Last week in church, with storm Dennis raging outside, we were singing a song called ‘Faithful One’, with the words: ‘All through the storm your love is the anchor.’ It seemed very appropriate! These last few weeks seem to have been very turbulent, with the two major storms, worries about the spread of Covid19 virus, and the political changes unfolding with leaving the EU. Where do we look for shelter? For something solid to rely on?

Lent is an invitation to take time out to seek God, and allow ourselves to be found by God. How do we do that? The words of the song continue: ‘I call out to you, again and again.’ And that’s it, really - we call out to Jesus for help, and find that he is there waiting for us to turn to him. He is the one whose love never ends, who will never let us down, and who gives us the strength we need to walk through the storm. The journey of Lent reminds us that life is messy. We need God and we need each other, and God brings us together in communities brought to life by Easter hope.

For the last few years, I have taken part in a Lent challenge, to take a photo each day, inspired by a word. For me, the discipline of thinking about the word, then looking for a subject for the photo, has become an important part of helping to make Lent a time of spiritual renewal and refreshment. I’ve been posting the photos and some words of reflection or a prayer on my own page on Facebook, but after a bit of encouragement and prodding, have offered them on a dedicated page called ‘Echoes of Grace.’ I’m no expert at photography, but I’ve learned a lot, and have come to really enjoy the process of finding the right photo and the words to accompany it, and then sharing them, in the hope that they may encourage, help or challenge those who come across them, and ultimately, point to Jesus, the one who is faithful, trustworthy, our rock, our anchor, our ultimate hope, even in the storms. You can find the page here  
www.facebook.com/echoesofgracebyeleanor/  
Words of song ‘Faithful One’ by Brian Doerksen.  
Eleanor Williams
From the Parish Registers

Funerals
Rest in peace
Phyl Sanford

Thank you for Bequest

St Mary's Church Preservation Trust wishes to publicly thank the family of the late Mr Mike Mitcham for the most generous bequest from Mike to the Trust.

Mike was a founder trustee and Chairman of the Trust for a great number of years. He committed himself to the financial support of the Trust from its foundation, and without Mike and others' generosity St Mary's Church building would not be as structurally sound as it is today.

Our most grateful thanks
The Chair and Trustees

Dates for your Diary

Saturday March 14th Ely Cathedral
10.00am - 4.00pm 2020 Diocese of Ely Healing and Wholeness Celebration

Sunday March 22nd Mothering Sunday
10.00am Special All Age Service in St Mary’s led by members of Mothers’ Union

April 5th - 12th Holy Week and Easter
More details of services, including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day will be published nearer the time. Student Cross will pass through Burwell and Reach on the Tuesday and will stop for tea as usual.

On Saturday April 25th we’ll be hosting a concert by Sheringham Shantymen - put it in your diary now for a fun evening of song!

May 8th - 10th
The early May Bank Holiday this year will be on Friday May 8th to mark VE Day and Reach Fair is on Sunday 10th May. The bellringers will be ringing on Friday 8th at 7pm, and our 10am service on Sunday morning will include a focus on VE Day commemoration, and will also mark the start of Christian Aid week.

The Church of England
Diocese of Ely
CHRIST THE HEALER
A celebration of Healing and Wholeness
Saturday 14th March 2020
10am to 4pm
Ely Cathedral
All are welcome for a day of learning, prayer and celebration, including lectures from experts in Healing communities and Christian Healing.

Prayers for healing and wholeness will be offered in the chapels of the cathedral. We will conclude with a Eucharist, with opportunities for Laying on of Hands and Anointing.

The event is free but please register online to get your free ticket, to avoid paying Cathedral admission charges.

