

NOVEMBER 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.

This year really seems to be flying past, well for me anyway! With enjoying my 3 month sabbatical as well as having my usual leave, when I said I would be on leave over the October half term, someone commented, 'again'? I have enjoyed all my leave this year, made many wonderful memories, and since a sabbatical only comes around every 10 years it's worth enjoying when it happens. Though it does seem to have somehow sped the year up and I can't quite believe November is fast approaching!

November is a month with several special services and community events and is a traditional time of 'remembering'. Through the Festival of 'All Saints' (Sunday 2nd November) we remember the many Christians who have died in the faith. Those who have dedicated their lives to following Christ and yet are also very ordinary people, just like you or me. Many of us lead very simple lives of faith while others are called in extraordinary ways to make a difference in the world. All of us are loved and valued by God our heavenly Father and we should celebrate our unique abilities.

In the afternoon of 2nd November at 3.00pm we will hold our annual service of 'All Soul's' as we commemorate all our loved ones who have died in recent or past times. It is a specially poignant service as we gather together and read our loved ones names and light candles to remember them. More information on page 6.

We then come to Remembrance Sunday, 9th November, which begins with a 9am Said Communion Service. This is followed by our Community Remembrance Sunday service at 10.45am around the Burghfield War Memorial, when we remember, give thanks for, and honour, all who have died in service of our country in wars past and present. It is a solemn occasion as we gather together as a whole community in Burghfield, with representation from local and uniformed organisations as well as members of our local churches.

As we move through these services, we cannot miss the opportunity to remember all that God has done for us in Christ Jesus. Our whole Christian faith is about remembering God's work in the world and in our lives. In every Communion service we say the words 'Do this in remembrance of me' as we celebrate the life, death and resurrection of our saviour Jesus Christ. And what they mean for us. In this season of 'remembering' I encourage you to remember your own roots of faith, and the ways in which God has been present in your life, whether you have been a Christian for many years or just a few, you will have memories. These are foundation blocks to build on or continue to build on. They are memories to return to in the future when we face times of struggle, sadness and challenge.

I came across this beautiful poem, which seems so appropriate to this theme of 'Remembering'. I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

With every Blessing
Rev'd Glynn

O Remember, Remember

Each life refines a heart divine.

Our spirit gifts abound.

*As God's own children, we belong
where light and love are found.*

*Sin has no hold upon our hearts
unless we give it space,
and sorrow turns to gladness as
we move from grief to grace.*

*When troubles call, when shadows fall;
sometimes, we doubt our worth.*

*The Spirit whispers gently to
remind us of our birth:*

*We came from beauty all around,
from peace and lovingkindness.*

God's plan of joy meant risk and growth.

*Let soft stirrings remind us
how eagerly we came to earth,
determined to stand true.*

The Savior made that possible.

By His grace, we are new.

Remember, O remember Christ.

He tells us who we are.

*His lamp, bright beacon to the soul,
will be our morning star.*

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Here's What's Happening!

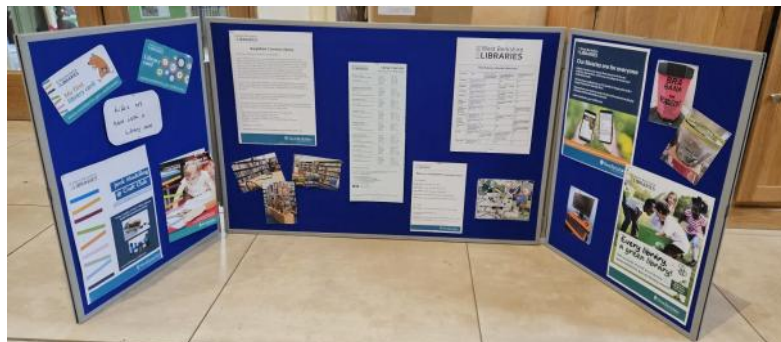
26th October - 1st November - Revd Glynn on Annual Leave

