

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

4 May 2025

3rd Sunday of Easter

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



Lackford Lakes ~ Suffolk Wildlife Trust

24 April 2025

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3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 9.1-6(7-20) Psalm 30 Revelation 5.11-14 John 21.1-19

Now, in this Easter season, we can ponder the many different, tantalising descriptions of encounters with the risen Lord Jesus. St. Paul refers to his, the Damascus Road experience, as 'to one born out of due time' (1 Corinthians 15.8), being a few years after that first Easter.

Paul (still then Saul) heard the voice, but saw only light. For three days afterwards he was blind, as if with severe sunstroke. He had had to ask who it was that was speaking to him, but this was not the case for his rescuer, Ananias, who apparently knew the Lord. As we know, Christian disciples were already in Damascus, since arresting them had been the purpose of Saul's journey. They in turn knew, with dread, of Saul.

Luke, the assumed writer of Acts, refers to Jesus from the end of his Gospel as 'the Lord'. Ananias addresses him as 'Lord', and it is made clear in the speech about bringing 'my name before Gentiles and kings' that this is Jesus. And Ananias, now persuaded, can say 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you has sent me'. We may presume it was Ananias who baptised Saul, who very quickly wanted to start preaching - but a much more lengthy preparation was going to be needed for that.

The Gospel for today is set during the first Eastertide. This last chapter of St. John has a completely different style and feel, almost like a dream sequence. We can imagine a mist rising from the lake that early morning. The seven disciples, led by Peter, were back in old, familiar haunts, in the former activity of fishing. From experience they knew that nighttime was best for this, but they had failed to find anything.

The previous chapter had given at least two appearances of Christ when he was immediately known. For another, and in one in a different gospel, he was at first not recognised. Here at the lakeside he was known and yet not, rather as in a dream. 'Now none of the disciples dared to ask him "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord'.

Is this analogous with how Jesus through his earthly life was seen in the ordinary way, but not perceived in the fullness of his real self? This Gospel emphasises seeing as understanding, often speaking metaphorically of blindness. The one who saw best (the 'beloved disciple') understood best.

The group in the boat still needed Jesus' direction in the task of fishing they had given themselves. He had called them before to 'fish for people'. The high number of fish now caught (153) perhaps represents the total of species known, and hence the new mission to all people. But the food for breakfast, to sustain them, was already prepared by Jesus (bread and fish, reminiscent of the feeding of the five thousand).

This account of the miraculous catch of fish matches another near the beginning of the Gospel of Luke. Both involve Peter, with a previous night's failure, a call, and a response. That the same rare word is used in both for getting out of the boat shows a common source for the account.

There are other points linking the beginning and end of the whole Gospel story. Whether made earlier or later, the call to anyone is the same. On responding, the one called is told 'Follow me'.

Jesus had said at a previous time 'I came not to call the righteous, but sinners'. All human beings can make bad mistakes and take wrong paths. Peter had made that triple denial after Jesus' arrest, in that long night before cock-crow in the High Priest's courtyard, warmed by a charcoal fire. Now here at the lakeside was another fire; fire often shows divine presence in the Bible.

Three times Peter has to answer the Lord's questions, and in the Greek two words for 'love' are used. That used by Jesus is deeper and stronger, but Peter dares not use it, keeping to the less-demanding word. Finally, Jesus also uses that, as though saying 'Do you even care that much?' which upsets, grieves, Peter even more. He is still given the charge, to look after the Lord's flock, and he is forewarned of his martyrdom.

You may know of the legend that in Rome Peter was crucified upside-down, his token of unworthiness. In recent decades his burial below St. Peter's has been identified. Now the world has been made aware of the funeral of his latest successor, demonstrating almost two thousand years of continuity.

The last chapter of St. John's Gospel seems to show that in ordinary daily life, in its ups and downs, the Lord is still with us, and can provide for us. The critical, astonishing events we recalled for Holy Week and Easter Sunday do not disappear into memory, but reach forward into a constant presence, even if unrecognised. And the Lord's messengers are all about us.

