

## FEBRUARY 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.**

It seems time has flown rather fast since Christmas, as we are about to arrive at the end of January already! For the Church we have been in the Christmas–Epiphany season since Christmas day, and the 40 days of this season is about to end as we come to a lovely celebration we know as Candlemas, or now more commonly known as the 'Presentation of Christ in the Temple. The traditional date is 2nd February or the closest Sunday. It falls on 1st February this year and the service is very symbolic as the introduction to the service reminds us:

In this eucharist, we celebrate both the joy of his coming and his searching judgement, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion.

We enact this symbolically as we light our candles at the end of the service, from the white candle of our Advent wreath, lit on Christmas Day to celebrate the birth of the Messiah, the 'light of the world'. We spread that light around the congregation, and are reminded that as Simeon beheld the little child, the long awaited Messiah, he burst into a song of praise and prophecy, which still echoes down the ages in the words of the Nunc Dimittis, which we repeat:



Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace,  
your word has been fulfilled.  
My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared  
in the sight of every people.  
A light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel.

Finally, at the 'Dismissal', we are called to continue to shine that light into the world, as we 'turn from the crib to the cross'. A light that despite the state of the world still shines through those of us who trust and believe in Jesus.

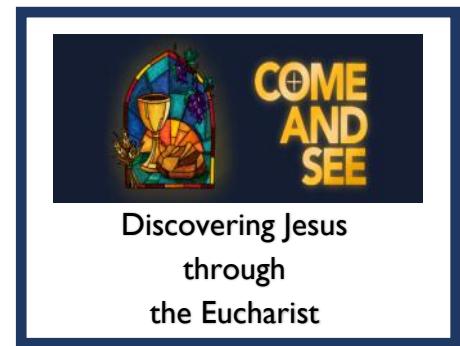
And, after just a few short weeks, we do turn, this time to our next church season of Lent, journeying and looking towards all that Jesus accomplished on the cross. Lent is a good opportunity to deepen or explore our faith further, and this year's Lent Course has been produced once again by the Diocese with Bishop Steven.

You can find out more details on page 9

I do invite you to 'come and see' for yourself, either as an individual receiving daily reflections, or joining together in one of the Lent groups I'm offering, or even better joining in both! Together we will find out more as we discover Jesus through the Eucharist.

So as Lent begins on Ash Wednesday with an evening service of Communion and Ashing (marking our foreheads with ash), what better way to both begin our Lenten Journeys, and to set the scene for this year's theme of 'Come and See'. I hope to see you there.

With every Blessing





# Here's What's Happening!

Sunday 1st February	10am Parish Communion Service & via Zoom
Mon 2nd Feb	8am Morning Prayer Service in Church 9.30-11am Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church
Sat 7th Feb	2-4pm Private booking in the Parish Centre
Sunday 8th Feb	10am Parish Communion Service & via Zoom 6pm Sunday@6 Service in Church
Mon 9th Feb	8am Morning Prayer Service in Church 9.30-11am Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church
Sunday 15th Feb	9am Breakfast@Church 10am Parish Communion Service & via Zoom

## 16th - 22nd FEBRUARY SCHOOLS HALF TERM

Mon 16th Feb	9am Morning Prayer Service in Church
Tues 17th Feb	Flooring in Parish Centre entrance hall is being replaced so no access
Wed 18th Feb	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 7.30pm Ash Wednesday Service in Church
Thurs 19th Feb	11.15am Communion Service held at The Hollies Care Home
Fri 20th Feb	2-5pm Whist Drive in the Parish Centre, see page 7 7.30pm Children's Society Quiz night with Fish & Chip Supper, see pg 8
Sunday 22nd Feb	10am Parish Communion Service & via Zoom 12noon Baptism in Church
Mon 23rd Feb	8am Morning Prayer Service in Church 9.30-11am Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church 2-3.30pm Come & See Lent Course, 1:5, see page 9 for information
Tues 24th Feb	7.30-9pm Come & See Lent Course, 1:5, see page 9 for information
Wed 25th Feb	9.30am Ecumenical Communion Service held at Burghfield Methodist Church
Fri 27th Feb	6-8.30pm Youth Club in the Parish Centre, see page 5
Sunday 1st March	10am Parish Communion Service & via Zoom 11.45am Baptism in Church
Mon 2nd Mar	8am Morning Prayer Service in Church 9.30-11am Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church

## Information from the Diocese about the appointment of the next Bishop of Oxford and what part we can all play in the appointment.



