Friday 16th October 2026

Burghfield Common Federation

Newsletter

As we come to the end of the fisrt half term this academic year, it has been lovely to see how well all of the children across the federation have settled into new routines in their classrooms.

Our new school councillors are all keen to get started in their leadership roles and these have now been appointed across both schools with meetings planned. This is a lovely opportunity for children to learn about democracy and how their views can instigate change for the better. Our Learning Ambassadors will be greeting visitors and sharing the wonderful work and learning which takes place in the classrooms.
A reminder that school finishes for half term on Thursday 22nd October. Although teachers have another day to go and will be attending staff training.

At the Juniors we have had several children not bringing in their full PE kit. Please make sure that full kit is brought in every Monday and stays in school until Friday. Thank you for your support with this.



Mrs Bland's News

Garland News



Friday 16th October 2026

Burghfield Common Federation

Newsletter

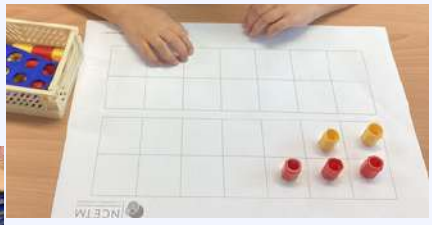


Mrs Bland's Infant and Nursery News









Exploring more than and fewer than



Last week, we were proud to take part in the Eco Festival at St Mary's Church in Burghfield.
Our display showcased the fantastic work of the Infants Eco Council, including photographs and information about the environmental projects taking place across the school.
Can you spot the wonderful work being done around our school pond and all the ways our pupils are helping to care for the environment?



Dates for your diary

Tues - 20th Oct
PTA Halloween Disco
YR-Y2

Fri - 06th Nov
Governor Visit Day

Week commencing 12 Oct 2026

Class	Attendance %
Beech	93.0%
Maple	95.1%
Cherry	97.1%
Hazel	94.6%

Mrs Bland's School Stars

Star of the Week

Acorns - Lollan
Beech - Kehlani
Maple - Aria
Cherry - Harlow
Hazel - Orlaith

Playtime Star

Acorns - Tegan
Beech - Dhyey
Maple - Myleigh
Cherry - Caleb M
Hazel - Lucas

Friendship Star

Acorns - Genevieve
Beech - Oakley
Maple - Enzo
Cherry - Tara
Hazel - Emily



Reading Star
Lilly + Khalil

Little Acorns



Our topic of the term is "Can I Have a Dog Yet?" and our story of the week is, 'Autumn' by Ailie Busby.

During our carpet times this week, we have been learning about autumn. We have been looking at all the different changes that happen during this season, including the weather, what we need to wear, and how the leaves change colour and start to fall from the trees. The children have found this really interesting and have started to ask lots of questions. We have also been learning the names of different shapes.

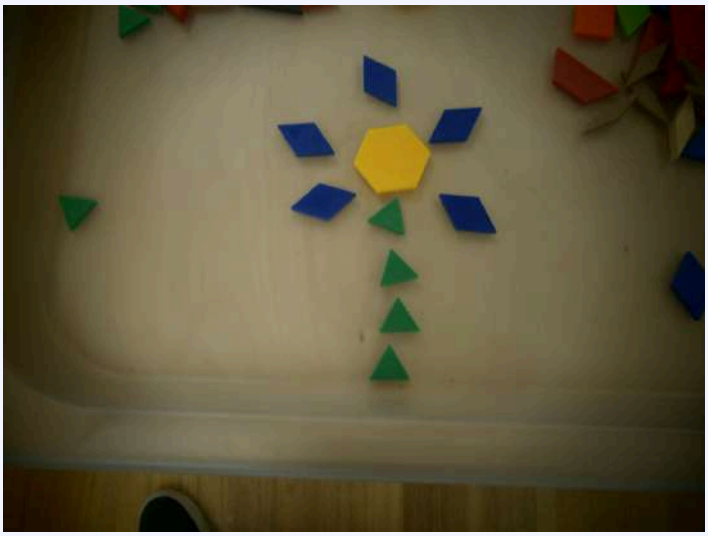
During carpet sessions, the children have enjoyed playing musical instruments and dancing to music with coloured scarves.

At the craft and mark-making table this week, the children have been very busy decorating leaves with patterns using lovely autumn colours. We have also been making our very own pumpkins, ready to bring home.

