

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

19 July 2026

7th Sunday after Trinity

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



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7th Sunday after Trinity

Wisdom 12.13,16-19 or Isaiah 44.6-8 Psalm 86.11-end

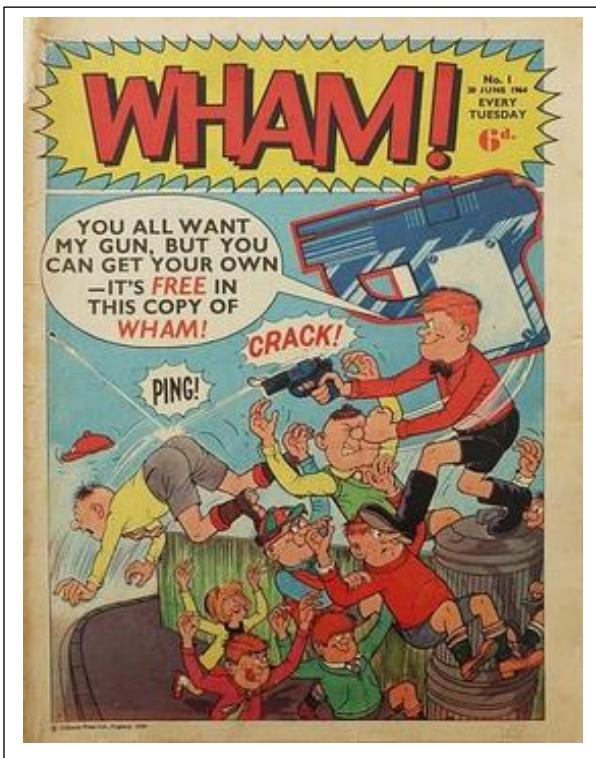
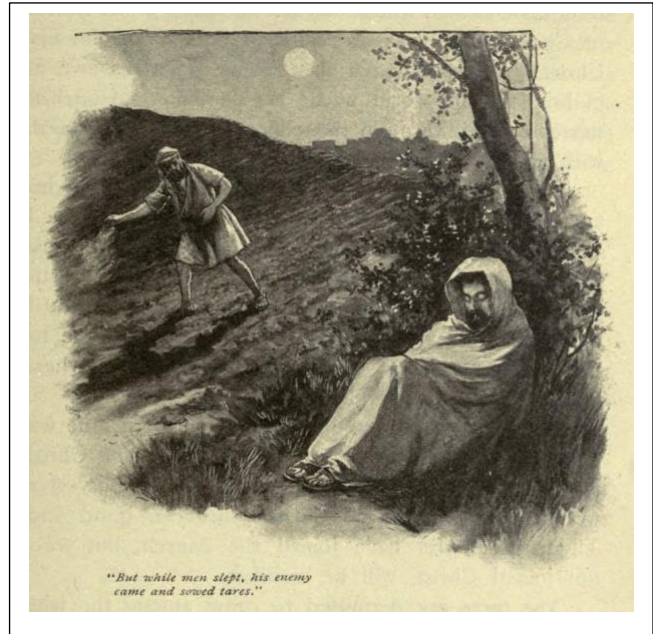
Romans 8.12-25 Matthew 13.24-30,36-43

The parable of the tares

While everybody was asleep...

My mother (from whom all theological wisdom emanates) used to cry “nip it in the bud!” when things were getting dangerously out of hand at home. Her strident tones were usually effective. But what went on when she wasn’t looking?

Where did these weeds come from?...



As a child, I had my fair share of violent mythical frameworks imbedded into me: Tom and Jerry carried on relentlessly, but generally speaking I was drawn into the stories of the hero (Superman, Batman, Popeye the Sailor), who is called in at the critical moment to put things right. This generally involves violence and gruesome dispatching of the bad guys. Happy endings meant that all was well for the good guys (with whom one colluded). It is a sobering thought that children nowadays tend to dwell [on-line](#), on

average nearly 3h/day, without direct supervision. Who knows what goes on, and who is behind it? The worldly powers behind what we see are often not directly visible, and may intertwine.

The Old Testament, too, is packed with gruesome examples: [Joshua](#), [Samson](#), [Jael](#), [David](#), and stories in the Apocrypha: Judith, Susanna, Bel and the Dragon. The God of the Old Testament himself comes across as particularly ruthless in his intentions, made clear in [Deuteronomy](#). Before we bemoan the state of our popular culture we should not ignore how these biblical texts shape and influence our world, particularly, perhaps, in the Middle East. We learn about God as a cosmic heavy-man that overthrows our own oppressors and specialises in vengeance.

