

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

28th April & 5th May 2024

5th & 6th Sundays 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



Near Moreton Hall, Bury St Edmunds

16 April 2024

In this issue:

5th & 6th Sunday of Easter - Catalyst: Andy Miller
Worship this week and next * Bury Town Pastors
Garden Revamp at All Saints * Caption Competition Result
Coffee Mornings *plus* in our churches during May
Wonder Club at Lackford * Praying Together ~ May
Caption Competition * Contacts

5th & 6th Sundays of Easter ~ Catalyst

5th: Acts 8.26-end Psalm 22.25-end | John 4.7-end John 15.1-8

6th: Acts 10.44-end Psalm 98 | John 5.1-6 John 15.9-17

A CATALYST is a substance that takes part in a chemical reaction in such a way as to speed it up, to make the process that you want to happen occur more rapidly, or efficiently. I know this not least because I used to be a scientist and as such have a fair degree of experience with catalysts and their use. Indeed, this was from the very beginning of my scientific career.

In the first ever interview that I had in my life at university, way back when I was just a slip of a lad, I was asked to describe what a catalyst was, and did so to show that I knew at least something of my A level Chemistry syllabus, before they would offer me a place to study for a degree there. I must have answered well enough, for a place I was indeed offered.

And then, as suggested, catalysts played a part in my life in the chemistry labs at both Uni and beyond in the 10 years I spent working in the chemical industry. Because speeding things up, making chemical reactions better and faster, was basically the name of the game when it came to my academic research and the science that I then went on to do for living.

But that is all behind me now. I have changed my career and with it my white lab coat for a white alb. So, you may well wonder, why am I mentioning catalysts at all? Simply because when I contemplated the passage from the book of Acts set for the Fifth Sunday of Easter, I immediately saw the role of Philip in his interaction with the Ethiopian eunuch as being similar, if not identical, to the role of a catalyst in a chemical reaction.

In this passage we find Philip helping this court official to understand what the prophet Isaiah is saying. He is helping this man to see that these and other words in the scriptures should be read and understood in the light of the death and resurrection of Jesus. And following this, the eunuch alive with his new faith decides that he wants to be baptized. One could argue then that what Philip has done is simply act as a catalyst.

Philip has speeded up something that was likely to happen anyway, and was, in fact, already happening. After all, this man of import was already showing a desire to not only read but to also understand scripture. It was the eunuch who had made the first moves in his journey to know more about God. And he was the one who decided that the time was right to get baptized. He was the one who wanted to mark what he had learned with a

further, and very significant, step along the road of discipleship. It could be argued then that Philip has simply provided a nudge to someone already set to head down the path of faith.

But in truth I feel there is more to Philip's role here than simply hurrying the eunuch along. And as it turns out this again seems to me to have parallels with the role of a catalyst. Many catalysts used in the world of science not only speed reactions up, but through their effects also see one chemical route being favoured over another. In other words, sometimes these chemicals lead the reaction down one of many possible paths. And of course, the catalyst chosen is the one that helps the desired reaction. The catalyst used is the one that produces the required product, or end point.

As mentioned, our friend from Ethiopia is fired up enough to open the Bible and take that key first step of turning the page and dipping in to the scriptures. Even more, he wants to know what the things he is reading are all about. But as we hear this chap not just wants, but needs, Philip to allow him to understand what he is reading. He needs Philip to guide him to see that the words speak of Jesus and not someone else. Someone else such as the prophet Isaiah, as the eunuch himself suggests. So, Philip is not only speeding up this journey of faith, he also leads it down the correct path that needs to be taken, which is, of course, the path to Jesus. And this is vital. Without this, who knows whether a full immersion baptism would have been the end point of this encounter.

So, like a chemist stood at their fume cupboard, weighing out powders and liquids into a flask, God makes sure to add Philip to the situation we are hearing of today, to produce this reaction, and we can see why. God leads Philip to meet the eunuch through getting the angel to tell this man of God to get himself to the side of the road, to be in the right place at the right time, so that he can help produce the outcome that God wants, a new disciple. All the basic reagents are there – the enthusiasm of the eunuch, the word of scripture, even the water as a natural font by the side of the road. But God adds Philip to the situation to get the right reaction. And that is what a catalyst is all about.