Outside in the garden, the children have enjoyed going on an Autumn scavenger hunt, looking for different signs of the season. They have also loved scooping conkers out of the water using sieves and pouring them down the large tubes, watching how many they could fit through and how quickly they travelled.

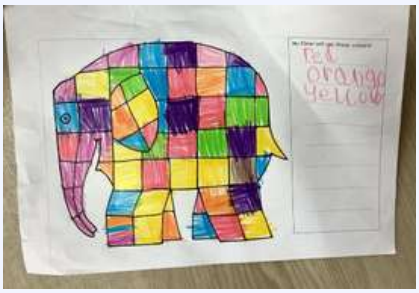
Acorns

This week in Acorns, we have been continuing to learn about Black History by looking at two more important figures: Mary Seacole and Nelson Mandela.
We learnt that Mary Seacole lived a long time ago and wanted to help people who were sick. During the Crimean War, she went to help ill soldiers. However, she was not allowed to do so because of the colour of her skin. Determined to help, she used her own money to set up a hospital called the British Hotel. There, she used medicines and care to support the soldiers. Many soldiers chose to go to the British Hotel rather than the army hospital. The children enjoyed learning about this and pretended to be doctors, looking after one another. We also talked about our own experiences of visiting the doctor and discussed how doctors help us.
We also learnt about Nelson Mandela, who believed that everyone should be treated fairly. He led non-violent protests to promote equality and was imprisoned for 27 years because of his beliefs.
In Outdoor Learning, the children practised sitting safely around the fire circle. Next week, we will be having a real fire and enjoying a roasted marshmallow around it. The children listened very well and are extremely excited.
In Maths, we have been learning about 2D shapes and their properties. The children used a variety of shapes to create their own pictures and patterns.



Beech & Maple (Reception)







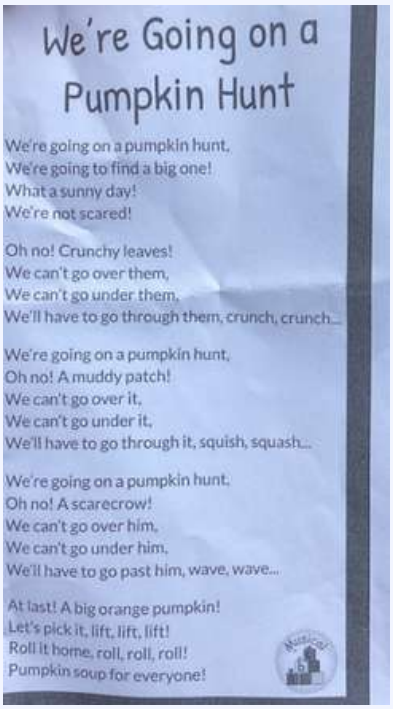
This week, we have been using the Elmer stories for our Maths, Literacy, Art, and fine motor development. We have used the variety of colourful and plain elephants in the stories to work on our oracy skills, describing elephants for the class so they can guess which one we are thinking about. We have also used pictures of elephants to create short descriptive oral paragraphs.
We have practised drawing elephants, listening carefully to instructions. We have used Elmer pictures to work on our fine motor control, trying to colour within the lines of Elmer's patchwork or dot-paint within the spots on an Elmer. We also worked together to create a class collage of Elmer, inspired by the work of the artist Tanawat Suriyatongtam.
In Maths, we have used Elmer's adventures around the classroom and garden to develop our understanding of positional and directional language.
In outdoor learning, we have been watching our class trees change colour each week and exploring what we can make with fallen leaves, helicopter seeds, and twigs. We used these natural materials to fill a large Elmer shape on the playground.
It has been a wonderful week of creativity, collaboration, and learning for everyone.

Cherry (Year 1)

What a great way to finish the week with our first Year 1 school trip to Milestones Museum. There have been many other events to celebrate this week, including filming our History toy descriptions.
We have also started a new unit of writing based on toy descriptions, which has enabled the children to apply their knowledge. The book we used as our stimulus has been a favourite this week, and the children have asked me to read more and more of it.
The best fact we have learnt so far is that a 'teddy' bear is named that because the first one was made in 1902 in America and named after the President at the time, Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt.
This week, we learnt how to say hello in Tibetan ("Tashidelek"), which led to a whole impromptu Geography lesson. We learnt lots of facts about the Himalayan Mountains and even carried out some research about the hottest mountain. It is in China, and the reason why it is hot rather than snowy was somewhat complex! I was really impressed by some of the children's insightful questions.
Outdoor learning was great fun, too, as we used an adapted version of We're Going on a Bear Hunt called We're Going on a Pumpkin Hunt. The children were put into groups to prepare the different areas for acting out the story.