Marianne Atkinson

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 4 MAY

SUNDAY 4 May 3rd Sunday of Easter

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 Worship	Fornham All Saints
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
3.00pm	Wonder Club	Lackford

Monday 5 May

Tuesday 6 May

10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham St Martin
6.00pm	A Quiet Space	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Wednesday 7 May

8.30am	Morning Prayer (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
5.00pm	Evening Prayer (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds

Thursday 8 May Julian of Norwich, spiritual writer, c1417

9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
6.00pm	Adoration and Benediction	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Friday 9 May

5.15pm	Evening Prayer (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
6.00pm	Eucharist	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Saturday 10 May

SUNDAY 11 May 4th Sunday of Easter

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Culford
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
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham St Martin
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Wonder Club

Story
Wondering
Craft
Prayer
Cake



St Lawrence Lackford

4th May, 3pm



You are warmly invited to attend our
**Spring service to celebrate 10 years
of the ongoing work of Bury Drop In**

on Sunday 11 May 2025 at 6pm
at Garland Street Baptist Church

Refreshments served from 5pm

Those planning to attend are asked to **RSVP** by email to
info@burydropin.org no later than Sunday 27 April 2025
so we can prepare well for this special occasion



LONDON MARATHON UPDATE – JULIE HOOTON

27TH APRIL 2025

The day started with my watch helpfully telling me that it was Race Day!

I checked all my kit, made sure I had enough nutrition and hydration and off I went.

I was running with fellow Brandon Fern Hopper running club member, Alison.

We supported each other through the lows, the highs and the heat. We stopped and took selfies at key places – London Bridge being one of them.

We finished in 5hr 56min 46 secs.

Did I love it? It was certainly a fantastic adventure and a great experience. The crowd were amazing. Will I do it again? No, but I'd definitely recommend it to any runner.

Thank you so much for the outstanding support I've received from everyone. The messages, emails and comments carried me through those 26.2 miles.

Through your generous sponsorships, I have raised over £1000 for the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

If you'd still like to donate through my JustGiving page, just search Julie Hooton or here's the address:

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/julie-hooton-](https://www.justgiving.com/page/julie-hooton-1736618700196?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=EM&utm_campaign=015)

[1736618700196?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=EM&utm_campaign=015](https://www.justgiving.com/page/julie-hooton-1736618700196?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=EM&utm_campaign=015)

JustGiving sends your donation straight to East Anglian Air Ambulance and automatically reclaims Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer, so your donation is worth even more.



Donations to

Alzheimer's
Society

Coffee Morning

Tuesday 6th May

10:00 - 11:15 am

All Saints Church

Coffee or tea, cake and chat

All Welcome

Lark Valley & North Bury Team Ministry www.northburychurches.org.uk

Our donations this month are going to the Alzheimer's Society in memory of Andrew Veal, a member of our congregation who died of this difficult illness a couple of years ago. Do come along to support this cause and enjoy coffee or tea, cake and chat.

CAPTION COMPETITION RESULT



Dog lovers are out in force this week:

Andy and Ali considering the opportunities of having dog collars in the correct liturgical colours.

Hugh Belsey

And they call it puppy love.

Janet Hayward

Samantha was relieved to be absolved of her pigeon-related sins in time for Easter.

Julie Morrison

Andy's wondering if he's next for a tickle under the chin!

Janet Hayward

Samantha thought of Matthew 15.27 and looked to see if there were any biscuit crumbs under the table in church.

Mrs Ahab

The mystery of the missing hot cross buns has been solved – suspect apprehended.

Julie Morrison

But the winner is Valerie Wilde with

Samantha was not impressed with the dog collars and thought Andy and Ali should get 'in harness'.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH
PARK ROAD
IP33 3QW

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

INFORMAL BIBLE STUDY AND DISCUSSION

BRING YOUR OWN PACKED LUNCH



29th May
26th June
24th July

12:00 - 13:00

Tea & Coffee provided



New Rope for Old!

