

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 9<sup>th</sup> 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  
Revd 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.*



# 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	<b>ALL SAINTS &amp; ALL SOULS DAY</b> 10am Parish Communion Service & Via Zoom 3pm All Souls Commemoration Service in Church followed by refreshments
Sunday 9th Nov	<b>REMEMBRANCE DAY</b> 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	<b>SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY</b> 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	<b>CHRIST THE KING</b> 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	<b>ADVENT SUNDAY</b> 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.

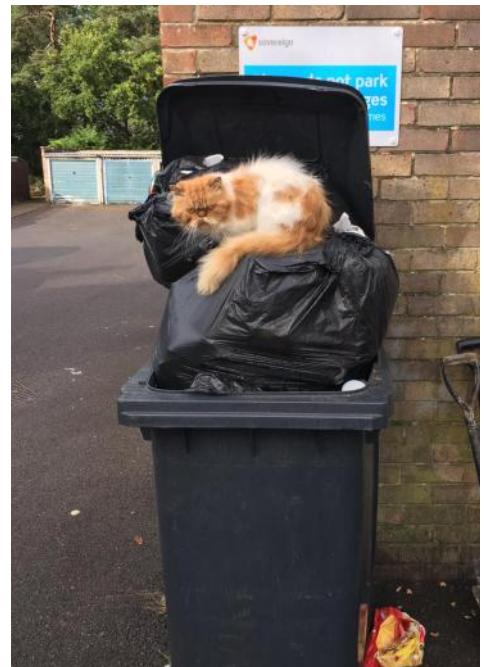


## Eco Festival Photo Competition

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](mailto:burghfielccsec@gmail.com)



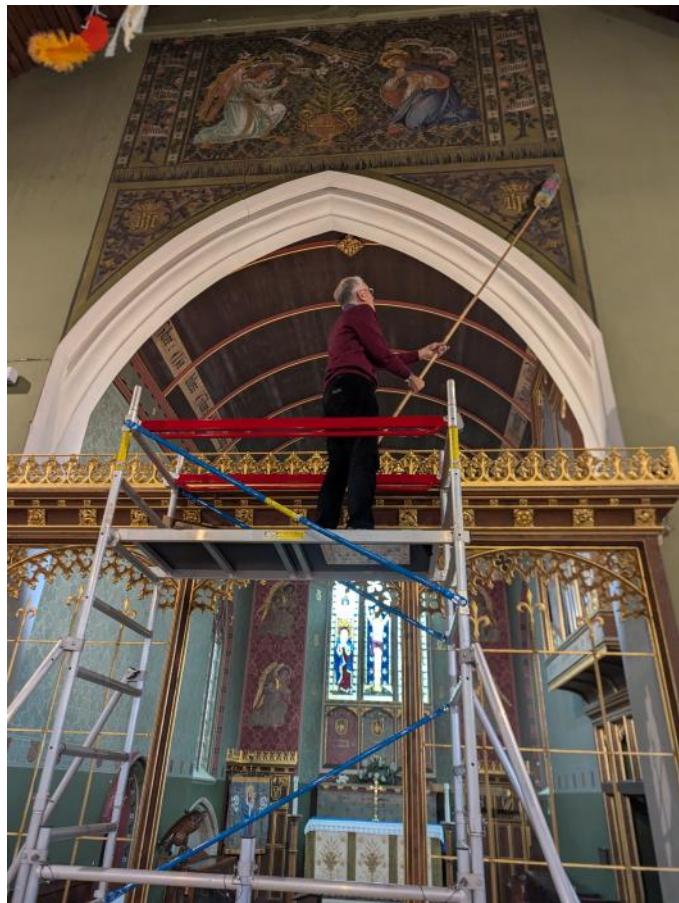
We had a runner up prize also and this went to this photo from Connor, we thought with all the bin collection changes we have had recently this was very apt!



