

## MARCH 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.

As I write this, we are already in the season of Lent. While it's always at this time of year, the actual date varies according to the date of Easter, so this year Ash Wednesday was two weeks earlier than last year. Despite the awful rainy, windy and cold weather, several of our congregation met for our Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday 18th February. I found it a lovely start to Lent, offering an opportunity for quiet and reflection, as we participated in our communion service together.



Having ashes imposed on our foreheads in the sign of the cross, takes us back to the very beginning of creation as these same words were repeated as a reminder of our mortality.

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19)

The ashes in the form of a cross, also mirror's our baptism's, where we were each signed with the cross on our foreheads with these words 'Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his cross. Do not be ashamed of Christ. You are his for ever. (Common Worship Liturgy).

We do belong to Christ, to God's family and as our church family here at St Mary's, to one another. Together we are Christ's disciples, together we journey through this next church season.

So, in the words of the opening liturgy for the Ash Wednesday service:

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.

I do hope that you will take time through Lent, to pause, reflect, pray, study the scriptures, and listen to where God is speaking to you, guiding you, or perhaps even inviting you to explore deeper. One way of

doing so both individually and together is through the Diocese's Lent Course – Come and See- Discovering Jesus through the Eucharist. See page 3 for details on how to sign up to receive daily emails

for reflection and prayer, from the Diocese, as well as an invitation to join in with either of our two Come and See study groups, where we are able to explore the material further in small groups.

I found this beautiful prayer for Lent which you might also like to make you own,

A prayer for the start of Lent

Heavenly Father,

Jesus withdrew from his friends and followers, to spend time with you. And in Psalm 27:14 we're encouraged to 'wait for the Lord, be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.'

Help me take time away from life's busyness to refocus my heart and spirit as I wait for you. I choose to recentre my life on your Word, your teachings and to take heart in all your promises.

Holy Spirit, lead and guide me. Fill me with the hope that is only found in Christ. Thank you that I'm known and loved by you.

Amen.

<https://www.compassionuk.org/>



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 2-3.30pm Come & See Lent Course, 2/5, held at The Rectory
Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	7.30-9pm Come & See Lent Course, 2/5, held at The Rectory
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> Mar	2pm World Day of Prayer held at St Mark's Church Englefield
Sunday 8th Mar	10am <b>Healing Service</b> with Communion Service & via Zoom 6pm Sunday@6 Service in Church
Mon 9th Mar	8am Morning Prayer Service in Church 9.30-11am Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church 2-3.30pm Come & See Lent Course, 3/5, held at The Rectory
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> Mar	7.30-9pm Come & See Lent Course, 3/5, held at The Rectory
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10-11.30am Crafty Church
Sunday 15th Mar	<b>MOTHERING SUNDAY</b> , 9am Breakfast@Church 10am Parish Communion Service & via Zoom Children's Society Cake sale after 10am Service
Mon 16th Mar	8am Morning Prayer Service in Church 9.30-11am Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church 2-3.30pm Come & See Lent Course, 4/5, held at The Rectory 7.15 for 7.30pm PCC meeting in the Parish Centre
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	7.30-9pm Come & See Lent Course, 4/5, held at The Rectory
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> Mar	11am Communion Service held at The Hollies Care Home
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	6.30-8pm Youth Club held in the Parish Centre
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	10am Parish Communion Service & via Zoom
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	8am Morning Prayer Service in Church 9.30-11am Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church 2-3.30pm Come & See Lent Course, 5/5, held at The Rectory
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> Mar	7.30-9pm Come & See Lent Course, 5/5, held at The Rectory
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	9.30am Ecumenical Service at Burghfield Methodist Church
Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10am BSM School Easter Service in Church
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Mar	6-10pm SBCB rehearsal in Church
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> Mar	3-10pm SBCB Rehearsal & 7pm Concert in Church
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10am Parish Communion Service & via Zoom
<b>30<sup>th</sup> March - 12<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>SCHOOL EASTER HOLIDAYS</b>
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	9am Morning Prayer Service in Church
Tues 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	7.30pm Taize Service in Church



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.

Join in our Lent courses held at The Rectory, Hollybush Lane, Burghfield.

Anyone is welcome to come along and join in.

**Mondays at 2pm – 3.30pm. Starting 23rd Feb & 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd March.**

**Tuesdays 7.30-9.00pm. Starting 24th Feb & 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th March**

If people are interested in joining in via zoom on the Tuesday nights

please follow this link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88992414229?pwd=tKgEfxYnDxEtZvgya7MtigOvPawS2H.1>

It's not too late to sign up to the daily emails from the Diocese at Come & See. Sign up  
here to get daily emails through Lent, with reflections, readings and encouragements.