Do you want us to go and gather them?



There is a deep tension between these texts and Jesus' teaching on the Kingdom of God, which challenges us in how we respond to acts of evil and their underlying causes, and also to their outcomes. Is violence ever appropriate? [Walter Wink](#), 20th Century Theologian, coined the term "Myth of Redemptive Violence", where we have come to believe that confrontation and violence is the only thing that works.

Such a principle pervades Foreign and Defence Policy to create a complex network of domination, aggression and competition. It seems an instinctive response if we sense "the other" in our midst, or experience assault or injustice, that we want to remove it, but that is usually easier said than done.

Any competition requires losers as well as winners. The winners become the dominators. Both oppressors and oppressed are part of the same worldly system which silences and excludes whole groups of people. This system exploits and dehumanises people.

As part of the Establishment, the Church itself is complicit in this approach when it deems some people more worthy than others in its quest for doctrinal or liturgical purity. We see this also in the shrill exchanges on social media, that amplify misogyny, homophobia, religious and racial intolerance.

Let them both grow together until the harvest ...

In Jesus's "[Parable of the Tares](#)" we are shown another way of overcoming evil, which requires patience and greater tolerance. An enemy has sown weeds amongst wheat seed. To remove the weeds individually whilst the wheat was growing would have been an exhausting and time-consuming task, and destructive of the wheat seedlings, whose roots were intertwined with the weeds.

The parable critiques the system of Domination, which thrives on pitting people against one another. It would have seemed particularly radical to its early listeners, used to Jewish traditions of Religious Purity as a covenanted people. The wheat and weeds appear to grow quite happily together, despite their differences. The weeds are innocent victims of the un-seen enemy.

We are presented with a new way of thinking within the existing order rather than confrontation against it. The Wolf is finally living with the Lamb¹. This new order allows all people to be treated well and to live in community together - not just one group at the expense of the other.

Such a vision is non-violent in its nature, and less judgemental. It holds the capacity to learn from one another and enjoy difference. This has important implications in how we treat new groups of people, displaced by the unseen forces of war or climatic change.

The weeds are collected and burned up with fire.

We cannot afford to be complacent. God's vengeance is still there, perhaps now redefined as a response to set things right. Jesus continued to live out his approach in a world characterised by the violence which took him to the Cross: that ultimate expression of a non-violent action in the face of Evil.

¹ Isaiah 11:6

This is not an easy option: it requires *us* to find ways to resist Evil without violence. We cannot let Evil dictate the terms of engagement. The parable requires us to love our enemies and to turn the other cheek, yet also gives us the power to break destructive cycles of hatred and conflict. It requires us to recognise that we resemble the weeds as well as the wheat, and to trust in the mercy of God for our own redemption.

Christ's resurrection gives us the gift of non-violence coming from places of death, and an invitation to new life, as we free ourselves from aggression. We can put aside the old rhetoric of super-heroes as our weakness becomes our strength.

There is no need to wait for the purity of perfection. We can look to the positive - recognising the benefits of so much in our lives. We can work for peace creatively and turn to God for his judgement in our difficulties. God's integrity is steadfast and Evil will not prevail.

