

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

# VIRAL BULLETIN

18 May 2025

5th 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](http://www.northburychurches.org.uk)



*St Julian's Church in Norwich - site of the cell of the anchorite known as Julian of Norwich (1342-c1416) - was severely damaged during an air raid in 1942 and the traditional East Anglian round tower is now about half its former height.*

*In this issue:*

5th Sunday of Easter: Julia Mann \* Worship this week

Food for Thought: Bible Study at All Saints', Bury

Caption Competition Result \* Book Sale, Coffee and Cakes: Fornham St Martin

The Open Church: Dave Walker \* From the Registers

Women's Voices, Women's Bodies \* Contacts

# 5th Sunday of Easter

*Acts 11.1-18 Psalm 148 Revelation 21.1-6 John 13.31-35*

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Sometimes we are tempted to think that in the early church it was all sweetness and light with everything going on in harmony. This is a bit of a mistake - our gospels tell us that the twelve disciples chosen by Jesus could be an argumentative bunch and sometimes quite dim in their lack of understanding of what Jesus was about.

Our reading from Acts opens with a bit of a row with Peter being challenged in what he is doing: eating with those who had become believers in Jesus but who were not Jewish. This argument about whether believers who were Gentiles (persons who were not Jewish) could eat with Jewish believers nearly scuppered the church before it had hardly got going.

Those with a Jewish background would have taken the Jewish food customs about what you could or could not eat very seriously and as for eating with Gentiles, that was quite beyond the pale. That's why Peter goes into such detail in his explanation concerning his vision, which led him to understand why it was possible for Jews and Gentiles to be members of the church and eat together on an equal footing. In Christ, the Jewish food laws no longer applied. This account of his vision, of the sheet coming from heaven was of such importance in addressing who may eat with whom that it is referred to several times in Acts.

It also is the reason why being a Christian does not bind us to follow any compulsory rules concerning what we eat - but many will choose to be vegetarian or vegan for ethical or environmental reasons or out of concern for God's creation.

The idea of a new creation having its origins in the risen Christ is strongly conveyed in our reading from Revelation, in which he declares himself to be the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters in the Greek alphabet. Peter realises that all are one in

Christ when the Gentile people in the household he is visiting receive the Holy Spirit just as he and his fellow Jewish apostles had done at Pentecost.

Peter now knows that in Christ there is no distinction between Jew and Gentile believers. There is a new creation in the action of the Holy Spirit so that all believers in Christ are equal in God's sight. This includes us. When we are baptised, we too become part of the earthly and heavenly community of believers.

Then in our gospel reading we see that Judas has left the meal which continues in his absence. He's had his feet washed and then been given a piece of bread in friendship by Jesus - but he still goes out to organise the betrayal and arrest of his Lord. Once he's gone, Jesus tells the disciples to love one another. Perhaps this does not sound too difficult - but then Jesus tells them to love one another as he has loved them.

This is a new commandment, a positive instruction and one which we may struggle with when we contemplate the self-giving love of Jesus for his disciples. This self-giving love is still there for us but so often we forget it. For some of us, giving or receiving love is hard, especially if we feel that we have been used or betrayed by someone, yet we believe that Jesus still loves Judas, even as he exits the room.

Each one of us has to learn to love in the way Jesus has commanded us and this may take time and be painful. It reminds us of the commandment of Jesus in Matthew 5.44-45 to love our enemies and to pray for those who have wronged or hurt us. This new commandment to love is part of the new creation of Christ under the guidance of the Holy Spirit who makes all things new.

Then Jesus tells us that this love of his disciples for one another is what will enable others to know that they are his disciples. We are today's disciples and our manner of living in our church community (and out of it) will either attract or repel others. May we all be faithful in trying to live out this awesome new commandment of our dear Lord.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*Julia Mann*

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# Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

## SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 18 MAY

### SUNDAY 18 May 5th 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	Matins (BCP)	Timworth
10.00am	Eucharist (CW) <i>gathering for breakfast at 9.15am</i>	West Stow
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham All Saints
10.30am	All Age Worship	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW) <i>Preacher: The Revd Richard Stainer</i>	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
4.30pm	Evensong: Service of Rededication of the Bells <i>with Bishop Graeme Knowles</i>	Fornham St Martin

Monday 19 May Dunstan, archbishop, monastic reformer, 988

Tuesday 20 May Alcuin, deacon, abbot, 804

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

Wednesday 21 May Helena, protector of the Holy Places, 330

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 22 May

9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
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Friday 23 May

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

Saturday 24 May John and Charles Wesley, evangelists, hymn writers, 1791 & 1788

### SUNDAY 25 May 6th 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
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Culford
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham St Martin
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
12 noon	Holy Communion (BCP)	Flempton



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



# CAPTION COMPETITION RESULT



*A full post bag this week, including:*

Valerie cheerily shouts to the bell installation committee: "I will be right there, everyone!!" Valerie to self: "Why does this always happen to me? So, I found the bell but could not find the bell rope. After searching everywhere, I found the bell rope, and now the bell has disappeared."

*Stephanie Gooding*

"I support Norwich city football club. Look we even have our new bell rope in their colours! "

*Sarah King*

*To be sung:* Ding dong, Valerie on high.

In St John's the bell will be ringing.

*Janet Hayward*

"Whoops, obviously a bit over-enthusiastic! Sorry!"

*Gail Bate*

Valerie began looking for sponsorship to abseil down St John's spire.

*Lesley Langley*

Valerie was happy to be roped in (or so she said).

