

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

# VIRAL BULLETIN

30 March 2025

4th Sunday of Lent

Please forward this to anyone you know who might not be in our Google group.  
For information about us please visit: [www.northburychurches.org.uk](http://www.northburychurches.org.uk)



*Team West Stow St Mary's ready to welcome guests to the Culford Café on 22 March*

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**DON'T FORGET THE CLOCKS GO FORWARD THIS WEEKEND!!!**

# 4th Sunday of Lent

*Joshua 5.9-12 Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5.16-end Luke 15.1-3,11-32*

Lent continues on its way and it won't be long before we enter Passiontide when we focus on the suffering and death of Christ. This time gives us a good opportunity for self-examination about how we are getting on in our Christian journey through life and to seek forgiveness for all the times we have fallen short. In today's Psalm we find something of the necessity of confession of sin and of the mercy of God who forgives sin.

Our reading from Joshua tells of how the Israelites have crossed into the Promised Land. They are freed from the shame of being slaves in Egypt and are committed to serving the Lord. They no longer have to eat manna which has sustained them in their wanderings but can eat from what has been grown in Canaan. And so they keep the Passover - and for Christians, the Passover is full of significance as it is the time when we remember the events leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus.

Then the reading from 2 Corinthians has Paul telling of what Jesus has done for us. Paul says that in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself and we are called to assist in this work of reconciliation. As we are called to be reconciled to God ourselves, so we are called to forgive just as God has forgiven us. And forgiveness can be a very hard thing to do. Even if we want to forgive, past circumstances can sometimes act as a barrier, especially if hurt has been done to ourselves or to those we love. Trying to forgive can be an ongoing process.

Luke's gospel tells us about forgiveness. Today's reading is the parable that Jesus told about the Prodigal Son. This reading only appears once every three years on this Sunday in Lent in our cycle of readings - yet is probably one of the best known and loved stories in our scriptures. This tale focuses on love, forgiveness - and the lack of forgiveness.

When we look at the younger of the two sons, we might wonder at the crassness of the lad in asking his father to give him his inheritance - before

his father is dead! Then he spends the money on 'dissolute living', although we don't know exactly what he got up to - but the elder brother has his suspicions. The younger son ends up in poverty in a country far from his home, culture and community and is so far gone that he is reduced to feeding pigs. This would have been an absolutely low point for him because for Jews pigs were viewed as unclean animals. To be looking after them and to even contemplate eating their food would have been considered disgusting. Perhaps it was this sense of disgust and desperation that made the son decide to go back home. It may be that some of us have had a similar sense of our own shortcomings and so long to return home to God.

The father of the returning son is a personification of our loving God who longs for us to be reconciled to him. It seems that he was on the lookout for his son - and when he sees him, he rushes out to him and embraces him without waiting for the boy to deliver his no doubt much rehearsed speech of penitence. The father casts dignity to the winds by actually running up to the boy - which is something that an important, wealthy man would never ever do and would cause him to be the laughing stock of his neighbours. And more than that, he celebrates the return of his son by organising a feast and dressing him in fine clothing. We can imagine the astonishment of those involved in carrying out the father's instructions.

Then there is the elder brother who has always done the right thing in relation to his father. He is furious. Maybe there is a degree of sibling rivalry here - or maybe he is envious of his brother's adventures with prostitutes. He is so angry and unforgiving that he will not join the party and his father has to come out to him. Yet again, the father abandons his dignity to plead with his son to come in. He does not order him to do so, but appeals to his eldest's better nature, because what was lost has been found.

Perhaps there is something of the two sons in each one of us. As we reflect on this parable, we might like to call to mind times when we have behaved like one or other, or both, these two brothers. It is an easy thing to go off the rails and fall into sin. It is not so easy to pick ourselves up, acknowledge where we have gone wrong and make a new start. It is also very easy to

point the finger at those we perceive as wrongdoers, staying on our moral high ground in judgement without perceiving our own shortcomings.

