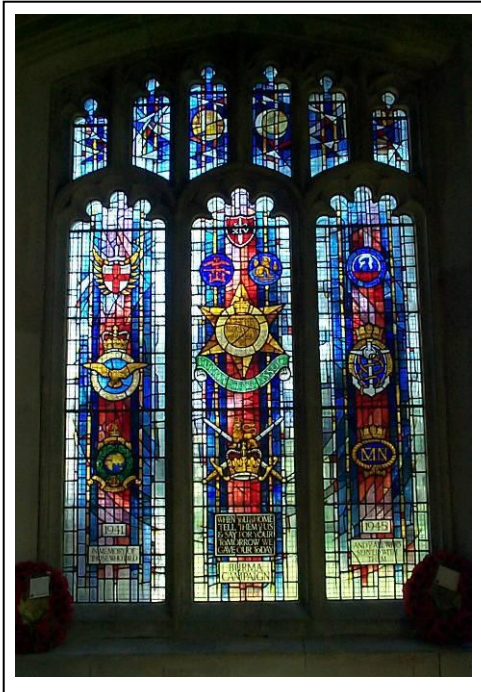


Be sure to look at the beautifully embroidered kneelers before you leave!

And finally, please help us to keep up the good work by leaving your gift in the glass jar, which is emptied daily. Alternatively, please use the card machine by the inside entrance doors.

Thank you.



The Burma Star Window
(To the right of the organ)

We hope you have enjoyed your visit and found peace in this lovely Church.

The times of the services are on the poster in the Church Porch and further information is available at:

www.unitedbenefice.wordpress.com

We are part of the United Benefice of Barkway, Reed and Buckland with Barley.

If you have any enquires regarding the Church, Baptism, Marriage or wish to speak to someone about any other matter, please contact one of the following:

Rector: The Reverend Mark Bridgen
Tel: 01763 848756
revmarkbridgen@gmail.com

Church Wardens: Nicholas Tufton
Tel: 07768 526461 nicholas@ntufton.co.uk

Mirjam Foot Tel 01763 849701
mirjam.foot@btinternet.com

If you would like to become a member of **The Friends of Barkway Church**, please contact Mirjam Foot as above.



The restored weathervane on the Tower

St Mary Magdalene, Barkway.



WELCOME to the Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene, spiritual home of God's family today and for countless past generations in Barkway. We are a small rural benefice (group of parishes) covering an area that includes Barkway, Barley, Reed, Buckland, Chipping, Newsells, and Nuthampstead.

As Christians, we seek to worship God and live out our faith in our communities and beyond, in word and action, through loving God and loving our neighbour. We would very much like to welcome you to join us for worship or for any other activities in the benefice.

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Brief History

There has been a church here certainly since Norman and possibly since Saxon Times. During the 13th Century, the chancel was rebuilt and traces of the 13th century windows are still visible on its north side.

In the 15th century, the nave was widened, the aisles and clerestory added, and the tower was built.

Mrs Vernon Harcourt of Newsells Park restored the main part of the church in 1861 and the chancel had work carried out on it by Colonel Clinton, who lived at Cokenach. At about the same time, the Cokenach pew that stood in the chancel arch was removed. Prior to that, during the sermon the windows were closed, the curtains drawn and chairs pulled up in front of a large fire. During the restoration work the tower collapsed and was rebuilt larger than before – note the Jennings monument by Rysbrack at the back of the Tower.

The Nave

If you look up, standing in the nave, you will see some fine corbels and some are thought to be caricatures of the masons' mates and employers. There is a villainous looking sheep above the pulpit – perhaps a dig at the vicar.

Above the Chancel steps are the two hatchments of the Clinton family (hatchments were carried in funeral processions). The one on the right indicates that the husband had died whereas the wife on the left has a white background to show she was still alive at the time the hatchments were hung. There is a further hatchment over the porch door in respect of Mrs Vernon Harcourt.

The Chancel

Within the Sanctuary of the Chancel are the memorials of the Chester family who lived at Cokenach in the 17th century.

The coats of arms on the north window are the Clintons.

North Aisle

There is a fine stained-glass window in the South East corner of the north aisle to the right of the organ. This was paid for by the Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Essex Branch of the Burma Star Association and was designed by Alan Younger who also designed the rose window in St Albans.

South Aisle

The east window comprises a jumble of glass and includes the remains of a 15th century window, the glass of which was removed and buried to save it from the ravages of iconoclasts. These fanatics were appointed by the parliamentary army during the civil war to smash up anything that was considered idolatrous and to have been found by chance. There is an old tradition that the glass really came from Reed church.

The Tower

The Tower contains a peal of eight bells. Six of these were recast by Briant of Hertford in 1787 with two more added in 1914 with the inscription "Give peace in our time O Lord". The bells used to be rung from the ringing chamber on the first floor but it was too noisy for the ringers and they are now rung from ground level.

There is a priest's bell inscribed "James Bartlett made me in 1688 TE". The turret bell on which the clock strikes is pre restoration. It is the only one in Hertfordshire from the Bury St Edmunds foundry and has inscribed on it "Ave Maria Gracia Plena"

with the Bury shield three times on its crown. When it was restored in 1980, it was lifted off and returned by helicopter.

Maintenance of the Church

Please look at the fine embroidery on kneelers undertaken by parishioners in the 1970's.

The Church is well maintained through the generous support of **The Friends of Barkway Church**. Over the years restoration and improvement works have been undertaken at considerable cost and largely without grant aid. Amongst other things the work has included:

- Re-hanging the bells (this work was paid with funds raised by the bellringers).
- Installing a sound system and a loop for the hard of hearing.
- Renovation of the organ.
- Replacement of stone cross on gable of roof to Chancel and repair of flintwork to the Tower and Cancel.
- Restoration of weathervane, cockerel and clock face on the Tower.
- Provision of a meeting room with kitchen and toilet facilities.
- Provision of hand rails to the side of the cobbled access path in 2015.
- Provision of LED lighting in 2016.
- Repairs to flintwork to Tower and re-roofing of the Chancel in 2019/20.
- Replacement of the surface water drainage system in 2022.
- Damp treatment to arcade 2023.