Building our Toilet beanstalks
- note no buttress support



Master Reader Vocabulary -

Courage
Shuddered
Demanded
Whimpered



Hazel (Year 2)

What a wonderful week we have had in Year 2. Full of smiles and fun 🙂

In English we have started our new writing unit all about narratives! We learnt about what a narrative is and we started to look at how powerful adjectives can be in our writing. We put this into practice by describing some animals to ensure we understood what an adjective was. I wonder if over the weekend you can ask your child what an adjective is to see if they have remembered?

In Maths we have been comparing objects and numbers with our key maths vocabulary - 'less than', 'more than' and 'equal to'. We played a fun comparison game where we had to make the sentence Miss Kendall said with our maths resources! The children did very well at remembering what the comparison signs look like - we were all very impressed with them!

Geography was a continuation of learning about the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. We watched some videos about the natural wonders to see where they are in the world and then we collected some data together by completing a class survey about our favourite one. In Art and Design, we have been busy with some clay this week! Linking to our topic of towers and turrets we have created some amazing clay castles! We learnt all about the important process of joining clay -

1. Score
2. Slip
3. Stick
4. Smooth

Friday 16th October 2026

Burghfield Common Federation

Newsletter



Garland Junior School News







Dates for your diary

Thurs 22nd October

PTA Halloween Disco

Fri 6th November

Governor Visit Day

	5 4 3
1 - 24	24 | 1 3 0 3 2
2 - 48	- 1 2 0 ↓
3 - 72	1 0 3
4 - 96	- 9 6 ↓
5 - 120	7 2
6 - 144	- 7 2
7 - 168	
8 - 192	
9 - 216	



Last week, we were proud to take part in the Eco Festival at St Mary's Church in Burghfield.
Our display highlighted the achievements of the Junior Eco Council, with photographs and information celebrating their environmental initiatives.
Can you spot the amazing pumpkins and potatoes grown by our pupils and discover how the children are helping to make our school a greener place?

Week commencing 12 Oct 2026

Class	Attendance %
Chestnut	94.8%
Sycamore	98.1%
Ash	93.8%
Hawthorn	96.0%
Aspen	98.0%
Willow	97.2%
Oak	92.6%

Garland Junior School Awards

Values Certificate

Chestnut - Maren
Sycamore - Reuben
Ash - Nate
Hawthorn - Sophie E
Aspen - Dennis
Willow- Malik
Oak-Joshua

Reading Stars

Chestnut - Austin
Sycamore - Anabiya
Ash - Teddy
Hawthorn - George
Aspen - Luna
Willow - Scarlett
Oak- Haseeb

Music Star

Sophie - 3C

WOW Award

Chestnut - Tobi
Sycamore - Arthur
Ash - David
Hawthorn - Lezaal
Aspen - Ellie and Eli
Willow - Charlotte
Oak - Jude

Top Doodlers

Chestnut - Georgie
Sycamore - Noah
Ash - Molly
Hawthorn - Sophia A
Aspen - Callie
Willow - Martim
Oak- Sonnie

PE Star

Tristan - 5A

This week's Headteacher Values Award goes to...

Ruby H

This award is presented to a pupil who consistently goes above and beyond in demonstrating our school values of kindness, perseverance, teamwork, respect, and good manners.

Chestnut and Sycamore (Year 3)

Year 3 have had another fantastic week of learning. In English, the children completed an independent write about an animal of their choice. Some chose real animals, while others used their imagination to create their own! They did an excellent job using topic-related vocabulary, conjunctions, and other features from our writing toolkit to make their writing engaging and informative.
In Maths, we have been working hard on using the column method to solve addition calculations with exchange. The children have shown great perseverance and resilience, especially when they found the learning challenging, and should be very proud of the progress they have made.

During outdoor learning, we enjoyed imagining what life would have been like as a hunter-gatherer in Stone Age times and used natural resources to create our own Stone Age camp models. In History, the children had thoughtful discussions about whether they would prefer to live in the Mesolithic or Neolithic era, sharing lots of interesting ideas and well-reasoned opinions.
We are also nearing the end of our shared reading book, Stone Age to Iron Age, and this week enjoyed learning about the Celts and the first appearance of the Romans in Britain.
Well done, Year 3, for all of your hard work, enthusiasm, and determination this week!

