic suffering and dark world. His light dispels the darkness and brings hope for the future.

May I wish you all a peace filled Christmas, with time amidst the festivities, to celebrate with joy, the coming of the Christ Child.

And as we look to 2026, may the new year bring many blessings, renewed joy, hope, and peace.

With every Blessing

Revd Glynn

Rejoice, Christ is Born!





Here's
What's
Happening!

20th December through to 5th January Jo our Parish Administrator on Annual Leave

Sunday 21st Dec	9am Breakfast@Church, 10am Parish Communion Service & via Zoom with Bishop Mary Gregory, Area Bishop of Reading 6pm Nine Lessons & Carols Service in Church, see page 4
Monday 22nd Dec	9am Morning Prayer
Wed 24th Dec	CHRISTMAS EVE - 3pm & 5pm Christingle Service in Church, see page 4 11.30pm Midnight Communion Service in Church
Thurs 25th Dec	CHRISTMAS DAY - 10am All Age Service in Church (no Communion)

26th December through to 3rd January 2026 Revd Glynn on Annual Leave

Sunday 28th Dec	10am Parish Communion Service & via Zoom with Revd Juliet Straw
Sunday 4th January	EPHIPHANY 10am Parish Communion Service & via Zoom
Mon 5th Jan	Schools Back 8am Morning Prayer Service in Church 9.30-11am 1st SESSION BACK Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church, see page 9
Sunday 11th Jan	10am Parish Communion Service & via Zoom 6pm Sunday@6 Service in Church
Mon 12th Jan	8am Morning Prayer Service in Church 9.30-11am Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church
Tues 13th Jan	5-10pm Hire by Oxford Diocese, Service & Presentation in Church & Parish Centre
Fri 16th Jan	6.30-8pm Youth Club in the Parish Centre, see page 10
18th - 25th January	WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY
Sat 17th Jan	Interment of Ashes, RIP Christine Beasley
Sunday 18th Jan	9am Breakfast@Church 10am Parish Communion Service & via Zoom 11.30am Interment of Ashes RIP Anne Ita Heavey
Mon 19th Jan	8am Morning Prayer Service in Church 9.30-11am Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church 7.30 PCC meeting in the Parish Centre
Wed 21st Jan	Meters being updated in Parish Centre & Church
Sunday 25th Jan	10am Parish Communion Service & via Zoom
Mon 26th Jan	8am Morning Prayer Service in Church 9.30-11am Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church
Wed 28th Jan	9.30am Ecumenical Communion Service held at Burghfield Methodist Church

There is still time to join in with our Advent Trail, pictures will be up until Christmas eve so you can do the trail in any order whenever the weather allows!

st Mary's Church Burghfield

Welcoming all, growing faith, serving others

Advent Window Trail



From Advent Sunday,
30th November until Christmas Eve there
will once again be a fun family trail
around Burghfield Common, hosted by
some of our church families.

The theme is "Christmas Animals"

Visit all our Advent Windows, enjoy the
Christmas story again, and collect the
puzzle letters. Bring the completed puzzle
back to church (to any of our events in
the build up to Christmas) & receive a
special Christmas prize!

If you have any questions please contact us.

Email: stmarysburghfield@outlook.com

Phone: 07979 871608





The
Children's
Society

**Join us at either of our
Christingle Services on
Christmas Eve
Wednesday 24th
December**

3pm & 5pm

st Mary's Church Burghfield

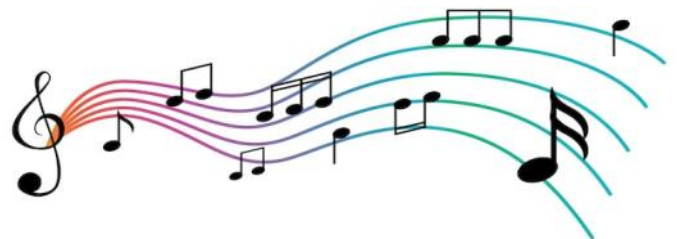
Welcoming all, growing faith, serving others

Church Lane, Burghfield Village, Bershire, RG30 3TG



Our 9 lessons and carols service is on
Sunday 21st December at 6pm. As usual
we will be running a turn up and sing
choir that will meet at 3.30pm in Church
to learn some simple carols and lead the

singing for the service. If you would like to join the choir just turn up, if you
would like some more information drop Gill an email gillwsinclair@gmail.com



Toy Sunday & Cowshed Delivery

7th December 2025

Giving thanks to God for the wonderful generosity of our Church family and local community, who joined together to support the Cowshed Tree of Hope.

The gifts were all blessed in our service on 7th December and over 100 taken to the Cowshed in the afternoon for wrapping. What an amazing charity to support, and thinking of all the children and families who will be blessed this Christmas through these gifts.

Thank you to everyone who donated gifts this year.



CAROLS ON THE HATCH

Despite the chilly wet weather and it being extremely muddy under-foot, we had a very festive time down by our beautiful village Christmas Tree, singing carols accompanied by Tadley Brass band.

All funds donated went to The Children's Society.



Children's Society funds raised from recent events -

Cake stall	£165	
Carols on the Hatch	£178	
Sale of Christmas cards	£136	Grand total £479

Thank you everyone.

Christmas Tree Festival 2025

What a fabulous weekend, we had 24 trees all decorated beautifully and using such imaginative ideas to tie in with our Silver theme.



Congratulations to the peoples choice winners - Children's category goes to Girl Guiding (left) & the adult category awarded to H D Landscapes/ Sunflower Crafts (right)



We were celebrating 25years since the building & opening of the Parish Centre, and God's provision in that time for all the Mission, Ministry & Outreach to our Community which has taken place.