Sign up to Come and See 2026. Revd Glynn

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



## Happy 80th Birthday to Margaret Thomas

As a church family we love joining in with special celebrations, and in January we were able to celebrate Margaret Thomas' 80th Birthday together. I have previously asked for birthdays for members of the congregation, though I know I haven't got everyone's yet. If you didn't receive a birthday card from me last year, that's because I haven't got yours, so please do let me know your full date of birth. I knew it was Margaret's 80th, as I had the year as well, so don't be shy, it's lovely to be able to celebrate milestone's together. Glynn



# You Made Christmas Magical!

## A message from



THE COWSHED

As we reflect on the festive season, we want to send a huge, heartfelt thank you for supporting The Cowshed's Christmas Project. Your generosity truly made a difference.

Here's what you helped us achieve:

🎄 3,012 children across Berkshire woke up to gifts under the tree

📦 21,000+ presents wrapped and packed with care

🏠 1,505 households supported, bringing comfort and joy to entire families

Every gift was chosen with love - from main presents to stocking fillers - so each child felt valued and included.

🔗 <https://www.thecowshed.org/christmas-impact-report/> see the full story of how you helped families feel remembered and celebrated. Please do share this with your friends and colleagues and everyone who played a part in making this very special project happen.

From all of us at The Cowshed, and from every family you supported, thank you for making Christmas brighter for so many.

With warmest gratitude,

Rebecca and Candice

Fundraising Team at The Cowshed



Children's Society  
Cake sale will be held  
after the 10am service  
on 15<sup>th</sup> March, any  
donations gratefully  
received.



## World Day of Prayer

prepared by the Christian Women of  
Nigeria to be held on  
Friday 6th March, 2pm at  
St Mark's Church, Englefield,  
RG7 5EN.

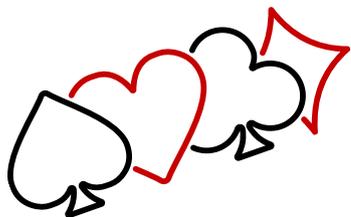
Everyone welcome to attend

## February's Whist Drive

We were joined by 11 people for a fun afternoon playing Whist and enjoying tea and home made cake.

We raised £79.70 for Church funds.

More dates are in the pipeline so keep an eye on our website for details



A decorative border of question marks in green and orange surrounds the text.

The Children's Society logo, featuring a stylized figure and the text "The Children's Society".

## Quiz Night with Fish & Chip Supper

A lovely evening was enjoyed by 47 quizzers.

As usual Colin had prepared a varied set of questions & it was a close competition.

Thanks to everyone who attended & supported the raffle.

**An amazing £370 was raised.**

Pat Glover



**st Mary's Church Burghfield**

Welcoming all, growing faith, serving others

# Easter

## Family Crafty Church

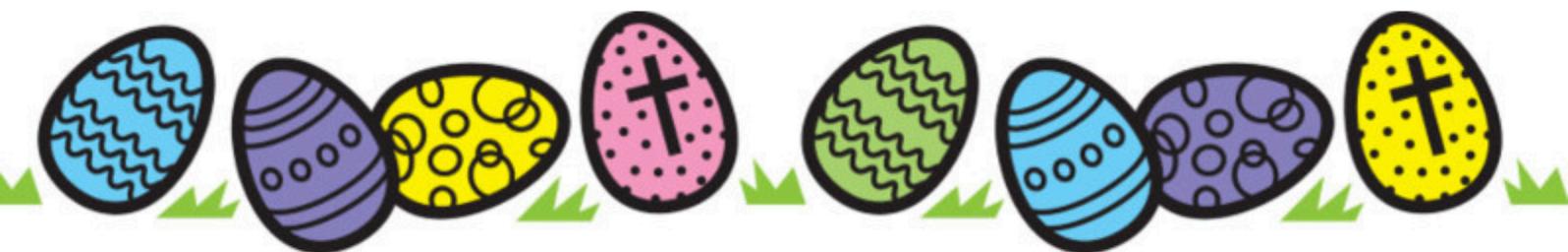
**Saturday 14th March**

**10am - 11.30am**

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

Follow this link to reserve your FREE places

<https://tickets.myknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NTEzMC0xMg/t>



# st Mary's Burghfield

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## 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

Thank you to our team of volunteer toy cleaners (Clive, Anne, Amy, Gill & Glynn pictured but also Jo & Jools) who ensured all our wonderful toys are clean & fit for purpose for the coming term.



**FUN - GAMES - ACTIVITIES - SNACKS**

**st Mary's Church Burghfield**

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

# **Youth Club**

**6:30-8:00**

**FRIDAY**

**20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

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

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

OUR NEXT YOUTH CLUB GROUP IS ON FRIDAY 20TH MARCH 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.

## **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.



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



## UPDATE

We just want to thank everyone who contributed to our "Buy a Note for the Hymnal" fundraiser and after several donations some of which included Gift Aid, we are delighted to say that we have achieved our target. The new Hymnal is now on order and once again our grateful thanks to those that were able to donate towards this. We are looking forward to hearing our improved version in our Sunday Services.



