

st Mary's Church Burghfield

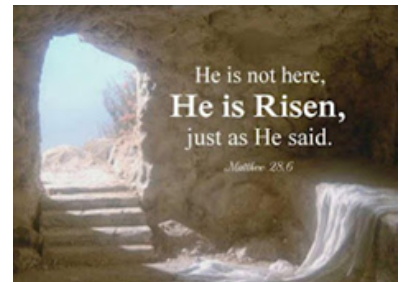
Welcoming all, growing faith, serving others

APRIL 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.

The Last week of March was such a busy week, filled with meetings, pastoral visits, and preparations for Easter. Two services particularly stood out for me. Firstly, it was a real privilege to tell the Easter Story to Mini Oaks Pre-School Children, (see page 9). Later that week St Mary's School Easter Service took place in Church. The Year 4's led a beautiful service telling us of the meaning of Easter. They had learned all their lines and sang two songs for us with their young voices soaring as they sang the meaningful lyrics of Easter and resurrection joy. It was a lovely way to draw the school term to a close.

As you all receive this newsletter we are in the middle of Holy Week. The journey through Holy Week takes us through the events of the last week of Jesus' life on earth. From the jubilation of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, which we celebrated on Palm Sunday, to the tables in the Temple being overturned in his anger at those cheating and overcharging for the temple services and sacrifices. We arrive at Maundy Thursday remembering the Last Supper which Jesus shared with his close friends and the reenactment of which, we continue Sunday by Sunday through our Communion services.



That first Maundy Thursday ended in chaos and betrayal as Jesus was arrested after his anguished night spent in prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. We move then into Good Friday, remembering the false trial and accusations leveled at Jesus and ultimately the agony and suffering he endured on the cross, demonstrating the full extent of his love for all humanity as he willingly gave his life to redeem each and every single person in his time and in all time to follow. The emptiness of Holy Saturday follows as his disciples mourn the death of their dear friend and teacher and they flounder lost and hopeless. Then a new day dawns and the extraordinary news of his resurrection begins to spread, and despair turns to joy, delight and celebration as they encounter the risen Christ.

We are an 'Easter People' we already know the truth of Jesus' death and resurrection, however Holy Week serves as an opportunity each year, to remind us of just how great a story the Christian story is, and the impact it has had on the world and will continue to have for many, many generations to come. The meaning of Easter is still as relevant for you and I today as it was over 2000 years ago and it's good to be reminded of that!

Holy Week takes us through the full gamut of human experiences and emotions and is a microcosm of our lives. We too experience at one time or another, joy, delight, jubilation, despair, mourning, suffering, hope, new life and rebirth. Sometimes these emotions and experiences are linked and run parallel, other times they follow in sequence or are cyclical.

Whatever our experience or emotions at this present time, we can be assured that Jesus our saviour, our redeemer, has experienced them for himself and knows exactly how we feel. And more so, has promised to always be with us to strengthen and encourage, to lift up and challenge, to bring peace and reconciliation and to join in with both our pain and suffering and our joy and delight.

As we look in despair at our world, the violence and chaos, the corruption and greed, the suffering of the innocents, our times are no different to the times in which Jesus lived. Yet through the ages people have come to faith, they have trusted, waited patiently and found new hope and joy. And even in our current period of history we can do the same, there is always hope in Jesus Christ. There is always light in the darkness, Christ is the light of the world!

Wishing you all a renewed experience of Easter, a deepening understanding of our Christian faith, and the transformation in our lives which only comes through faith and trust in our risen Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia he is risen indeed!

With every Blessing Glynn



Here's What's Happening!

Thurs 2 nd April	MAUNDY THURSDAY 7.30pm Communion Service in Church
Fri 3 rd Apr	GOOD FRIDAY 2pm Last Hour on the Cross Service in Church
Sunday 5 th Apr	EASTER SUNDAY 10am Parish Communion Service & via Zoom followed by our Easter Egg Hunt & St Mary's Market, see page 7
7th - 21st April - REVD GLYNN ON ANNUAL LEAVE	
Fri 10 th Apr	2pm Whist Drive in the Parish Centre, see page 8
Sunday 12 th Apr	10am Morning Worship Service in Church & via Zoom 6pm Sunday@6 Service in Church
Mon 13 th Apr	9.30-11am Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church
Sat 18 th Apr	11am Interment of Ashes, RIP Janet Sykes
Sunday 19 th Apr	9am Breakfast@Church 10am Parish Communion Service & via Zoom
Mon 20 th Apr	9.30-11am Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church
Wed 22 nd Apr	9.30am Ecumenical Service at Burghfield Methodist Church
Sunday 26 th Apr	10am Parish Communion Service & via Zoom 11am APCM
Mon 27 th Apr	9.30-11am Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church 8.30am Morning Prayer in Church
Sunday 3 rd May	10am Parish Communion Service & via Zoom
Fri 8 th May	7pm Spring Craft Evening in the Parish Centre, see page 12
Sunday 10 th May	9am Said Communion Service in Church NO 10am or Sunday@6 Services today 10am-4pm Burghfield May Fayre on The Hatch Church Car Parks being used by May Fayre

Crafty Church

We had a lovely morning at our Easter Crafty Church, a super number of attendees which was wonderful. Lots of crafty, messy fun was had. As always a huge Thank you to all our helpers on the day.





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

Crafting is for all ages!



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



FUN - GAMES - ACTIVITIES - SNACKS

St Mary's Church Burghfield

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Youth Club

6:30-8:00



Our March group was lots of fun, take a look at the photos below to see just some of the activities and games we got involved in.