### Prayer resources for churches and clergy

As part of the process of seeking our next Bishop of Oxford – the first stage of which ends next week – we are asking people across the Diocese to pray.

We are asking for prayers for those working on this process, which will at least last for all of 2026; for Bishop Steven and his family as he gets ready for retirement; for Bishop Gavin and his family as he prepares to cover the vacancy; and naturally, for the person who will be called to this role.

To support this, we have created a prayer resource pack for churches and the clergy which provides a starting point.

These prayers and others can be found on our website. [www.oxford.anglican.org](http://www.oxford.anglican.org) where we will be building up a Library of Prayer throughout the year.

While the Prayer sub-group of the Vacancy in See committee is producing prayers for each phase of the process, there can never be too much prayer, so if you would like to share prayers you have written to our library, you would be very welcome to send them to [newbishop@oxford.anglican.org](mailto:newbishop@oxford.anglican.org).

The consultation part of the Vacancy in See process ends next week – Wednesday 4 February at 5pm – meaning there is still time for people to share with us their thoughts.

We are particularly keen to hear from people who are 29 or younger or are living in Berkshire or Buckinghamshire, as we have received fewer responses in those categories.

If you have yet to take part in the consultation, please consider doing so.

If you would like to share the consultation within your church community, please forward this email or manually share this link... <https://oxford.anglican.org/who-we-are/how-we-are-governed/diocesan-synod/vacancy-in-see/consultation.php>

With every blessing,

*Revd Canon Dr Geoff Bayliss, Chair of the Vacancy In See Committee  
Mark Humphriss, Secretary of the Vacancy In See Committee*



**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](http://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 few photo's of our January groups



**FUN - GAMES - ACTIVITIES - SNACKS**

**St Mary's Church Burghfield**

Welcoming all, growing faith, serving others

# Youth Club

6:30-8:00

**FRIDAY**  
**27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

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

Questions? - [stmarysburghfield@outlook.com](mailto:stmarysburghfield@outlook.com)

OUR NEXT YOUTH CLUB GROUP IS ON FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY. 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.



**Englefield's Snowman Trail** This is our wonderful Snow Angel painted by Youth Club back in November.

A couple of photo's - above is Glynn & Wayne and a couple of children below who obviously loved our Snow Angel out in the woods over Christmas.



January's Group was a special Mystery event which was great fun, a special thanks goes to Gill and Amy for all the hard work you put into it.



## Buy a note and help us sing more notes!



As you probably have noticed, our current hymn machine, having given us fantastic service(!), is now struggling. We would like to replace it, which will cost, depending on what options we choose, just under £3000. Therefore we are appealing for donations to our **Note Appeal & Accessories**, which will be used to buy a new machine and any related accessories.

There are 88 notes on a standard keyboard; if we "buy" each note £30 we will soon be making a joyful noise to the Lord more easily, once more!

All donations are welcome, and please also consider gift aid if you are a tax payer. We will have envelopes for the appeal available in Church, or please let Colin, Alison or Ollie know if you have donated for this cause electronically. Many thanks in anticipation.

Here is a QR code for donations or alternatively you can use our bank details as follows: Co-Operative Bank  
Account Name:- Burghfield Parochial Church Council  
Account Sort Code:- 08-92-99  
Account Number:- 65365696



## Lighthouse Holiday Club

Our PCC have agreed to explore the possibility of running a summer Holiday Club using the resources provided by Lighthouse (<https://www.lighthousecentral.org/>) We are forming a subcommittee to do so with Glynn, Mike and Alison so far, and we would love some more people to join us in exploring this exciting possibility for mission in our community. Please speak to one of us if you're interested.