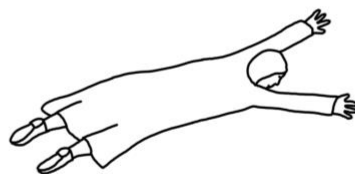
Sarah Gull

RITUALS

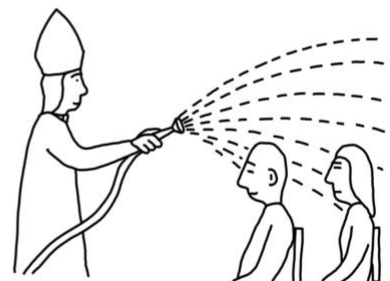
FOR HOT WEATHER



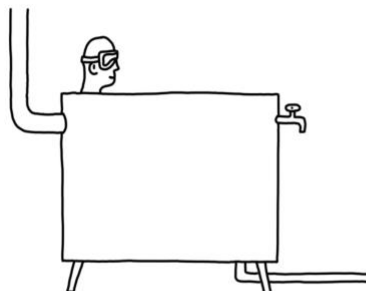
THE BRINGING FORTH
OF THE FANS



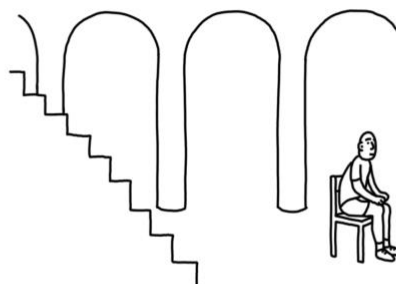
PROSTRATION ON A
COLD MARBLE FLOOR



HOSEPIPE SPRINKLING



INSPECTION OF THE
COLD WATER TANK
BY FULL IMMERSION



MEDITATION IN
THE CRYPT



THE GIVING OF
AN ICED LOLLY

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 19 JULY

SUNDAY 19 July 7th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) <i>followed by breakfast</i>	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW) <i>preceded by breakfast</i>	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Matins (BCP)	Timworth
10.00am	Said Eucharist (CW) <i>preceded by breakfast at 9.15am</i>	West Stow
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham All Saints
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Monday 20 July

Tuesday 21 July

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

Wednesday 22 July Mary Magdalene

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

Thursday 23 July Bridget, abbess, 1373

9.30am	Eucharist (CW)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
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Friday 24 July

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

Saturday 25 July James the Apostle

10.00am	Solemn Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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SUNDAY 26 July 8th Sunday after Trinity

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

At Wonder Club ...

... we heard the Godly Play story of Jonah ... a reluctant prophet. We spent time wondering ... including wondering about Jonah did next? Some thought he might have got on another boat to go to Spain!

Our crafts involved making fish, writing fishy prayer requests, origami boats, lots of creative opportunities with plasticine and pipe cleaners, plus the Curate showed us how to make spin painted crosses!

Afterwards, cake and biscuits. Wonder Club takes a break during August and we next meet on September 6th at 3pm. M

Mother Ali



SINGING FOR FUN WITH AFTERNOON TEA



ALL SAINTS CHURCH,
PARK ROAD, IP33 3QW

SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST

STARTS AT 2:30PM

ENTRANCE £5

COME AND SING SONGS FROM **THE MUSICALS**
OR JUST ENJOY THE MUSIC AND AFTERNOON TEA
IN GOOD COMPANY

www.northburychurches.org.uk

Jonathan at the Big Coffee Morning

~ being shown and playing the Street Organ made by Robin, who kindly pushed it to All Saints', Park Road, from his home.



Fornham St Martin Church

Book Sale, Coffee & Cakes

Saturday 18th July
10:00am - 3:00pm

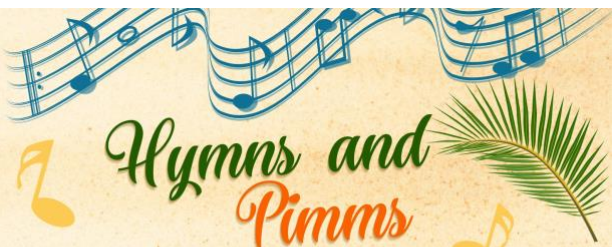
Over 2000 books and lots of
cakes, scones and pastries.

All Welcome






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



Hymns and Pimms

FORNHAM ALL SAINTS CHURCH
SATURDAY 25TH JULY
6:30PM FOR 7:00PM

*Come and sing 10 hymns - one chosen
by each parish in the LVNB Benefice*

Enjoy a glass of Pimms or a soft drink

Free entry



Don't miss the **Benefice BASH**



at The Rectory, West Stow
Sunday 16th August 6pm - 8pm

From the Registers

From the Registers is a list of the Church of England services known as 'occasional offices' such as baptisms, weddings (and we include blessings), and funerals, conducted by benefice clergy for the churches within the Lark Valley and North Bury Team.

Holy Baptism

31 st May	Justin Hammond	St John the Evangelist, Bury St Edmunds
31 st May	Shaun Howes	St John the Evangelist, Bury St Edmunds
31 st May	Paul Fenton	St John the Evangelist, Bury St Edmunds
14 th June	Harvey Marchant	St Mary's, Culford
14 th June	Miles Marchant	St Mary's, Culford
5 th July	Harriet Moss	St Mary's, West Stow