Despite all this, there is hope for us all because in this parable Jesus shows us something of the love, patience and forbearance of his heavenly Father, who is our father too. As we approach Passiontide, we can reflect on where we have seen this love in our own lives - and be thankful for it.

*Julia Mann*

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Fridays in Lent  
at 6pm

from  
7<sup>th</sup> March  
to  
11<sup>th</sup> April

St John's Church  
Bury St Edmunds



# Stations of the Cross

Reflections following  
the narrative  
of Christ's passion  
using the pictures  
created by Iain McKillop

# Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

## SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 30 MARCH

### SUNDAY 30 March 4th Sunday of Lent

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Lackford
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

### Monday 31 March *John Donne, priest, poet, 1631*

### Tuesday 1 April *Frederick Denison Maurice, priest, teacher of the faith, 1872*

6.00pm	A Quiet Space	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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### Wednesday 2 April

8.30am	Morning Prayer (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
2.00pm	Threads of Lent	West Stow
5.00pm	Evening Prayer (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds

### Thursday 3 April

9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
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### Friday 4 April

5.15pm	Evening Prayer (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
6.00pm	Stations of the Cross	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

### Saturday 5 April

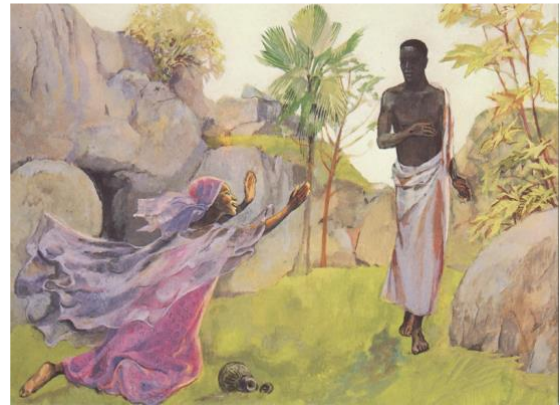
10.00am	Lent Course: <i>Searched Me Out and Known Me</i>	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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### SUNDAY 6 April 5th Sunday of Lent *Passiontide begins*

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Timworth
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	West Stow
10.00am	All Age Service	Fornham All Saints
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
3.00pm	'I will follow Him' Passiontide Meditation	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
3.00pm	Wonder Club	Lackford

# Wonder Club

**Story**  
**Wondering**  
**Craft**  
**Prayer**  
**Cake**



**St Lawrence**  
**Lackford**

**6<sup>th</sup> April**

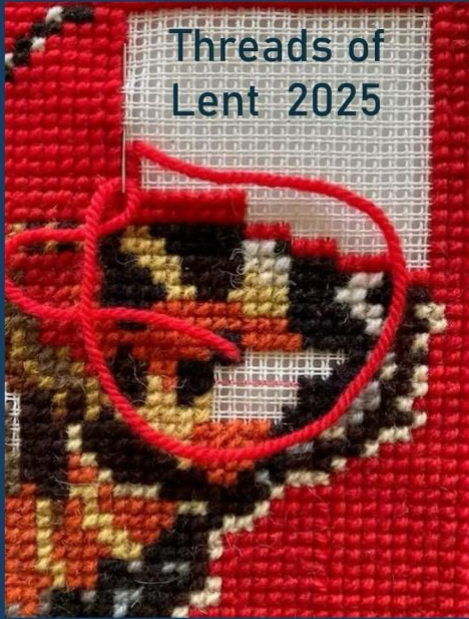
**3pm**



Here is the array of goodies with which **Team West Stow St Mary's** welcomed guests to the **Culford Café** on 22 March. Donations this month went to West Stow St Mary's, with £220 being raised by those who enjoyed the refreshments and cakes on offer. Thank you to all who came along.



There was a Sung Eucharist at St John's on the eve of the **Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary** on March 24. Here is the sanctuary party at the end of the service.



## Threads of Lent 2025

## Calling all Crafters!

Are you wanting to have a sort-out for Lent ?  
Nurture your creativity?  
Complete a half-done project?  
Try something new?