Thanksgiving Service followed by refreshments
Sunday 22nd March
10 am
at St Mary’s Burwell
All very welcome to join us
Flower posies to be given out

Daffodil Service
Saturday 21st March
3pm
Meet at door of St Mary’s

Many people come to the churchyard to visit the graves of loved ones, and we are holding a simple outdoor time of remembering in the churchyard when all the daffodils are out, followed by refreshments in church, for those who wish to stay. If you’d like a name read out, let us know. Anyone welcome to join us.
Update for Families, Children and Young People

Refresh Café at St Mary’s
Every Friday
9.30 - 11.00
A friendly café and play space for babies & pre-school children with their parents and carers
Refreshments, Toys & Games, Craft, Singing, Bible Story
All Welcome

YOUTH @ ST MARY’S
YOUTH CAFÉ for Year 7+
Friday 6th March
7.45pm - 9.15pm
in The Guildhall
Games & Arty Stuff,
Snacks & Drinks
Suggested donation £2

Heaven & Earth - The World In Our Hands
16 May - 15 June Ely Cathedral

Luke Jerram’s spectacular installation ‘Gaia’, a 7 metre replica of planet Earth, will be on display at Ely Cathedral. Suspended from high above, this globally acclaimed work of art will be the focal point of a special exhibition to highlight and address some of the very real issues affecting our world. We all have a duty and responsibility to safeguard our planet and acknowledge the impact of climate change. We hope that Heaven & Earth - The world in our hands will raise awareness, educate and inspire us all to protect our world. This event will feature exhibits with a focus on climate change plus talks on environmental issues.

Gaia is kindly sponsored by The Friends of Ely Cathedral.

Please check the website from February 2020 for a full list of events and activities.
The Church of England is launching an energy rating system similar to those used for household appliances. The aim is to help monitor the carbon footprint of its almost 40,000 buildings, as General Synod has recently voted on a major new proposal to reach ‘net zero’ CO2 emissions.

The hope is for all parts of the Church of England, from parishes to national bodies, to aim for ambitious year-on-year reductions in emissions to reach the target agreed at February’s General Synod to be ‘net zero’ by 2030. In a first step, parishes are being offered a new rating tool, which calculates their energy consumption. It will take into account factors including the type of power they use, whether they are on ‘green’ tariffs, the size of the building and usage.

The Bishop of Salisbury, Nicholas Holtam, the Church of England’s lead bishop for Environmental Affairs, said: “The Church of England has buildings in every architectural style and material from the past 1,500 years, posing some unique challenges when it comes to energy efficiency. “However, churches are not museums; they are living buildings which serve their communities every day of the week, and being greener isn’t about doing less, it’s about equipping parishes to get smarter about energy consumption.

“Christians are called to safeguard God’s creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth. Faced with the reality of catastrophic climate change, which will affect the world’s most vulnerable people the soonest, radical and immediate action is our only option.”

A paper sent to Synod members before February’s General Synod also outlined the potential impacts of climate change directly affecting the Church. It warned parishes that, as impacts start to accelerate, more churches will need to be prepared to be play missional roles in their communities, including offering sanctuary in extreme weather events, as was seen at the church of St Cuthbert, Fishlake, following flooding of the River Don last year.

Eco Living Ideas

This month’s Eco Tips from Kathy
A Lent Challenge for all of us

Think before you buy anything: do I really need this? Could I use something I already have? What will happen to this item once I have finished with it – can it be recycled/composted? Challenge yourself not to buy anything new for yourself during Lent, except food and drink and essential toiletries.

Do you buy fairly traded chocolate for presents? The Co-op and Oxfam sell a good range of delicious chocolate bars and Easter eggs, as well as other food which has been fairly traded.

World Water Day

This year, World Water Day is all about water and climate change – and how the two are linked. There is a website offering good ideas and resources if you would like to join in. Please go to: https://www.worldwaterday.org/
Reach Update

At the end of last year, the financial climate with respect to the Reach Development Project improved significantly as the scheme by which churches can claim grants to cover the cost of VAT on certain building works, was extended until 31/3/2021 and the Stock Market’s recovery improved the value of the investments. The PCC therefore decided to proceed with the project immediately with a view to completing as much as possible by April 2021.

The architects will now prepare detailed plans and the faculty application will be submitted. Obtaining a faculty usually takes approximately 3 months and the building work should take a minimum of 6 months, so maybe by next year we may see a lot of changes.

Before building work can start, the whole church will need to be emptied and the Reach Development Group will work through the inventory, noting which items will have to be stored and which we no longer require. Once the volume of items to be stored is known, practical arrangements for this can be made.

