

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

21 January 2024

3rd Sunday of Epiphany

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



At Launde Abbey, Leicestershire

14 January 2024

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3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Genesis 14.17-20 Psalm 128 Revelation 19.6-10 John 2.1-11

The wedding at Cana

What do we make of this story of the wedding at Cana in Galilee?
Why does John place it in such a prominent position in his Gospel?
The last verse of the reading tells us: it's the first of his signs.

John's Gospel is very tightly organised, and after the famous Prologue, and the preparatory first chapter, from there right through to the long account of Last Supper, it's what has been called the Book of Signs. Signs pointing to who Jesus is and what he is about. He is the Word of God in human form and substance. He is the eternal love of God here with us, given to us.

So look out for what makes up this sign of the wedding at Cana and see how much there is in it. There's always something more to find. Notice the first four words: 'On the third day ...' Here at the beginning of Jesus's ministry we are already pointed towards the resurrection.

Notice the theme of hospitality, there in our other readings, too. It would have been shameful for the wine to have run out - but with Jesus God's hospitality comes to the rescue when human hospitality breaks down. This incident is firmly set in the human culture of its time, but it *also* points forward to the heavenly banquet at the end of time. 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'

Notice how the account unwraps the Prologue's key theme of the Word made flesh, of a Jesus who is fully human *and* fully divine.

The story is very, very human. It gives us a view into Jesus' very human relationship with his mother that we don't get anywhere else. The son tells his mother he really doesn't want to do what she asks and she takes no notice of that whatsoever, telling the servants anyway to 'Do whatever he tells you.' Similarly, the exchanges with the steward and the bridegroom express a very human interaction.

And yet, at the same time, Jesus has a unique divine authority. The water that he turns into wine is not just any old water. It is 'six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons'. So Jesus is able, all at once, both to fulfil and to supersede Jewish ritual to offer a qualitatively unprecedented experience of the divine.

All of which is emphasised by the quite ridiculous quantity of wine (note it is of superior quality) now made available to the wedding guests. God's generosity knows no bounds and clearly transcends the recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer.

John shows us that Jesus himself is the true bridegroom, the true host, for all his people. He is the one who offers a hospitality of complete transformation. And, being so, he is the true celebrant at each and every Eucharist, bringing that transformation into our lives in the here and now.

Then notice, too, all the references to time and place. We are in a particular time and place and are clearly told as much. Disciples have been called, and then: 'On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee.'

But we are also in God's time and place, too. A time and place beyond human limitation - defined by God's eternal life. A place where the Wedding at Cana is *both* a *sequel* and a *prequel*. It's a *sequel* to John's prologue, telling a story in which Jesus's human and divine attributes are shown to us.

And it's a *prequel* to Jesus' passion and resurrection: the events we shall come to commemorate in Holy Week and Easter. We've already noted how the first four words of today's gospel point to the resurrection. And then Jesus refuses his mother's request by telling her emphatically: 'My time has not yet come.'

This time is that which, it will become clear as the Gospel unfolds, brings Jesus' death and glorification, his *lifting up* on to the cross. The cross which then serves as a throne: the seat of the glory of Jesus. This is no less than the throne from which the Almighty reigns, recognisable and recognised as Jesus's own at the wedding in Cana.

Adrian Mann

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 21 JANUARY

SUNDAY 21 January 3rd SUNDAY of EPIPHANY

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Parish Communion with Holy Baptism (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Matins (BCP)	Timworth
10.00am	All Age Worship (gathering from 9.15am)	West Stow
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham All Saints
10.30am	All Age Worship (Christingle)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Monday 22 January Vincent of Saragossa, deacon, martyr, 304

Tuesday 23 January

8.30am	Morning Prayer (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham St Martin
6.00pm	A Quiet Space	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Wednesday 24 January Francis de Sales, bishop, teacher of the faith, 1622

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 25 January Conversion of Paul

9.30am	Eucharist (CW)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
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Friday 26 January Timothy and Titus, companions of Paul

6.00pm	Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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Saturday 27 January