You are welcome to our "Threads of Lent" Group  
at: St Mary's Church in West Stow  
On : Wednesday afternoons from 2pm  
Starting on: Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March and then each  
Wednesday until the 9<sup>th</sup> April

Easy parking  
Tea and coffee  
Bring your own materials

Enquiries to Sarah Gull [seg30@cam.ac.uk](mailto:seg30@cam.ac.uk)

Donations to

East Anglian  
Air Ambulance

# Coffee Morning

Tuesday 1st April

10:00 - 11:15 am

Coffee or tea, cake and chat

All Saints Church

All Welcome

Lark Valley & North Bury Team Ministry [www.northburychurches.org.uk](http://www.northburychurches.org.uk)



# SCP Quiet Day

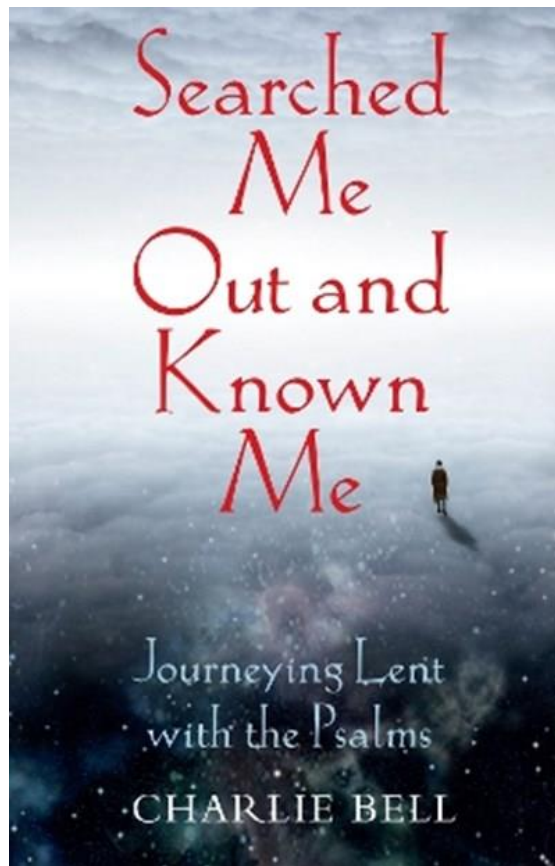


The St Edmundsbury & Ipswich and Norwich diocesan chapters of the Society of Catholic Priests held their joint Lenten Quiet Day at St John's on Friday 21 March. The liturgical colour was red because 21 March is the date when Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury and Reformation martyr, is commemorated - the date of his martyrdom in 1556.

The day was led by priest and poet Malcolm Guite, who took 'Poetry as Prayer' as his theme, centring on George Herbert's *Prayer (1)*

Prayer the Church's banquet, angel's age,  
God's breath in man returning to his birth,  
The soul in paraphrase, heart in pilgrimage,  
The Christian plummet sounding heav'n and earth;  
Engine against th' Almighty, sinner's tow'r,  
Reversed thunder, Christ-side-piercing spear,  
The six-days world transposing in an hour,  
A kind of tune, which all things hear and fear;  
Softness, and peace, and joy, and love, and bliss,  
Exalted Manna, gladness of the best,  
Heaven in ordinary, man well drest,  
The milky way, the bird of Paradise,  
Church-bells beyond the stars heard, the soul's blood,  
The land of spices; something understood.

## LENT IN THE LARK VALLEY NORTH BURY TEAM



Every year we make our Lenten journey together – but this year we will do so accompanied by the Psalms.

We will be using the wonderful book,  
Searched Me Out and Known Me, by Charlie Bell.

You may like to purchase your own copy - not least so you can continue to use it in Holy Week - but it is not essential.

Don't worry if you cannot make every session.  
Come to what you can. And bring a friend while you are at it!