**Ecumenical  
Communion Service**



Short communion service including discussion  
around a bible reading, followed by coffee and  
fellowship in Café B

**Burghfield Methodist Church**

**All are welcome**

9.30am  
Usually the fourth  
Wednesday of the Month





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 March 2026 at 6pm

## 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.*



A huge Thank You to Connor, Mike, Colin, Anne, Clive & Glynn for giving up their time on a wet Saturday morning to give our Church yard a much needed tidy up.



## March Eco Tips



Take part in a local litter pick or beach clean during The Great British Spring Clean (Friday 13-Sunday 29 March), the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign. Litter picking benefits the environment by removing rubbish that can be hazardous for wildlife and helps bring people together. See if there's a litter pick in your local area or consider organising your own - after church on Sunday or with a youth group for example. Pray for your local area as you do the litter pick and ask God for opportunities to share why you are doing it. Find out more and pledge to pick up a bag at [keepbritaintidy.org/our-work/eliminating-litter/great-british-spring-clean](http://keepbritaintidy.org/our-work/eliminating-litter/great-british-spring-clean)

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 6.00am -11pm  
Co-op in Mortimer 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:

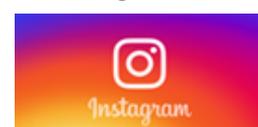
Anne Eatwell

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.

**st Mary's Burghfield**

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# ECO FESTIVAL



*Promoting Care for our Planet*

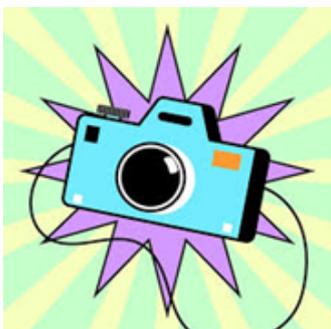
**SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2016**

**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)

**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, nitrile, 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, **Please do not leave glass candle containers** 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.

# St Mary's Fundraising

## 2026 Dates for your diaries

5th April Easter Sunday: St Mary's Market, see page 15

8th May: Spring Craft Evening

June: Curry and Quiz Night

July: Summer Fete/ BBQ

September: Games Night

27th September: Harvest Lunch

9th October: Autumn Craft Evening

13th November 7pm: Pudding Club and Silent Auction

5th December 7pm: Christmas Evening around the Christmas Trees  
AND

We are planning a Barn Dance 🎶👯 Details To Follow.

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 2025 was £8643 per month which is £284 per day !!



Thank you!

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)

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.

Support us through  
**easyfundraising**

# St Mary's Market

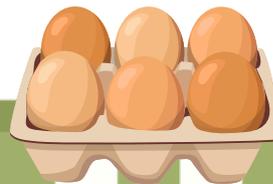
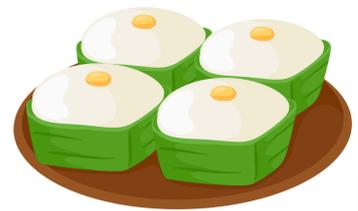
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April,

after the 10am service

Easter Sunday Sale of Produce.

Bring along your hand made / home grown items to sell, to help raise funds for our Church.

See you in the Parish Centre.





## 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



# South Berks Concert Band's *Golden Anniversary*

# *Spring Concert*

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 7pm**

**St Mary's Church, Church Lane,  
Burghfield RG30 3TG**



Adults £10 | 6+ Adults £9 each  
Accompanied U16s free

Tickets from: Baobab in Mortimer, The Fruit Shop in Burghfield,  
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/south-berks-concert-band>  
or [SBCB\\_Music@yahoo.com](mailto:SBCB_Music@yahoo.com)



[www.southberksmusic.org.uk](http://www.southberksmusic.org.uk)



Don't forget that the clocks go forward one hour on the 28<sup>th</sup> March. We will be springing into lighter evenings.



# Hatha Yoga

Classes are held on  
Wednesday's 10-11.30am

The Parish Centre,  
upper room,  
St Mary's Church, Burghfield

Open to all genders,  
abilities & ages.

Offering an opportunity to stretch,  
increase strength and stamina whilst  
relaxing in a non  
competitive environment.

For further information please contact:  
Janet Dacre

Qualifield British Wheel of Yoga Teacher

07736 287555 or 0118 9504272

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



# 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



HS FITNESS UK



**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 10–11.30am (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



**Burghfield & Mortimer Photo Club 7.30pm (lower room)**

Contact: burghfieldccsec@gmail.com (This group meets fortnightly)

## 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  
If you run a group and are looking for a hall to hold it then our Parish Centre  
could be the perfect place for you.



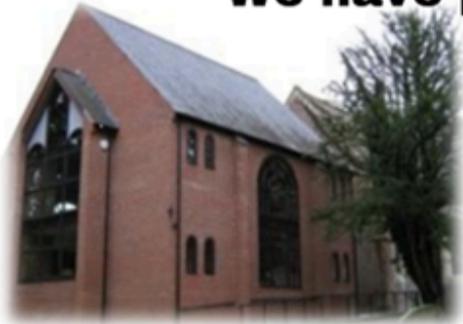
# **st Mary's Burghfield**

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 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**