Master Reader Vocabulary -
Stag
Shrines
Invasion
Captured



Master Reader Vocabulary -
Turned his blood cold
mercy
rigid
stifling
clenched
leer



Ash & Hawthorn (Year 4/5)

We have had a fantastic week, especially in PE! We have worked hard to build our strength and develop our passing skills.

In Art, we have continued working on our final ‘pointillism’ project, carefully building up our painting one layer at a time. We can’t wait to see the finished results!

During Outdoor Learning, we put our lashing skills to the test and created our own nature photo frames. In Maths, we have been excellent at using the column method for addition and subtraction, showing great progress and confidence. In English, we have loved writing character descriptions of Ivan, using our descriptive vocabulary to bring him to life.

In Music, we began exploring how pitch can be changed on string instruments. We even made our own instruments using cups and elastic bands to investigate how different sounds can be created.

Aspen (Year 5)

This week, we have read the penultimate chapter of our gripping class novel, Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo. It has been wonderful to see how much the children have enjoyed this moving story of friendship and courage. As we approach the final chapter, we are eager to discover how Michael and Kensuke's journey will end. It has also been lovely to see so many children choosing other Michael Morpurgo books from the library, inspired to explore more of his stories.

In English, we have reached the moment we have been eagerly awaiting for the past three weeks! The children have each selected a newly discovered creature from Kensuke's island and planned their own non-chronological reports. They are looking forward to bringing together everything they have learnt to introduce readers to their fascinating creatures.

Our focus in Maths has been common multiples and common factors. Please encourage your child to practise their times tables daily, as confident recall is vital for understanding these concepts and supporting much of the maths we will tackle in Year 5. Times tables practice will also be set as a recurring assignment on Doodle Maths.

During PSHE, we discussed the importance of standing up for ourselves and expressing our feelings confidently and respectfully. We explored how to speak up when something does not feel right and when to ask a trusted adult for support.

We were blessed with lovely weather for Outdoor Learning, where the children used their lashing techniques to construct a bridge. This gave them the opportunity to put their practical skills to the test while working together and sharing ideas.

Finally, in French, our lessons have focused on learning the names of foods and drinks and how to place an order at a salon de thé. The children have been practising the vocabulary and phrases they would need for a visit to a French tearoom.

Master Reader Vocabulary -
Stoical
Abundance
Lavish
Obliterate
Bounded
Honourable









Oak and Willow (Year 6)

Back to normality in Year 6 this week after a fantastic, and exhausting, week for most last time out!

In Maths, we have been battling with division, using the long division method to divide numbers by two-digit numbers. The children have persevered superbly with what is a very tricky concept!

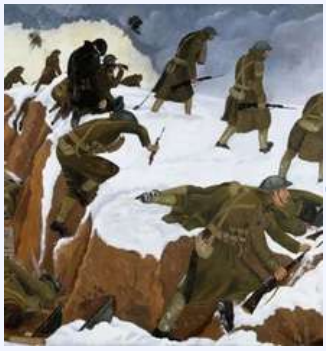
In English, we began writing diary entries from Joey's perspective in War Horse, focusing on the emotional scene where he is sold to Captain Nicholls. In Spelling, we have been learning words containing the suffixes -ate and -ion, alongside alternative spellings of the oa sound. In Reading, we continued following Joey and Topthorn's experiences during World War I, developing our summarising skills and exploring some challenging vocabulary.

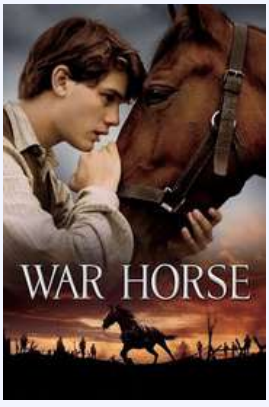
Our History learning focused on the technological advances made during the war and how women's rights changed afterwards. In Science, we continued our work on living things and their habitats, investigating different types of microbes and fungi.

In PE, we developed our gymnastics skills using equipment to create balances and practise jumping and landing safely. We also continued our tag rugby sessions, focusing on passing, tackling and finding space. In Art, we took inspiration from John Nash, sketching soldiers advancing from a trench and using posture, clothing and contrasting tones to capture the harsh conditions of war.

In RE, we explored Christian perspectives on life and death through the stories of Lazarus and Jairus. In Music, we listened to John Williams' score from E.T. and used xylophones to create different emotions and build tension through sound. Finally, in PSHE, we discussed how to respond assertively when pressured to do something that makes us feel uncomfortable or goes against our beliefs.