**When: Saturday, 10-11.30am**

**Remaining dates: 29<sup>th</sup> March, 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April**

**Where: St John the Evangelist, St John's St, BSE**

**Further details: Mother Ali [teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com](mailto:teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com) 01284 728714**

# CAPTION COMPETITION RESULT



*Entries caught in the net this week include:*

In a bid to increase the congregation, Ann Lee was given a fishing net which was too small.

*Hugh Belsey*

During Lent Ann liked to capture any rogue A words\*

\* I am too scared to spell out the

A word in case Ann gets me!

*Gina Robertson*

*And the winner is **Steve Robertson** with*

Ann couldn't hide her embarrassment after bringing her Ordinary Time net to church during Lent.

# Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

## Praying Together ~ April 2025

### *For the wider community and church*

- 1 T All with financial difficulties
- 2 W Homeless people; Lucy Adams House and Britannia House
- 3 T All who work in and visit the King's Forest
- 4 F For our initiatives in dealing with the climate change emergency
- 5 S Lark Valley farms; Those who walk on the Lark Valley Path  
and St Edmund's Way
  
- 6 S All Saints' Church, Wordwell (Churches Conservation Trust)
- 7 M All who live in Wordwell
- 8 T Moseley's Farm Business Centre
- 9 W All who live in Fornham St Genevieve
- 10 T Hall Farm Business Park
- 11 F Park Farm Business Centre
- 12 S All who take care of the fabric of our churches
  
- 13 S All who visit our churches as tourists
- 14 M All those preparing for baptism, marriage or confirmation
- 15 T All whose funerals have taken place recently
- 16 W All who mourn
- 17 T West Stow Country Park and Kings Forest Caravan Park
- 18 F West Stow Club
- 19 S St Mary's Church, West Stow
  
- 20 S *Growing in God* worship, work & witness at West Stow
- 21 M All who live in West Stow
- 22 T Sports clubs & golf courses
- 23 W Fullers Mill Garden; Chimney Mills Gallery
- 24 T *The Suffolk Wildlife Trust* at Lackford Lakes
- 25 F St Lawrence's Church, Lackford
- 26 S *Growing in God* worship, work & witness at Lackford
  
- 27 S All who live in Lackford
- 28 M All our Clergy, our Reader and Lay Elders
- 29 T For vocations to the ordained and other ministries
- 30 W That our congregations may grow in faith and numbers

# THE MEAD SINGERS

Conducted by Michael Phillips



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## ***I WILL FOLLOW HIM***

Music and Readings for Choir and  
Congregation for Passiontide

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**Sunday 6th April**

**3PM**

**St George's Church, Anselm Avenue,  
Bury St Edmunds, IP33 6JZ**

Organist and Meditations by David Honeyball

Retiring Collection

# CAPTION COMPETITION



*Thanks to an unnamed benefactor for this photograph, which apparently depicts a well-known local clergyman pocketing a wodge of cash.*

*Surely our readers can provide more information about how this came about?*

A choice of fairtrade wine or chocolate awaits the person who can contribute the winning caption. Please send your entries by Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March to the Viral Bulletin at [adrian.mann@btinternet.com](mailto:adrian.mann@btinternet.com)



Good Friday 18th April 2025

# Walk of Witness

10:30am

Short service in St Edmundsbury Cathedral

11:00am

Follow the cross. Silent procession into town

11:15am

At the stage in Market Square. Speaker Kevin Gladwell

11:45am - Finish



**CHURCHES TOGETHER BURY ST EDMUNDS & DISTRICT**

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## Contacts

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Revd Ali Miller ..... 01284 728714

[teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com](mailto:teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com)

Team Office ..... 01284 700400

[NBTLVB@outlook.com](mailto:NBTLVB@outlook.com)

*We also have assistance from priests within  
the benefice with permission to officiate.*

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## Please don't forget ...

to let Julie Hooton [NBTLVB@outlook.com](mailto:NBTLVB@outlook.com)

and the 'Viral Bulletin' [adrian.mann@btinternet.com](mailto:adrian.mann@btinternet.com)

have news and details of events which have happened  
*as well as events which are coming up* at your church.

And your photographs are always welcome.

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