Valerie Wilde

At the beginning of March the top of the bell rope of St John's single bell unravelled and fell to the ground. A new rope was ordered from Ellis Ropemakers of Loughborough. Ropes are handmade to order and are made from flax with a sally (the fluffy bit) of pure wool.



Making the rope



Trimming a sally

Our new rope is 70 feet long – the length of St John's central aisle. Then came the task of attaching it to the bell! Matthew and Adrian climbed into the bell chamber where Matthew affixed the new rope.



Looking down on the bell



Detail on the bell



Adrian ready to ring!

Our bell was cast in 1841 by Thomas Mears at the Whitechapel Foundry. It weighs 3cwt, has a diameter of 24 inches and its tuning note is G. It is designed to be swing chimed. Before being attached, the rope was dedicated and blessed by Ali on Easter Day. There was a choice of colours for the wool sally and the colours chosen were yellow for the Resurrection and green for growth (not yellow and green for a nearby football team!)

Our bell is rung every day at 8am and 6pm. At these times, during Eastertide we ring and pray the Regina Coeli and during the rest of the church year we ring and pray the Angelus. It is rung to call people to church for every service and is also rung at the point of elevation of the host at the Sunday Eucharist.

During the few weeks we were without a rope, local people asked why the bell wasn't being rung and said how they'd missed it - another way of proclaiming the presence of the church in our area.

Bury Town Pastors



Is God calling YOU?

Could you join the Prayer Team, praying for the Town Pastors and people in the town?

Could you be a Town Pastor patrolling the streets of Bury, showing the love of Jesus and caring for people on one Saturday night each month?

***Apply now for
Town Pastor
Training 2025***

Town Pastor Training Dates: Saturday 17th May (9.00am - 4.00pm) & 4 evenings: Tues 20th May, Thurs 5th June, Wed 11th June, and Mon 16th June.

Prayer Team applications are welcome anytime

As part of the team we would ask you to be on duty one night a month either as a Town Pastor, praying at our base or praying for one hour a month in your own home. Each month you would have the opportunity to say when you are available.

Not sure about applying?...contact Jo Copsey to arrange to come out with the Town Pastors for an hour or two, or to visit the Prayer Base.



For further information contact: **Jo Copsey**

Tel: 07594 334215

Email: jocopsey@burytownpastors.org.uk

Or download an application form from our website

Website: www.burytownpastors.org.uk

Women's Voices Women's Bodies

We will meet Bathsheba, Anna, Mary and others, to explore
the Abused Body, the Disabled Body, the Aged Body, the
Nurturing Body and the
Suffering Body

A day event led by The Revd Canon Dr Liz Shercliff
and The Revd Dr Kate Bruce

21st June

10.30am – 4pm

St John the Evangelist church,
St John's St. Bury St Edmunds
IP33 1SP

To let us know you are attending, book here
[Women's Voices, Women's Bodies - Insight CofE Suffolk](#)
or for more information contact
Revd Ali Miller teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com

Bring your own lunch ~ Drinks provided



Help us respond
faithfully to the
climate and
nature crises

Worship and Teaching



Embedding creation care
in worship, prayer and learning

Buildings



Finding energy efficient and innovative
ways to manage our places of worship

Land



Nurturing spaces
for people and nature

Community and Global Engagement



Transforming local and global
communities and ecosystems

Lifestyle



Living joyfully and sustainably as
followers of Christ

CAPTION COMPETITION

*Thanks to Ali Miller for this photo of Ralph, Peter and John
in deep discussion in Fornham All Saints church.*



A choice of fairtrade wine or chocolate awaits the person who can contribute the winning caption. Please send your entries by Monday 5th May to the Viral Bulletin at adrian.mann@btinternet.com

Contacts

Revd Dr Andy Miller	01284 728714	teamrectorlvnb@btinternet.com
Revd Ali Miller	01284 728714	teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com
Team Office	01284 700400	NBTLVB@outlook.com

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

Please don't forget ...

to let Julie Hooton NBTLVB@outlook.com
and the 'Viral Bulletin' 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.