Master Reader Vocabulary -
raggedness
idleness
meadows
chortling
shells (ammunition)
implicitly







Have a lovely weekend, from us all at the Burghfield Common Federation!

Dates for your Diary

New dates added in light blue

Date	Time	Event
Tuesday 1st Sep		Staff Inset Day
Wednesday 2nd Sep		Staff Inset Day
Thusday 3rd Sep		Autumn Term commences for Y1 -Y6 **MBS** YR Visit days **MBS** YN Home visits
Monday 08th Sep		**MBS** YR in 8.55am-1.00pm all week
Tuesday 09th Sep	6:15 pm	PTA AGM and committee meeting @ MBS
Friday 12th Sep		Flu Vaccinations
Week commencing 14th Sep		Children to bring in donations for Harvest Festival (will be donated to West Berks Foodbank)
Tuesday 29th Sep		Harvest Assembly
Tuesday 29th Sep	5:00 - 5:45pm **MBS** 6:00 - 6:45pm **GJS**	Meet the Teacher
Monday 06th Oct to Friday 10th Oct		**GJS** Y6 Residential
Tuesday 20th October	3:30 - 4:30 pm	**PTA MBS** Halloween Disco
Thursday 22nd October	3:15 - 4:15 LKS2 4:30 - 5:30 UKS2	**PTA GJS** Halloween Disco
Thursday 22nd October		End of Term 1
Friday 23rd October		Staff Inset Day
Tuesday 03rd November		Term 2 Starts
Friday 06th November		**MBS** - Governor Visit Day
Wednesday 11th November		**GJS -** Y5 Educational Visit to Reading Museum
Tuesday 17th November	3:30-6:00 pm	**BCF -** Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 19th November	3:30-6:00 pm	**BCF -** Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 26th November		Full Governing Board Meeting
Friday 27th November	3:15 - 4:45 pm	**GJS -** PTA Christmas Fayre
Monday 30th November	9:00 - 4:00 pm	**GJS -** Y3 Educational Visit to Marwell Zoo, Winchester
Friday 04th December	9:00 -9:30 am 9:30 -10:30 am	**GJS -** Choir singing at Christmas Tree Festival (Burghfield Parish Church) **GJS** - Open Morning for Y2 Parents
Tuesday 08th December	9:30 -10:30 am	**MBS -** Nativity
Wednesday 09th December	9:30 - 10:30 am	**GJS -** Y3 Nativity
Thursday 10th December	9:30 -10:30 am	**MBS -** Nativity Full Governing Board Meeting
Friday 11th December	9:00 - 9:30 am	**GJS -** Choir singing at Christmas Community Cafe (at Burghfield Village Hall)
Monday 14th December	9:30- 10:00 am	**MBS -** Nursery Nativity
Tuesday 15th December	2:00 - 3:00 pm	**BCF -** Carols @ St. Oswalds
Wednesday 16th December		**MBS -** Panto @ Hexagon
Thursday 17th December	8:30 -1:30 pm	**BCF -** Christmas Jumpers, Parties and Lunch

Please note that these dates may be subject to change. If any changes were to be made, we would endeavour to give you as much notice as possible

St Mary's Church Burghfield

Welcoming all, growing faith, serving others

Welcome
18th October2026

You are very welcome at our worship. We hope you experience God this morning.
If you are new or visiting we would love to meet you.

	**Toilets & Baby Changing facilities are situated in the Parish Centre next to the church**
	**Please join us for Fairtrade tea or coffee after the service in the Parish Centre**
	**If you would like private prayer, please go to the chancel during communion or speak to a member of clergy after the service**
	**If you would like to receive a gluten free wafer, please speak to the person who greeted you at the door or a churchwarden**

Sunday 18th October 2026
9am Said Communion Service & via Zoom

Matthew 22.15-22

10am Sunday@10Service

Mark 10.35-45

Click Here to access Zoom for 9am service. Meeting ID: 851 5308 5763 & Password: 356810 recurring link for Sunday services, for those who would like to join us virtually.

Prayer for the day

Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel, give your Church the same love and power to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

We at St Mary's now offer an online donation page! If you would like to donate, please click on the link:
https://givealittle.co/campaigns/77b371b3-68f6-4729-a808-8fd58d9c589f
Donations to St Mary's Church can also be made via the QR code.
Thank you for supporting our ministry and mission

18th October 2026 – Please Pray For



Coltsfoot Close, Horseshoe Crescent, Dauntless Road.
Our church wardens Michael and Alison.
People in prison or facing court action; prison chaplains & Visitors.