While building is underway, most of the services that would have been at Reach will take place in Burwell, but if any are required in Reach, it might be possible to hold them in the Village Centre, with permission from the Bishop.

The Church Annual Report is being prepared ready for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on April 22nd. The format will be a little different this year, keeping the reports included to those required by law. One of the reasons for this change is to reduce printing significantly as part of our response to ecological concerns. An updated Church Handbook will include details of all the church activities and how you can join in. It would be great if all the church groups could contribute news to Contact during the course of the year!

Church Statistics

Each year we have to submit statistics for Church Attendance to the Church of England. In general, this year’s statistics, followed similar patterns to previous years.

A key feature of the statistics is the Church Worshipping Community, which is the total number of people who regularly attend any of our Services or Fresh Expressions, including those held in care homes, and are therefore part of our church family. The total number this year was 217 and the graph below shows how it is made up from the different communities, and we’ll explain more about where the figures come from in the Church Annual Report.

Our safeguarding records also show that 88 people are involved with helping in practical ways at church or CentrePeace and of these over 30 help with children or young people. It's good to know that so many of us get involved in what’s going on, often in the background.

The Electoral Roll is published each year at the APCM. You don’t have to be on the roll to be considered a church member, but only those on the electoral roll can be on the PCC or hold a church office. It’s open to anyone who either lives in the village or regularly attends church

At present, the roll doesn’t reflect all the different communities shown above, so if you are not on it and would like to have a say in church affairs and future plans please consider joining. Speak to Eleanor for more details. There are forms in church to be returned to Avril Plume before April 3rd for inclusion this year.

Advance Notice of the Fete!

Saturday June 13th

If you’d like to help in the advance organization of the fete, Please speak to Rob Proctor or Pat Chalmers in the first instance.

administrator@stmarysburwell.org.uk
Palm Crosses

African Palms, the organisation that supplies our palm crosses was started in 1965 and after a very small beginning has grown and now supplies churches in the USA, Canada, Sweden, Norway and other European countries.

The aim of African Palms is to give people living in a very poor part of Tanzania the possibility of earning some extra money by making the crosses. The work does not interfere with their work of producing the food they need to live and people look forward to being able to do it.

Here in the United Kingdom at the end of each year, if there is any money over after all the costs are paid, it is covenanted to a charitable trust The African Palms Association. The trust aims to give help to schools and for medical work in the area.

The palm crosses are made from Dwarf Palms Hyphaena Coriacea. The villagers cut the palms in an area where they grow wild, they are then dried and cut into strips before being transported back to the villages, by bicycle or on foot. They are then woven into Palm Crosses and taken to a central collection point in Mpeta. The Palm crosses are then taken by road to the nearest port either Mtwara or Dar es Salaam, where they are loaded into containers for shipment to the UK and USA. This year two sizes are available – the traditional size and smaller ones that some people may find convenient. Palm Sunday is April 5th and the crosses will be distributed at all our services.

https://africanpalms.co.uk/

Sheringham Shantymen - Concert Sat 25th April at 7.30pm

We’re looking forward to welcoming the Sheringham Shantymen’s to St Mary’s in April. It will be their first visit to the church though they performed in Burwell to a sell-out audience some years ago.

The group first started performing during 1988 when some local lifeboat men and friends formed a shanty singing group to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the private Sheringham lifeboat the ‘Augusta’. They enjoyed the experience so much that they decided to continue. They formalised the group in 1990 naming themselves the Sheringham Shantymen. Although the group’s members nowadays are from a variety of occupations they have remained true to their roots and still maintain a very close connection with the RNLI.

Over the years the group developed their own style of performing songs of the sea, constantly refining their music and always trying to entertain the public and raise funds for charity.

Since 1990 the group has completed over 1,000 public performances, made 3 videos and recorded 7 CD’s. They have travelled widely and appeared on national television including ‘The Big Breakfast Show’, ‘Children in Need’, and ‘Blue Peter’.