But maybe there is one way that Philip is not like a catalyst in this fabulous story of blossoming faith that we have from the book of Acts. A catalyst is something that does all its work and is then able to be recovered unchanged after whatever reaction has happened. In theory then the catalyst should be available to be used again in the same way immediately. And whilst this is certainly true of Philip, who as we hear ends the passage

still spreading the good news of Jesus to all that he meets, but now in the towns in the region of Azotus and eventually Caesarea, I doubt very much that he has not been changed by the meeting described in this passage. In fact, I would suggest that he must have been.

Philip must have been brought closer to God himself through what he has experienced today. For there are few things that can help one feel closer to God in my opinion than seeing someone come close to God themselves and begin, or continue, down the path of faith. Most wonderful of all, finding oneself being, like Philip, a part, or even a cause of this, is one of the most powerful and fulfilling experiences in the life of a Christian.

Which then raises a question for us all. Are we ready to be catalysts for God? We are all certainly chosen by God to be so. We are called to be those who are sent out to proclaim the kingdom of God, just like the disciples who Christ instructed to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth at his ascension. Through our faith, all of us, no matter who we are, can do this. And of course, in the acts of the apostle Philip this is shown very clearly. If we show his same desire to love God with all our hearts, and to love our neighbour as ourselves as Jesus wants us to, our living this out in word and deed can nudge people along the path of discipleship. In fact, I am sure that whether we know it or not, people are led to Jesus through what they see in the lives of those who model their lives on our Lord.

But should we feel that we lack the ability to do this, then it is both Philip and our VIP from Ethiopia who reveal what we can do to help ourselves with this task. Open the pages of the Bible, read the scriptures, and discuss with others what we find there. And know that these words are all about Jesus. And yes, helping someone find their way to Jesus, will only make our own journey of faith clearer and truer as well. As I am sure was the case for Philip all those years ago: Philip the catalyst helping others along the right path in their journey of faith and, as described here, this very impressive Ethiopian eunuch in particular.

Just like Philip, all who follow Jesus can do this. All who are Christians will find that God has placed us where we need to be to provide such catalysis, to get the reactions and produce the product that is required. And just like Philip, we should be ready to nudge, speed up and direct ourselves and others along the path of faith, in Jesus Christ our Lord – a path that sees a growing body of Christ as the product, just as God desires.

Amen.

Andy Miller

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 28 APRIL

SUNDAY 28 April 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 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) | 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 |

Monday 29 April Catherine of Siena, teacher of the faith, 1380

Tuesday 30 April Pandita Mary Ramabai, translator, 1922

| | | |
|--------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 8.30am | Morning Prayer (CW) | St George's, Bury St Edmunds |
| 6.00pm | A Quiet Space | St John's, Bury St Edmunds |

Wednesday 1 May Philip and James, Apostles

| | | |
|--------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 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 2 May Athanasius, bishop, teacher of the faith, 373

| | | |
|--------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 9.30am | Eucharist (BCP) | All Saints', Bury St Edmunds |
|--------|-----------------|------------------------------|

Friday 3 May

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

Saturday 4 May English saints and martyrs of the Reformation Era

SUNDAY 5 May 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 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 |
| 9.30am | Holy Communion (BCP) | Timworth |
| 10.00am | All Age Worship (CW) | Fornham All Saints |
| 10.00am | Eucharist (CW) | West Stow |
| 11.00am | Sung Eucharist (CW) | St John's, Bury St Edmunds |
| 3.00pm | The Wonder Club | Lackford |

LIVE-STREAMED WORSHIP

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

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 5 MAY

SUNDAY 5 May 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 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 |
| 9.30am | Holy Communion (BCP) | Timworth |
| 10.00am | All Age Worship (CW) | Fornham All Saints |
| 10.00am | Eucharist (CW) | West Stow |
| 11.00am | Sung Eucharist (CW) | St John's, Bury St Edmunds |
| 3.00pm | The Wonder Club | Lackford |