Years Mind –Fred Perry

Dates for your diary

Fri 16th Oct 6.30-8pm Youth Club in the Parish Centre

Sunday 18th Oct 9am Said Communion Service & via Zoom
10am Sunday@10 Service in Church
Mon 19th Oct No Morning Prayer in Church
9.30 – 11am Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church
23rd October – 1st November Schools Half Term
24th October – **CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR**
25th – 30th October Revd Glynn on Annual Leave

Sunday 25th Oct 10am Parish Communion Service & via Zoom with Revd Juliet Straw
Fri 30th Oct 2-5pm Whist Drive in the Parish Centre
7.30pm Children's Society Quiz Night in the Parish Centre

Sunday 1st Nov **All Saints & All Souls Day**
10am Parish Communion Service & via Zoom
3pm All Souls Commemoration Service in Church
Mon 2nd Nov 8am Morning Prayer in Church
9.30 – 11am Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group in Church

Sunday 8th Nov **Remembrance Sunday**
9am Said Communion Service (no Hymns or Zoom)
10.45am Remembrance Parade & Service
6pm Sunday@6 Service

Notices

Recycling At Church

Please note that with immediateeffect we are no longer able to accept empty tablet packs at our collection point in Church.
This is due to Boots and the chemist in Mortimer no longer accepting larger quantities of them in store.
You can still take your own to both these chemists.

Church Service Broadcast

You can now hear thewords of theservice broadcast direct to your smartphone linked hearing aids. Search for Auracast broadcast using the App. Speak to Mike if you need assistance.

Children's Society Fish & Chip Supper with Quiz Night

Friday 30th October 7.30pm

Join in with the fun for what is sure to be a wonderful night of brain taxing enjoyment.
Contact Colin Thompson on 0118 9832603 or 07729 482107 to book your teams tickets, £12 per person, teams of up to 6 people.
Please bring along your own drink & cutlery.

All Souls Service – Sunday 1st November, 3pm

Wewould like to invite you and family members to ourannual Commemoration Service of thanksgiving and remembrance for those who have died but are still very much in our thoughts. During the prayers we will read the names of those who have died whom we wish to remember & have an opportunity to light candles in their memory. Please fill in the name(s) of your loved ones on the cards at the back of church and pop them into the box provided. 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.

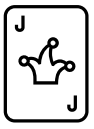
Christmas Tree Festival, 5th & 6th December, 12-4pm

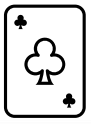
Date for your diaries! Planning has already begun.
If your Club, Group, School, Nursery, Charity or local Business would like to take part then we would love to hear from you.
Please get in touch with Jo at stmarysburghfield@outlook.com and she can send you all the information needed.

The Children's Society Charity Christmas Cards

Order booksare atthebackof Church, ifyou would liketo order your cards, any questions please speak to Pat Glover.

Fundraising





Whist Drive, Friday 30th October 2-5pm

Join us for anotherof ourWhistDrives,this month being held in the Parish Centre.
All abilities welcome. Refreshments available.

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 orrefer friends &familyto 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

Contact Information

Rector – Revd Glynn Lautenbach
07979 151598 or email: rector@stmarysburghfield.org
Parish Administrator, Tuesday - Friday, 8.45am - 12.45pm
If you need a face-to-face meeting please email or call to arrange a date & time.
Office Mobile – 07979 871608
Email: admin@stmarysburghfield.org
To contact the **Church Wardens**:
Alison Eves – email alison.eves@stmarysburghfield.org
Michael Wood – email mike.wood@stmarysburghfield.org
Website: 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, Berkshire, RG30 3TG
The PCC of St Mary the Virgin Burghfield is a registered charity No. 1167639

PLEASE JOIN US
FOR OUR

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

5TH & 6TH DECEMBER
12 - 4PM

Trees creatively decorated & displayed in our beautiful Church by our local community.

If your Club, Charity, Business, School, Nursery or Group would like to take part please contact Jo at stmarysburghfield@outlook.com for more information.

St Mary's Church Burghfield

Welcoming all, growing faith, serving others

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR

Christmas CRAFT MARKET

Saturday 5th December 2026

12-4pm

FREE ENTRY

Find Gifts and scrumptious Goodies Galore

THE PARISH CENTRE, ST MARY'S CHURCH,
CHURCH LANE, BURGHFIELD, RG30 3TG



St Mary's Church Burghfield

Welcoming all, growing faith, serving others

Plenty of FREE Parking too