Also giving thanks for our renewed commitment to caring for God's beautiful creation and the achievement of our Silver Eco Church award this year.



Christmas Craft Market - 6th December

Thank you to everyone that supported this event, it felt very festive and had such a great atmosphere, so if you popped along we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did & managed to get some Christmas shopping done at the same time.

A big Thank you to everyone that helped on the day, Jo & Megan for arranging and overseeing the day, Harvey & Murray in the Car Park ensuring we all parked safely, Sarah on the Mulled Wine Stall, Café B & our Church team who provided us with much needed hot drinks, lovely soup & delicious cakes, Our Stall Holders who gave us a wonderful variety of items to browse around & to everyone that visited without all of you we couldn't have wonderful community events like this.



In the evening the Fundraising Team provided a beautiful evening of music, words and canapes around the Christmas Trees, a very special time was had by all.





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
5th January 2026**

**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

FUN - GAMES - ACTIVITIES - SNACKS

st Mary's Church Burghfield

Welcoming all, growing faith, serving others

Youth Club

6:30-8:00

FRIDAY

16TH JANUARY 2026

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

Questions? - stmarysburghfield@outlook.com

OUR NEXT YOUTH CLUB GROUP IS ON FRIDAY 16TH JANUARY. 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.



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 11th January 2026 at 6pm

Theme 'Journey'

It's almost that time of year again...

The Englefield Estate Snowman Trail will be taking place from the 18th Dec through to 5th January.

Our Youth Group has designed and painted a Snowman for the trail and we hope lots of you will go out and hunt it down.

We'd love to see your photos of it.

Send them to us at stmarysburghfield@outlook.com and we will post as many of them as we can in the new year on our Facebook page for everyone to enjoy.

Information about the trail will be found on Englefield Estates web page from 17th December: <https://www.inglefieldestate.co.uk/community/public-access> (you'll need to copy & past the link). Here is a photo of ours in the painting stage.



Project "Wishlist"

Thank you to everyone who completed the form to rank potential projects we could undertake "when funding allows". The analysis of the data has now been undertaken and the number one priority (by both number of people supporting it, and the priority those people gave it) is to replace the current hymnal machine. This has been assessed as medium cost so may be achievable in the medium term, or we may find someone willing to sponsor a replacement.

Second on the list is internal redecoration of the church building.

Due to the Grade II* listing of the building this can only be undertaken by specialist heritage contractors so is likely to be a much higher cost that will need significant legacy or grant funding to implement.

Third on the list is to improve and extend the surface of the large car park.

Fourth was better lighting for the churchyard path. This was the only low-cost item high up the priority list and has already been completed. The floodlight in the tower can be switched on in the porch for events and Services. When locking up on a dark evening, with the switch in the off-position, a push-button delay will turn the light on for approximately ninety seconds, allowing time to reach the car park.

Other priority items were:

- Improving the churchyard path (more solid/fewer puddles)
 - Improving external signage for approaching traffic
 - Solar panels on the Parish Centre and/or Church roof
- Replacing the Septic Tank with a small treatment works
- Publicising church activities in the Eye magazine

This list will help us to focus our attentions when applying to grant-making bodies.

However, we need to bear in mind that there are other, higher priority, items that need to be tackled first; such as replacing the rotting Parish Centre window and key items identified in the Quinquennial Report. Should other things fail (e.g. the boilers) these will also have to take priority.

If you are interested in contributing to any of these projects, either directly, or as a future legacy, then please contact one of the Church Wardens, Mike Wood & Alison Eves.

CHURCH FLOWERS

I have been on the Church flower rota for at least 40 years and have been organising the rota for 20 and I now feel the time has come to retire from the organising (I will remain on the rota)

At present we have 5 flower arrangers so we are looking for someone who will organise the rota and any volunteers who would like to join the flower arranging group. The flowers in Church are appreciated by many and it would be sad if we no longer have any flowers.

If you are willing to take on either of these roles please give me a ring on 0118 9833562 and I will explain what it entails.

Thank you

Margaret Towle



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



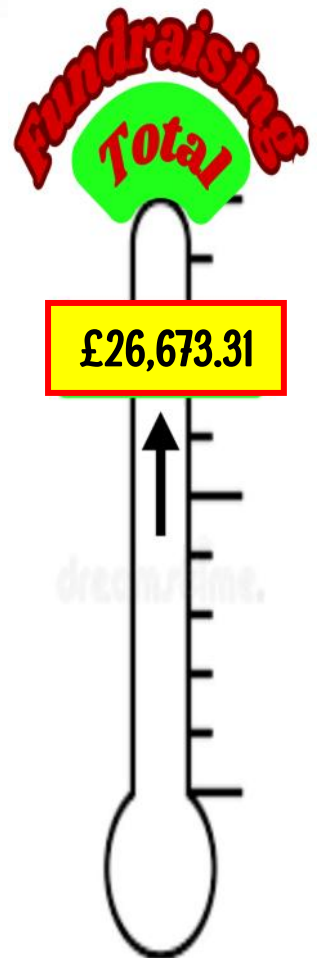


2026 Dates for your diaries

Watch this space for our upcoming events for 2026.
If you would like to get involved and join the fundraising team please contact Anne Pocock on the details below.

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 6.30pm (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

Yoga with Julie 7.30-9pm (upper room)

Contact: julie_yoga@btinternet.com



HS Pilates.com

Burghfield & Mortimer Photo Club 7.30pm (lower room)

Contact: burghfieldccsec@gmail.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



PLENTY OF FREE PARKING FOR ALL GROUPS USING THE PARISH CENTRE



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**