- Sat 1st Nov 9.30-12.30pm Community Churchyard Work Party, see page 7
- Sunday 2nd Nov **ALL SAINTS & ALL SOULS DAY**
10am Parish Communion Service & Via Zoom
3pm All Souls Commemoration Service in Church followed by refreshments
- Sunday 9th Nov **REMEMBRANCE DAY**
9am Said Communion service in Church
10.45am Community Remembrance Service with parade
6pm Sunday@6 service in Church
- Mon 10th Nov 8am Morning Prayer service in Church
9.30-11am Bumps, Babies & Toddler group in Church
- Thurs 13th Nov 9.30am Burghfield St Mary's school Service in Church
- Sat 15th Nov 10.30am - 12noon Save The Children Charity using the Car Parks
- Sunday 16th Nov **SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY**
9am Breakfast@Church
10am Parish Communion Service & Via Zoom
2-4pm Private party in the Parish Centre
- Mon 17th Nov 8am Morning Prayer service in Church
9.30-11am Bumps, Babies & Toddler group in Church
7.15pm for a 7.30pm start - 9.30pm PCC meeting in the Parish Centre
- Thurs 20th Nov 11am Communion service held at The Hollies Care Home
- Fri 21st Nov 6.30-8pm Youth Club in The Parish Centre
- Sat 22nd Nov 10-11.30am Crafty Church, theme Advent, see page 10
- Sunday 23rd Nov **CHRIST THE KING** 10am Parish Communion Service & Via Zoom
- Mon 24th Nov 8am Morning Prayer service in Church
9.30-11am Bumps, Babies & Toddler group in Church
- Tues 25th Nov 7-9pm Advent Wreath Making evening in Church, see page 11
- Sunday 30th Nov **ADVENT SUNDAY**
10am Parish Communion Service in Church & via Zoom
4.45pm for 5pm start Community Carols on The Hatch
- Our Advent Window Trail begins 30th Nov up until Christmas Eve - See page 12 for information



Eco Festival

A selection of photos from our recent Eco Festival in October, thank you to everyone that participated with talks, displays, and stalls. It was a great day.

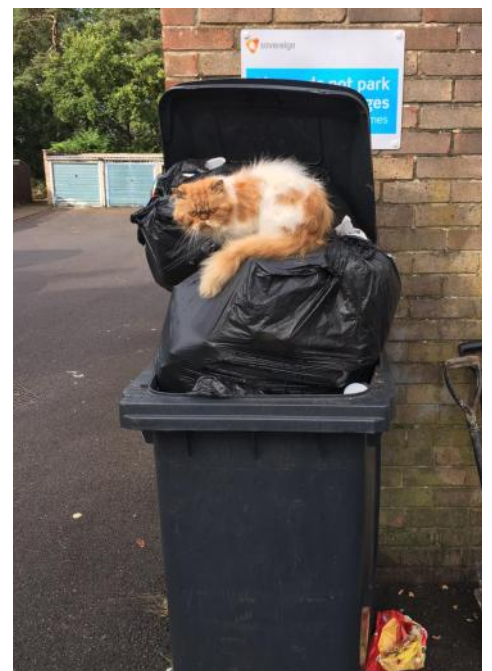


Eco Festival Photo Competition

We had some wonderful entries into our photo competition, but after much deliberation the winner was Mary's amazing photo of Murmuration at Lavells Lake which she is thrilled about as she said it took a quite a few trips out to Dinton Pastures to get the photos, and traipsing back in the dark wasn't always fun! Mary is a member of the Burghfield & Mortimer Photo Club who meet in the Parish Centre on a Thursday evening fortnightly. If you are interested in joining please get in touch with them via this email burghfielccsec@gmail.com



We had a runner up prize also and this went to this photo from Connor, we thought with all the bin collection changes we have had recently this was very apt!



Maintenance

Upstairs in the parish centre we felt there was a benefit in preventing people or equipment from pushing or leaning against the window frame. The frame is very wide and we felt it would benefit from some physical protection. So we have now thanks to Clive & Brian installed a substantial metal handrail fixed in place, the intention was that it visually blends in and doesn't detract from the view.

In Church we make good regular use of the scaffold tower to change light bulbs and do the occasional spot of dusting.



Youth Club

A few photos from our October group, as you can see Pizza's were made & eaten and some fun activities and games played by all.

Our group is open to ALL children in school years 6, 7 & 8, it's a place where they can have fun and build new friendships.

Our club on 21st November is the last for 2025 and we will meet again on Friday 16th January.



Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group - Autumn Term

It was lovely to welcome back so many familiar & new happy faces to our groups in September/October.

Here are a few photos of some of the activities enjoyed.



COMMUNITY CHURCHYARD WORK PARTY

Saturday 1st November, 9.30am—12.30pm

If you are able to spare an hour or two to lend a hand in helping to maintain our beautiful Churchyard and making it easier for families to tend their loved ones graves during the winter months it would be greatly appreciated. Particularly important at this time of year with our Remembrance service taking place on the 9th November.