12.30-1.30pm	Prayer Lunch ~ Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (see details below)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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SUNDAY 28 January Presentation of Christ in the Temple ~ CANDLEMAS

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Culford
10.00am	Eucharist with Holy Baptism (CW)	Fornham St Martin
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW) (4 th of Epiphany)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
12 noon	Holy Communion (BCP)	Flempton

LIVE-STREAMED WORSHIP

The Parish Eucharist is usually live-streamed from St John's on Sundays at 11am on Facebook [@StJohnsBSE](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsBSE) and later posted onto www.northburychurches.org.uk

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Churches Together in Bury St Edmunds and District

Launch service


Sunday 21st January 2024 at 6.30 pm

St Mary's Church, Honey Hill, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RT

Lunchtime Prayer, 12.30-1.30pm,
during the following week at various venues:

Monday 22 nd	('Day 1')	at the Cathedral
Tuesday 23 rd	('Day 2')	at Garland Street Baptist Church
Wednesday 24 th	('Day 3')	at Trinity Methodist Church
Thursday 25 th	('Day 4')	at St Edmund's RC Church
Friday 26 th	('Day 5')	at the United Reformed Church
Saturday 27 th	('Day 6')	at St John's Church

Churches will provide hot drinks, please bring your own lunch.




**Life in the West Bank under
the Israeli occupation:
First hand witness**

A talk by Ian Cave

Who spent three months in 2023 as a Human Rights Monitor

Sunday 28 January, 2.30pm

**Bury St Edmunds Quaker Meeting House
St John's St, Bury Saint Edmunds, IP33 1SJ**

 Ecumenical
Accompaniment
Programme
in Palestine
and Israel

EPIPHANY

5 The miracle at Cana

Here's an epiphany to have and hold,
A truth that you can taste upon the tongue,
No distant shrines and canopies of gold
Or ladders to be clambered rung by rung,
But here and now, amidst your daily living,
Where you can taste and touch and feel and see,
The spring of love, the fount of all forgiving,
Flows when you need it, rich, abundant, free.

Better than waters of some outer weeping,
That leave you still with all your hidden sin,
Here is a vintage richer for the keeping
That works its transformation from within.
'What price?' you ask me, as we raise the glass,
'It cost our Saviour everything he has.'

Malcolm Guite

*From Sounding the Seasons:
Seventy Sonnets for the Christian Year
Canterbury Press*



Concerned about the changing climate?

Come to a Climate Café!

Over two years ago we started holding a monthly silent witness on Angel Hill to draw attention to changes in the world's climate and the need for justice for those most affected. Today the evidence of climate change around the world is generally acknowledged but many people feel insufficient action is being taken. What can we do?

Our climate café is a place where, over a cup of tea or coffee you can talk through your concerns, exchange ideas and see some positive ways forward. We will meet at the Old School Café, towards the bottom of St Johns Street, next to the church. The café will last from 11.00 to 12.30 and you are welcome to come for all or part of the session.

First 3 sessions:

Friday 12 January,

Friday 9 February,

Friday, March 8th.

Climate Café organised by a collective of Quakers and Non Quakers

Burstymundsquakers.org



Beetle Drive Supper

at

West Stow Hall

27th January 7.00pm



IN AID OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, WEST STOW

Tickets £12 for adults, £5 for children; Available from

Dianne Luke DianneLUKE@hotmail.com Tel: 01284 729654

Eileen Gilbert eileengilbert54@aol.com Tel: 01284 728127

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BOTTLE!