## **St Mary's Burghfield**

**Welcoming all, growing faith, serving others**



**Come and join us for our**

# **Whist Drive**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**2-5pm**

**Enjoy a friendly game of cards and  
tasty refreshments**



Held at The Parish Centre, St Mary's Church,  
Church Lane, Burghfield, RG30 3TG

**All donations in aid of much needed church funds**

Book your place via Anne Pocock on 07713 911748  
or [bannepocock@aol.com](mailto:bannepocock@aol.com)



The  
Children's  
Society



# **Fish & Chip Supper and Quiz Night**

## **Friday 20th February 2026**

**7.30pm**

Book your team in for an evening of testing your knowledge whilst enjoying a supper & good company to help raise funds for The Childrens Society.

Tickets are £12 per person, teams of up to 6.

Please bring your own drink & cutlery.

Book your places via Colin Thompson at  
[colin@coltbus.plus.com](mailto:colin@coltbus.plus.com)

**st Mary's Burghfield**

Welcoming all, growing faith, serving others

# Lent Course 2026

From the Diocese.....



## Discovering Jesus through the Eucharist

Explore the profound meal at the heart of Christian life

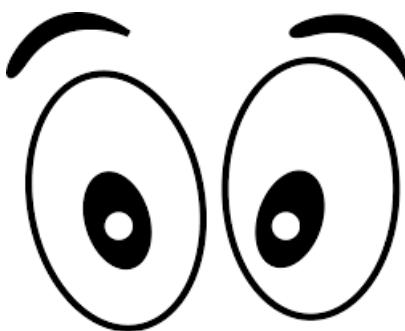
- whether you're new to

Christianity or have been coming to church for years.

Come and See is a free online experience to explore spirituality and find out more about the Christian faith. Sign up below to get daily emails through Lent, with reflections, readings and encouragements. Each Sunday, there's a video from Bishop Steven, unpacking another aspect of the Eucharist.

### Copy & Paste this link to register

<https://mailchi.mp/oxford.anglican.org/qcy33kirw8>



In addition we will be holding two 'Come and See' groups during Lent, each 5 weeks, to discuss the group material. They will both take place at my house, The Rectory Hollybush Lane, RG7 3JL. Anyone is welcome to come and join in.

### Mondays at 2pm – 3.30pm

Starting 23<sup>rd</sup> February and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March

### Tuesdays 7.30-9.00pm

Starting 24<sup>th</sup> February and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March

While face to face groups are always better, if people are interested in joining in via zoom on the **Tuesday nights** then I could make that provision.

Please let me know.

*Revd Glynn*

<https://mailchi.mp/oxford.anglican.org/qcy33kirw8>



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 8th February 2026 at 6pm**



### *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.



### *Save the Dates!*

Connor is nearing the end of his training in our parish and there are 2 important dates to celebrate his ministry among us.

**Sunday 7th June 10am** will be Connor's last service with us followed by a bring and share lunch.

**Saturday 4th July** - Connor will be ordained Deacon at Christchurch Cathedral in Oxford (time TBC) and we hope that a group from our parish will be able to come along to support Connor and Lois on this special celebration.

**UPDATED**  
**Terracycling at**

**St Mary's Church October 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, nitrate, 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,**

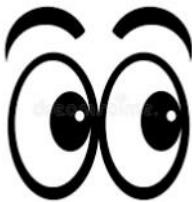
**Alternatively you can recycle candles at Waitrose, Thatcham**



**Stamps**



**Bras**



**NO OTHER ITEMS CAN BE LEFT AT OUR COLLECTION POINT PLEASE**

**Terracycling at St Mary's Church**

We currently have one collection bin that is not being used and we are looking for ideas on what we can collect to make better use of the space we have and help our planet in the process.

If you have any ideas on an item that can be collected and recycled that is not taken by our kerbside recycling then please let us know, whatever it is obviously needs to fit into the bins we have in our porch.



## Eco Tips for February



This Lent, take part in Climate Steward's Carbon Fast. Lent is a time when Christians traditionally fast and focus on God. The Carbon Fast will help you consider ways to live more simply, give you new ideas to cut your carbon footprint and invite you to focus on God and consider the whole of his creation. Beginning on 5 March, you'll receive a weekly email containing key facts, suggestions for how you could reduce your carbon footprint and a prayer to lead you through this Lenten season. Each week features a different theme designed to help us take climate action in manageable ways that bear witness to a God who has promised to restore all of his creation.