Tickets will be priced £10, with U16’s half price and will be available from the end of March. Refreshments will be available and there will also be a raffle. The profits from the evening will be shared between the Sheringham Lifeboat and St Mary’s Church.

https://www.shantymen.com/
**March 2020**

**Daily Prayer during Lent**

Mondays and Wednesdays at St Mary’s at 9am, Thursdays at Reach at 8.15 am. Weekdays except Tuesdays at 6pm at St Mary’s. Other days and times on pew sheet. Seasonal Morning & Evening Prayer leaflets available.

| Sunday 1st March | Wed 4th | 10.00 Holy Communion at Burwell  
| 1st Sunday of Lent | 11.00 Holy Communion at Ash Grove |  
| 8.00 Holy Communion at Burwell | Fri 6th | 9.30 Refresh Cafe at Burwell till 11am  
| 10.00 Holy Communion at Burwell | 10.00 Knit and Natter at Ness Court  
| 4.30 Messy Gathering | 7.45 Youth Café in the Guildhall till 9.15pm  
| Sat 7th | 9.00 Prayers at Elk till 9.30am |  
| 7.00 Sunday @ 7 at Burwell |  

| Sunday 8th March | Wed 11th | 10.00 Holy Communion at Burwell  
| 2nd Sunday of Lent | 7.30 MU Lent Reflections at 20 Parsonage Lane |  
| 8.00 Holy Communion at Reach | Fri 13th | 9.30 Refresh Cafe at Burwell till 11am  
| 10.00 Holy Communion at Burwell | 10.00 Knit and Natter at Ness Court |  
| 4.30 Messy Gathering | Sat 14th | 9.00 Prayers at Elk till 9.30am |  
| 7.00 | Holy Communion at Ness Court |  

| Sunday 15th March | Wed 18th | 10.30 Holy Communion at Ness Court |  
| 3rd Sunday of Lent | Fri 20th | 9.30 Refresh Cafe at Burwell till 11am  
| | 10.00 Knit and Natter at Ness Court |  
| 8.00 Holy Communion at Burwell | Sat 21st | 9.00 Prayers at Elk till 9.30am |  
| 10.00 Holy Communion at Burwell | | |  
| 4.30 Messy Gathering | | |  

| Sunday 22nd March | Wed 25th | 10.00 Holy Communion at Burwell  
| 4th Sunday of Lent | 12.00 Lunchbreak Café at Burwell till 2pm |  
| Mothering Sunday | 2.00 MU Lady Day service at Lode Church. Lifts available. |  
| 8.00 Holy Communion at Burwell | 7.30 PCC in the Guildhall |  
| 10.00 All Age Service at Burwell | | |  
| 4.30 Messy Gathering | Fri 27th | 9.30 Refresh Cafe at Burwell till 11am  
| | 10.00 Knit and Natter at Ness Court |  
| | Sat 28th | 9.00 Prayers at Elk till 9.30am |  

| Sunday 29th March | |  
| 5th Sunday of Lent | |  
| Passiontide begins | |  
| 8.00 Holy Communion at Burwell | |  
| 10.00 All Age Service at Reach with baptism | |  
| 4.00 Messy Church at Burwell | |  

**Seasonal Morning & Evening Prayer leaflets available.**
Lunchbreak Cafe
At St Mary's Church
12.00 till 2.00
On the 4th Wednesday of every month
Next Dates
25th March
22nd April

Giving to the Church
Our annual running costs are in the order of £100,000 per year, and as a charity, we rely on the generosity of our congregation and other supporters to raise the money we need to work in our community and to maintain and develop our church buildings. Please can you help us? There are leaflets in church with details of how to make a single donation and/or to give regularly. More details are also available on our website. You can use Barclays Pingit app on your phone to our Unique Shortcode PINGITMMI018.

Contact Magazine e-version
Did you know that Contact could be delivered to you by email instead of as a paper version? If you would prefer to receive it this way please email to administrator@stmarysburwell.org.uk
It is also available on our website: www.stmarysburwell.org.uk/contact-magazine

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More details of many of the activities in this magazine and also any special events may be found on our website www.stmarysburwell.org.uk.

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