## **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.



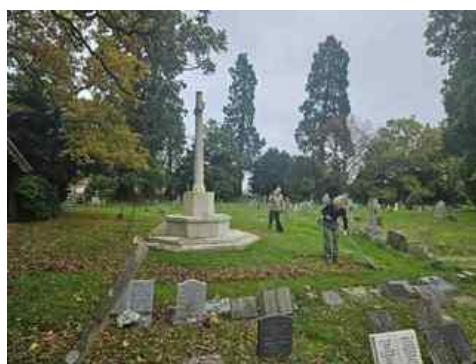
# COMMUNITY CHURCHYARD WORK PARTY

**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](mailto: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"**



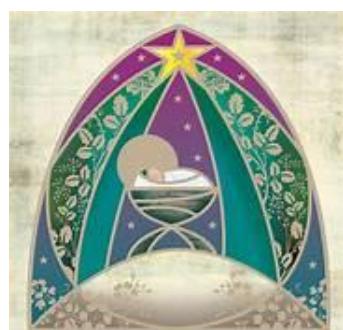
**The Children's Society** *Children's Society Christmas cards.*

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](http://childrenssociety.org.uk/christmas-cards).

Thank you for your support.

Pat Glover, Tel : 9833812 .email : [patriciaglover52@btinternet.com](mailto:patriciaglover52@btinternet.com)



# Toy Sunday – 7<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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



## 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.myknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NTEzM05/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](mailto: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 Foobank, 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**



**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	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
UHT Milk	Jam	Instant Coffee	Tinned Vegetables	Tinned Soup
6th Cereal	Tinned Fish	Baked Beans	Pasta	Instant Mash
11th Pasta Sauce	Sugar	Tinned Fruit	Non Bio Laundry	Rice
16th Deodorant	Fruit Juice (Longlife)	Confectionary	Tinned Custard	Toilet Roll
21st Washing Up Liquid	Tinned Tomatoes	Tinned Meat	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 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

relieving hunger  
restoring dignity  
reviving hope



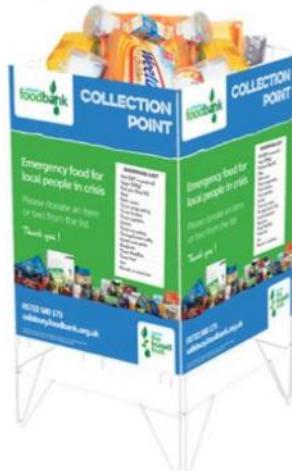
**PLEASE PUT WEST BERKS FOODBANK IN THE HAT  
THIS YEAR AND LET YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT REALLY  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

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 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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

**st Mary's Burghfield**

Welcoming all, growing faith, serving others





**St Mary's Church Burghfield**

*Welcoming all, growing faith, serving others*



# 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 [banne.pocock@aol.com](mailto:banne.pocock@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 - .

6<sup>th</sup> December, 12-4pm – Christmas Craft Market

6<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm – Music/Words, Wine & Canapés

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23<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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=4990&invite=Ivyzji&referral-campaign=s2s&utm\\_campaign=web-referral](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=4990&invite=Ivyzji&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: [burghfieldcesec@gmail.com](mailto:burghfieldcesec@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)

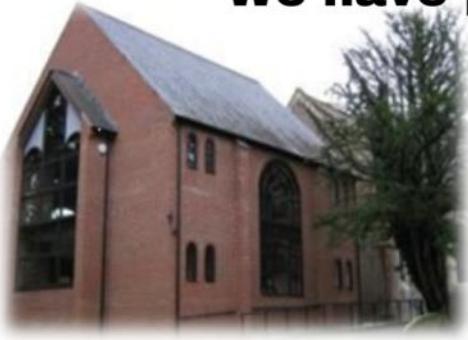
Contact Ewa: [burghfielddanceclub@gmail.com](mailto:burghfielddanceclub@gmail.com)

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**