St George's BINGO NIGHT

at

The Anselm Centre, Anselm Avenue,
Bury St Edmunds, IP32 6JY

**Saturday 3rd February 2024
at 6.30pm**

**£8.00 per person which includes
entry fee and bingo cards,
(extra cards can be purchased on the night)**

**Hot drinks and snacks will be on sale
in the interval**

(You may bring your own choice of
drink/snacks)

Everybody welcome

Please book in advance by ringing

Wendy on 01284 768714 or

Maz on 01284 767758

Charity Number: XN42173

EPIPHANY

6 St Paul

An enemy whom God has made a friend,
A righteous man discounting righteousness,
Last to believe and first for God to send,
He found the fountain in the wilderness.
Thrown to the ground and raised at the same moment,
A prisoner who set his captors free,
A naked man with love his only garment,
A blinded man who helped the world to see,
A Jew who had been perfect in the law,
Blesses the flesh of every other race
And helps them see what the apostles saw;
The glory of the lord in Jesus' face.
Strong in his weakness, joyful in his pains,
And bound by love, he freed us from our chains.

Malcolm Guite

*From Sounding the Seasons:
Seventy Sonnets for the Christian Year
Canterbury Press*

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL

On Friday 26 January, St Edmundsbury Cathedral will hold a special service in the Abbey Gardens for Holocaust Memorial Day, to remember the victims of genocide. The service will take place in the Peace Garden in the Abbey Gardens at 10.30am. The theme for 2024's Holocaust Memorial Day is Fragility of Freedom. During Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD), all victims of genocide are remembered, including more recent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

Joining the Cathedral for the service will be local schools Guildhall Feoffment, County High School and King Edward VI, who will contribute readings and music. As well as the special service at 10.30am, the Cathedral will be open throughout the day for reflection and contemplation.

Later in the day on Friday 26 January at 7.00 pm, the St Edmundsbury Cathedral Youth Choir will offer an act of meditation for Holocaust Memorial Day. They will sing works exploring themes of suffering, peace and reconciliation, including Gregorio Allegri's famous Miserere mei, Deus. This liturgical performance will take place by candlelight at the High Altar.

Revd Canon Matthew Vernon said, "This year, it feels especially important to reflect on the victims of genocide as we see a horrifying humanitarian crisis unfolding in Israel and Gaza. We should all feel the call to challenge discrimination in our time and to better understand how, stage by stage, it can occur."

Alongside the service, an exhibition titled, 'We have to move on': Jewish refugees in Suffolk in WW2' will reside in the Cathedral from Tuesday 23 January to Sunday 4 February. Through the exhibition, discover the stories of the Jewish refugees who found a safe home in Newmarket in Suffolk during the Second World War. This travelling exhibition from the National Horseracing Museum and Suffolk Archives was inspired by the memoir of lawyer and cellist Fritz Ball, who wrote about his experiences as a refugee in Suffolk. The exhibition will be open during Cathedral visiting hours.

On Saturday 27 January, the Cathedral Tower will be lit in purple, along with iconic buildings and landmarks in the UK, for HMD's Light the Darkness campaign - a national moment of commemoration and solidarity.

The public can also take part by placing a candle safely in their window at 8.00 pm on 27 January.

The Wonder Club

Story
Wonderin
g
Craft
Prayer
Cake



St
Lawrence,
Lackford
4th February,
3pm

All Saints Church

Saturday 10th February

Scones and Speaker

Arrival from 3.30 for a prompt 4pm start



Photo courtesy of Two Sisters Arts Centre, Trimley



The brilliant speaker
Charlie Haylock
and his talk

'An Eccentric Look at East Anglia'

a unique and entertaining look at goings on in rural East Anglia

Tea and scones

All welcome

Tickets £10

Contact Sheila on

01284 762774 (answerphone)

07815 504991

World Day of Prayer 2024

Friday 1 March

I beg you, bear with one another in love.

10.30am at Garland Street Baptist Church
Pump Lane, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1HN

7.30pm at the Quaker Meeting House
St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1SJ

All Welcome

INFORMED PRAYER, PRAYERFUL ACTION

wwdp.org.uk Registered Charity Number 2332423

Contacts

Rev'd Dr Andy Miller 01284 728714

teamrectorlvnb@btinternet.com

Rev'd Ali Miller 01284 728714

teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com

Rev'd Val Gagen 01284 361963

rev.valgagen@gmail.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 details of events which have happened

and events which are coming up at your church.

And your photos are always welcome,
jpeg or png format preferred.