Holy Matrimony

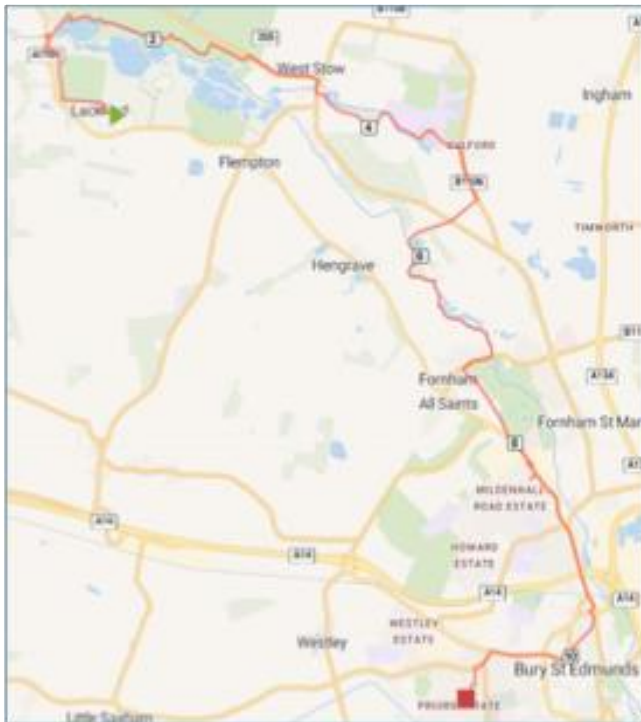
30 th May	Tessa McAuliffe and Thomas Crittenden	St John the Evangelist, Bury St Edmunds
4 th July	Jasmine Middleditch and Ricky Goodyear	All Saints, Fornham All Saints

Funerals

11 th May	Elizabeth Ramsay	West Suffolk Crematorium
19 th May	Meriel Smitherman	All Saints, Bury St Edmunds
		followed by interment, Culford Woodland Burial Ground
2 nd June	Alan Goodenough	All Saints, Fornham All Saints
		followed by West Suffolk Crematorium
16 th June	Pauline Mann	St Martin's, Fornham St Martin
		followed by interment in the churchyard
23 rd June	Lesley Robinson	St Mary's Culford
		followed by West Suffolk Crematorium
25 th June	Cicely Churchard	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
		followed by interment in the Borough Cemetery

Benefice Pilgrimage Walk

22nd August 2026



Come and join us for a leisurely walk from Lackford into Bury St Edmunds. We will be stopping at:

- St Lawrence, Lackford
9am (meet from 8.30am)
- St Mary's, West Stow
10.30am
- St Mary's, Culford
11.30am
- All Saints, Fornham All Saints 1pm
- St George's, Bury 2.30pm
- St John's, Bury 3.30pm
- All Saints, Bury 4.30pm

You are warmly welcome to join us for a pilgrimage across the Lark Valley and North Bury Team Benefice. The total journey from Lackford to All Saint's Bury is around 12.6 miles (20.28km). The pace will be reasonably slow (2mph) to allow us to enjoy the beautiful churches and countryside along the way. You may wish to do it all, or journey with us for part of the route only.

We will start from St Lawrence church in Lackford at 9am. Please arrive at the church from 8.30am for a walkers' briefing and prayers. There will be several stops on the way for toilets and to refill water bottles. We plan to eat our packed lunches at Fornham All Saints. The route will be a combination of footpaths and pavements so will require comfortable walking shoes/boots and weather/nettle appropriate clothing.

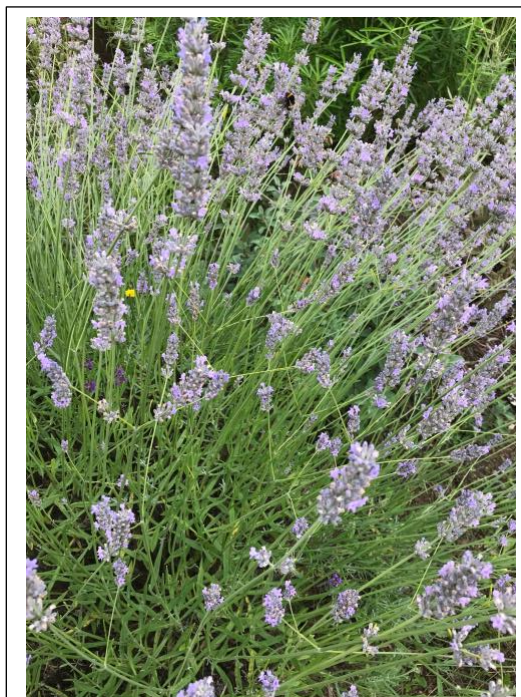
To find out more information and fill out a registration form, please contact Sarah Gull, seg30@cam.ac.uk

All Saints', Park Road

**7 August
from 4pm**

**Tidying of
Church grounds
~ any help
would be great!**

**Please bring tools.
Thanks!**



Contacts

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teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com

Team Office 01284 700400

NBTLVB@outlook.com

*We also have assistance from our Assistant Priest, Sarah Gull, and
from priests within the benefice who have 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, but please don't forget to
ask permission of those who may therefore appear in the Viral Bulletin.*