**Find out more and sign up at**

**[climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast/](https://climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast/)**



**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



**Date for your diaries** - If you run an Eco Friendly stall & would like to join us at our Eco Festival in October please get in touch with Jo at [stmarysburghfield@outlook.com](mailto:stmarysburghfield@outlook.com) to discuss.



# ECO FESTIVAL



**Promoting Care for our Planet**

**SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2026**

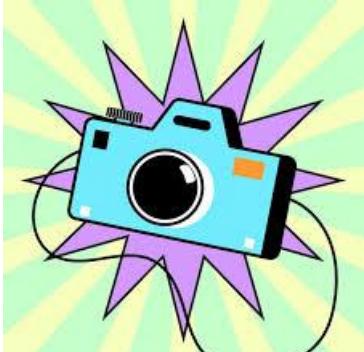
**11-4PM**



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

**Go to our website, Facebook  
page - St Mary's Burghfield  
to find out more as it gets  
planned throughout the year.**

## **Photo Competition**



We will again be running our Photo Competition alongside the Eco Festival and this years theme will be “**Energy**” interpret that however you wish. Send your photos in whenever is convenient to [ecophotocompetition@stmarysburghfield.org](mailto:ecophotocompetition@stmarysburghfield.org)

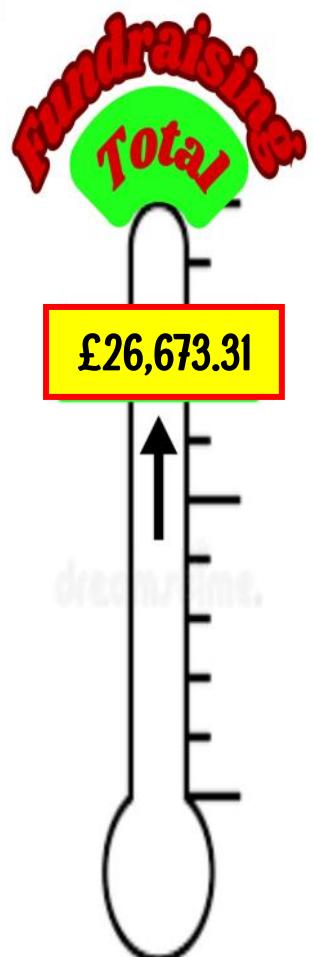
# St Mary's Fundraising

## 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.

[banne.pocock@aol.com](mailto:banne.pocock@aol.com) or 07713 911748

**The cost to run our Church in 2025 was £8643 per month  
which is £284 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=1vyzji&referral-campaign=s2s&utm\\_campaign=web-referral](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=49900&invite=1vyzji&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.**



**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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@stmarysburghfield.org)

### To Contact the Churchwardens:

Michael Wood– Email: [mike.wood@stmarysburghfield.org](mailto:mike.wood@stmarysburghfield.org)

Alison Eves—Email: [alison.eves@stmarysburghfield.org](mailto:alison.eves@stmarysburghfield.org)

Website: [www.stmarysburghfield.org](http://www.stmarysburghfield.org)

Find us on [Facebook](#) 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](mailto: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](mailto:hello@pilatesforlife.org.uk)

## WEDNESDAY

Yoga with Janet 9.45-11.45am (upper room)

Contact: [janetdacre@hotmail.com](mailto:janetdacre@hotmail.com)

 Weight Watchers 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](mailto:julie_yoga@btinternet.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](mailto: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)

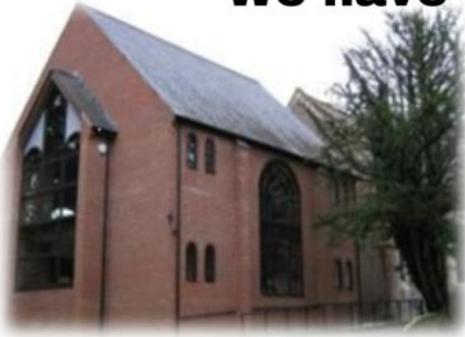
Contact Ewa: [burghfielddanceclub@gmail.com](mailto:burghfielddanceclub@gmail.com)

PLENTY OF FREE PARKING FOR ALL GROUPS USING THE PARISH CENTRE



**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 Servery**

**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](mailto:stmarysburghfield@outlook.com)**

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