Flower Team

Afternoon Tea

We enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea together on Saturday 21st March at The Rectory, with most of the flower team members, Margaret Towle, Anne Pocock, Jackie McCoid & Ann Cooper.

Unfortunately Nicky South-Klein and Penny Cooper were unable to join us. We celebrated the length of time these wonderful ladies have been working quietly in the background to keep our Church looking beautiful over many years. We presented Margaret & Ann with flower boxes, to say thank you to Margaret for the several decades that she has led the flower team, (though she is remaining on the team) and also to Ann Cooper to say thank you for her many years of dedication as she steps back from the team. Going forward we are delighted to say that are several new members of the team & I am sure you would want to join me in thanking them for all their beautiful flower arrangements and look forward to enjoying them in the future.

Revd Glynn



St Mary's Market

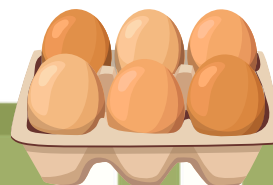
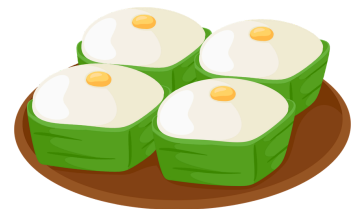
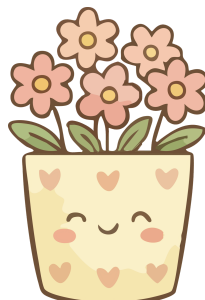
Sunday 5th April,

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.





St Mary's Burghfield

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Come and join us for our

Whist Drive

Friday 10th April 2026

2-5pm

Enjoy a friendly game of cards and tasty refreshments.

If you would like to learn how to play,
please contact Anne.



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

There is no group in April due to the Easter holidays but we return in May

FUN - GAMES - ACTIVITIES - SNACKS

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Youth Club

6:30-8:00

FRIDAY

15TH MAY

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

Questions? - stmarysburghfield@outlook.com

OUR NEXT YOUTH CLUB GROUP IS ON FRIDAY 15TH MAY 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



We are excited to announce that we are working with other local churches and Christians to run a week-long Christian holiday club for primary age children. It is going to be enormous fun, and will give us the chance to tell the Good News to local children, and will build relationships with other Christians in our area. We are joining the Lighthouse family, so all the materials are planned for us, and we can use all their tried and tested ways of working.

We are still deciding on details, but tentatively we hope that the week will be 17-21 August, perhaps at the Willink School, with some training and leader activities happening at Mortimer West End Chapel. We want people of all ages, with whatever talents you have, to get involved.

There is a role for everyone! So mark your calendars, tell your neighbours and friends, and look out for more details. There will be a couple of portals; you can use these to sign up as a volunteer (adults, and secondary school age students who are needed as "lamplighter" helpers) and/or as an attendee (primary age children)

If you want to know more, please ask Glynn, Michael, Deborah, Claire, or Alison. Several other members of the church and PCC are also already involved, or have indicated their willingness to be part of this project- don't miss out on your chance to join in, I can't wait to work with you on this fabulous opportunity!

Alison

(<https://www.lighthousecentral.org/>)

Mini Oaks Pre School Easter Story

I was delighted to have the young children from Mini Oaks Preschool come into church to listen to the Easter Story in the last week of term. Using props, I talked about the Easter Story and what it meant for us. The children were so attentive, listening carefully, joining in with answers and overall participating so well. No matter how young, the true meaning of Easter can be communicated to any age in an appropriate manner -it was such a privilege to be able to do so! Revd Glynn





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 12th April 2026 at 6pm,
theme is Happy or Sad?

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.



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





st Mary's Burghfield

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CRAFT EVENING
Friday 8th May

7.00 - 9.00 pm,

in the Parish Centre

Come and get creative.

*With lots of crafts to try out and
take home what you have made*

*Tickets are £15 per person
to cover the cost of materials
and refreshments.*

To reserve a place contact Anne on 07713911748 or bannepocock@aol.com



April Eco Tips



Celebrate new life this Easter and have a go at growing something! April is the perfect time to try to grow something edible or, if you are a seasoned gardener, to encourage someone else to try. Salad leaves or herbs are a great place to start and will reduce your reliance on those oh-so-convenient supermarket salad bags.

For indoor space, try 'micro-greens' (vegetable leaves harvested soon after they open)

For greenhouses, try sowing salad leaf seed mixes.

For outdoors, beetroot, lettuce, onion and pea plants are frost-resistant so can all be planted outside in April.

As you sow, thank God for the opportunity to grow food, and pray for those communities that are facing food shortages and famine.

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 to discuss.

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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.**

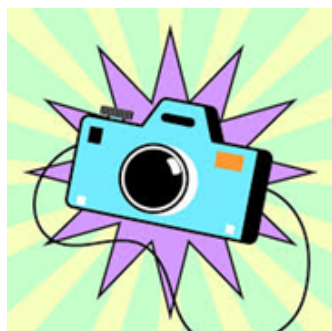


Photo Competition

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

St Mary's Fundraising

2026 Dates for your diaries

5th April Easter Sunday: St Mary's Market

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 12-4pm: Christmas Craft & Food Market

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 !!



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)

Fundraising
Total

£26,854.07



Thank you!

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



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



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 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



HS FITNESS UK

Pilates For Life with Marianne 6.30pm (upper room)



TUESDAY

Pilates For Life with Marianne

2pm (Beginners) &

6.30pm (both in the 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

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**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**

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