Refreshments and a slice of cake or biscuits will be on offer to keep energy levels up!.

Many hands make light work so please come along and get involved.



All Souls Service - Sunday 2nd November, 3pm

We would like to invite you and family members to our annual Commemoration Service of thanksgiving and remembrance for those who have died but are still very much in our thoughts.

This simple, reflective service will be a time to be still in God's presence with the memories of our loved ones.

During the prayers we will read the names of those who have died whom we wish to remember and have an opportunity to light candles in their memory.

There are cards at the back of Church for you to fill in the name(s) of your loved ones and pop it in the box or alternatively email (stmarysburghfield@outlook.com) with the name(s) or you can call on 07979871608.

If you are unable to attend the service but would still like the name(s) to be read, just let us know and we will be sure to include them.

After the service there will be refreshments in the Parish Centre for all who would like to stay. There will be church members available to talk or pray with you privately if you wish.

There is no time limit on grief, and many of us carry on for many years wanting to remember and give thanks for those who've been part of our lives. So please join us to remember your loved ones. If you have any special concerns, or you can't come to the service but would still like to meet a member of clergy or a church member to talk or pray at another time, please feel free to contact us.

Harvest Supper

Thank you to everyone that came along and made our Harvest celebration a wonderful evening.



Thanks also to our team of volunteers who without their continued support we wouldn't be able to run events like this.



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 9th November 2025 at 6pm
Theme: "Remembrance"



**The
Children's
Society**

Children's Society Christmas cards.

Pat Glover has the new Christmas Card catalogues which you will be able to look at in Church. There is no post or packing charge.

Payment by cash or bank transfer. If you would like to order, please contact Pat direct .
Additional items can be viewed online @:childrenssociety.org.uk/christmas-cards.

Thank you for your support.

Pat Glover, Tel : 9833812 .email : patriciaglover52@btinternet.com

A Christmas card illustration featuring a baby in a manger, surrounded by a colorful, arched frame with a star at the top.

Toy Sunday – 7th December 2025

Our PCC are very excited to announce that we will be doing something new for our annual 'Toy Sunday' this year! We are participating in the 'Cowshed-Tree of Hope', see information below, and we would like to invite you to join in with us.

Our 'Tree of Hope' will be up in church from the beginning of November, to give you time to come and choose one or more tags to buy the gifts. You are welcome to bring them (the gifts along with their tags, though unwrapped) back to church at any time after that, or specifically in time for our Toy Sunday service on 7th December, where we will bless all the toys. The Cowshed will then come and collect, wrap and distribute them all before Christmas.

Anyone is welcome to collect tags and please spread the word to your family and friends. We hope to support as many families as possible, so their children can receive a Christmas gift this year and enjoy some light and joy despite their circumstances.

If by any chance we run out of tags (I've ordered 100), please do still bring gifts of your choice as they will still be used and very much appreciated.

If you have any questions do get in touch.

Revd Glynn and St Mary's PCC

What is The Cowshed Christmas Project?

At The Cowshed, we support people facing hardship with essentials such as clothing, bedding, toiletries and baby equipment. Since 2019 we have supported over 30,000 individuals in need.

At Christmas, we add a special touch by gifting children from vulnerable families (aged 0-18 years) with brand-new gifts presented in handmade sacks, so every child can experience the joy of Christmas.

These sacks are lovingly made by our Craft @ The Cowshed volunteers, creating something special for each child to keep.



The Cowshed Tree of Hope

Crafty Church

Saturday 22nd November
10 - 11.30am

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

Advent & Christmas themed Crafts.



FREE Tickets are available via this link

<https://tickets.myiknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NTEzMC04/t>

Please copy & paste the link into your browser to book your tickets



st Mary's Church Burghfield

Welcoming all, growing faith, serving others



ADVENT WREATH MAKING EVENING

Tuesday 25th November, 7pm

Join us for our annual festive evening which is always very popular.

Atmosphere is sure to be very festive and always lots of fun so gather your friends & family, & come along to make your very own

Advent Wreath to take home.

Mulled Wine & Nibbles available, donations welcome.

There is no charge to attend, but if you are able to make a donation to cover costs of £7, and perhaps an additional donation of £5 towards the upkeep of the church, that would be very welcome (payable on the door via cash or card)

Please bring along 4 tall candles & any extra foliage/decorations to personalise your Wreath, secateurs are useful too.