*Margaret Steavenson*

"Now where's the ladder?"

*Bob Torrens*

But the winner is **Alan Cole** with:

Michael has broken his leash again.

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**Fornham St Martin Church**

*Book Sale,  
Coffee & Cakes*

**Saturday 31st May**

**10:00am - 3:00pm**

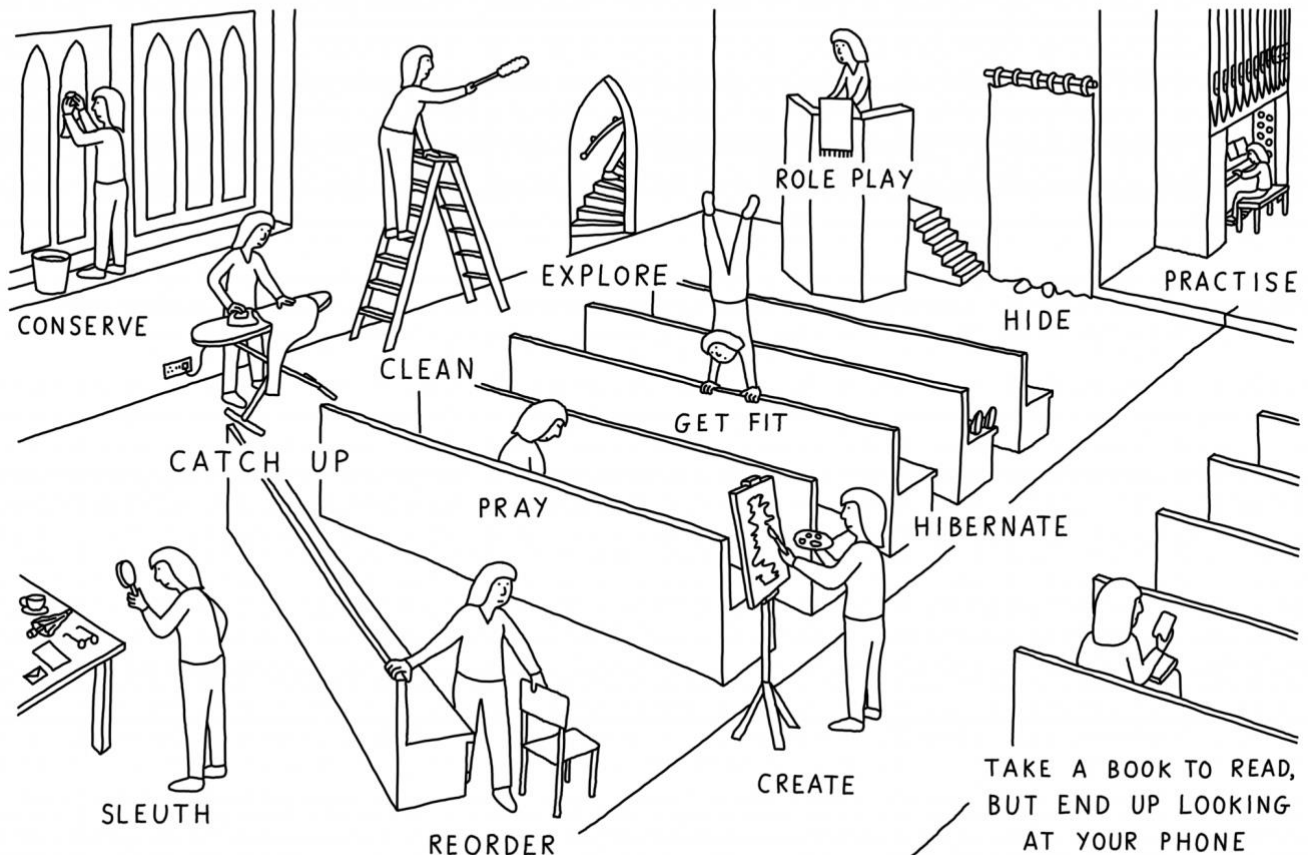
Over 2000 books and lots of  
cakes, scones and pastries.

**All Welcome**



# THE OPEN CHURCH

HOW TO SPEND THE TIME WHEN YOU'RE ON DUTY



CartoonChurch.com

## From the Registers

### Holy Baptism

16<sup>th</sup> March      Lenny Peck      St Martin's, Fornham St Martin

### Funerals

31<sup>st</sup> March      Janie Cullum      All Saints, Fornham All Saints  
followed by burial in the Fornham All Saints cemetery

14<sup>th</sup> April      David Spalding      West Suffolk Crematorium

15<sup>th</sup> April      Joan Webb      St Martin, Fornham St Martin  
followed by burial in the churchyard

15<sup>th</sup> April      Betty Baxter      All Saints, Bury St Edmunds  
followed by burial in the Borough Cemetery

6<sup>th</sup> May      Joyce Middleton      St John the Evangelist, Bury St Edmunds  
followed by burial in the Borough Cemetery



# **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**

**21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com)**

**Bring your own lunch ~ Drinks provided**



# Contacts

Revd Dr Andy Miller ....	01284 728714	<a href="mailto:teamrectorlvnb@btinternet.com">teamrectorlvnb@btinternet.com</a>
Revd Ali Miller .....	01284 728714	<a href="mailto:teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com">teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com</a>
Team Office .....	01284 700400	<a href="mailto:NBTLVB@outlook.com">NBTLVB@outlook.com</a>

*We also have assistance from priests within  
the benefice who have 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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