We are aiming to be more eco friendly so the majority of our wreaths are biodegradable

Reserve your place via

<https://tickets.myiknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NTEzMC05/t>



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





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



Spread some joy to vulnerable households in your community
Please consider donating the 12 items listed below

Putting your donation in a Xmas Gift Bag will make it even more special!



12 Days of Christmas



Please deliver to our warehouse
80 Greenham Business Park
anytime before
Friday 5th
December



What is a 'Reverse Advent Calendar'?

A reverse advent calendar is where you pick one item a day to donate to your Foodbank. This is a great way to show that Christmas is about giving as well as receiving. This year's calendar is about re-stocking our empty shelves, see our 12 Gifts of Christmas initiative for seasonal treats and extras

1st UHT Milk	2nd Jam	3rd Instant Coffee	4th Tinned Vegetables	5th Tinned Soup
6th Cereal	7th Tinned Fish	8th Baked Beans	9th Pasta	10th Instant Mash
11th Pasta Sauce	12th Sugar	13th Tinned Fruit	14th Non Bio Laundry	15th Rice
16th Deodorant	17th Fruit Juice (Longlife)	18th Confectionary	19th Tinned Custard	20th Toilet Roll
21st Washing Up Liquid	22nd Tinned Tomatoes	23rd Tinned Meat	24th Rice Pudding	

What do I do with it when it is finished?

Please take it to our warehouse, 80 Greenham Business Park, RG19 6HW (Mon-Fri between 9am & 12pm)

Please deliver on or before Monday 22nd December

relieving hunger
restoring dignity
reviving hope



West Berks
Foodbank
Together with Trussell



**PLEASE PUT WEST BERKS FOODBANK IN THE HAT
THIS YEAR AND LET YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT REALLY
MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Instead of doing your traditional office Secret Santa, please consider using your budget to buy food for the food bank this Christmas or making a cash donation

Cash donation can be made to our Just Giving account using the below QR Code



Food donations can be made to our warehouse or in our donation bins in shops or supermarkets



80 Greenham Business Park, Thatcham, RG19 6HW

Christmas Tree Festival

**Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th
December, 12-4pm**

Arrangements are well underway for this years
Christmas Tree Festival with the theme of
'SILVER'

This theme has been chosen for 2 reasons, firstly
it's the 25th anniversary of the opening of the
Parish Centre & secondly to celebrate our
achievement in gaining our Silver Eco award
earlier this year.

This is sure to be a wonderful event with hopefully
more trees than ever decorated by our local
community representing their club, organisation,
charity or local business.

If you'd like to take part please email Jo at
stmarysburghfield@outlook.com for details on how
to join in.



st Mary's Burghfield

Welcoming all, growing faith, serving others



Christmas Craft Market

Saturday 6th December 2025,

12-4pm



to run alongside our annual Christmas Tree Festival

Parish Centre, St Mary's Church Burghfield,
Church Lane, Burghfield Village, RG30 3TG



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st Mary's Church Burghfield

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Music & Words, Wine & Canapes Evening



Saturday 6th December 7.00pm

Enjoy Words & Music and a social time amongst our
Christmas Tree Festival Lights.

Admission £10 to include tasty canapés.

There will be a Bar selling wine and soft drinks

All funds raised will go to Church fundraising

Book via Anne Pocock on 07713911748

or bannepocock@aol.com



St Mary's Fundraising



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 - .

6th December, 12-4pm – Christmas Craft Market

6th December, 7pm – Music/Words, 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 !!



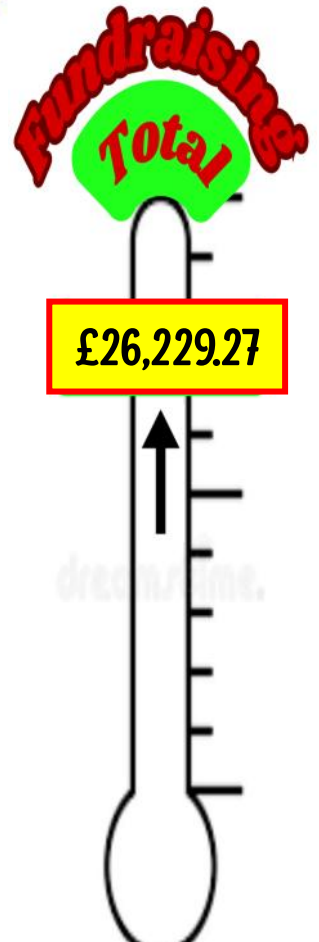
Our Last box raised an amazing £19.15! So please keep your empty cartridges coming

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**