Monday 6 May Rogation Day

Tuesday 7 May Rogation Day

| | | |
|--------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 8.30am | Morning Prayer (CW) | St George's, Bury St Edmunds |
| 6.00pm | A Quiet Space | St John's, Bury St Edmunds |

Wednesday 8 May Julian of Norwich, spiritual writer, c1417; Rogation Day

| | | |
|--------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 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 9 May ASCENSION DAY

| | | |
|--------|----------------|------------------------------|
| 9.30am | Eucharist (CW) | All Saints', Bury St Edmunds |
| 7.00pm | Eucharist (CW) | Flempton |

Friday 10 May

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

Saturday 11 May

SUNDAY 12 May 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

LIVE-STREAMED WORSHIP

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Bury Town Pastors



Is God calling YOU?

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

Could you be a Town Pastor, walking around the streets of Bury, caring for people on one Saturday night each month?

**Apply now for
Town Pastor
Training 2024**

Town Pastor Training Dates: Saturday 11th May (9.00am - 4.00pm) & 4 evenings: Wed 15th May, Mon 20th May, Tues 4th June, and Thurs 13th 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.

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** or **07870 340344**

Email: jocopsey@burytownpastors.org.uk

Or download an application form from our website

Website: www.burytownpastors.org.uk

All Saints', Bury St Edmunds ~ garden revamp

At All Saints', Bury St Edmunds, we are revamping our garden after the death of the box plants. We are looking for perennials (some for dry places), soil and bark mulch. You may be thinking of dividing plants that will need a new home ... if so we would love to have them! The plan is to start on Monday 6th May at 10am ... there will be coffee and cake too!

Katie Orchard

CAPTION COMPETITION RESULT



Entries from some hard-boiled contestants this week. Here they are:

Andy didn't want to run in the egg and spoon race, so he asked Ali to run for him.

Sarah King

The Team Vicar's role continues to be one juggling act after another but Ali proves she can take it all in her stride.

Steve Robertson

The Team Vicar wins First and Second prize in the egg-and-spoon race, apparently helped by the fact that there are no other competitors.

Paul Bearing

Past experience had made the Team Vicar decide to illustrate Luke 11:12 with just an egg.

Gina Robertson

But the winner is **Bob Torrens** with:

Surely an eggsistential threat?

Coffee Mornings *plus* in May

Wednesday May 1st 9.30-11.30am

St Mary's, West Stow IP28 6EU

Chat ~ Tea ~ Coffee ~ Biscuits

Donations in aid of TAYFEN HOUSE, a direct-access hostel HUB which provides homeless accommodation and support to adults aged 18-65 years.

Saturday May 4th 10.30am

Fornham All Saints' Church

**Coffee morning
Music by resident Band**

In aid of Church funds

Tuesday May 7th 10.00-11.15am

All Saints', Bury St Edmunds

Coffee or tea, cake and chat

Donations to the Alzheimer's Society

Monday May 13th 9.30-11.30am

St George's Church, Anselm Avenue IP32 6JY

Coffee Morning

All donations will go to Christian Aid

Saturday May 18th 10am-3pm

Fornham St Martin Church

Book Sale, Coffee and Cakes

Over 2,000 books and lots of cakes, scones and pastries

All welcome !!!

The Wonder Club

Story
Wondering
Craft
Prayer
Cake



St
Lawrence,
Lackford
5th May, 3pm

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

Praying Together ~ May 2024

For the wider community and church

- 1 W For all badly affected by cost of living difficulties
- 2 T West Suffolk Council
- 3 F Suffolk County Council
- 4 S Parish Councils

- 5 S Bury St Edmunds Town Council
- 6 M Deanery Synod
- 7 T Our Churchwardens and PCC members
- 8 W Deanery Synod; our Rural Dean, the Revd Dr Andrew Miller
- 9 T All who contribute to and read our magazines and news sheets
- 10 F For those who use our website and other communications
- 11 S St Catherine of Alexandria, Flempton

- 12 S *Growing in God* worship, work & witness in Flempton
- 13 M All who live in Flempton
- 14 T All who are unable to attend church
- 15 W Bury Christian Youth
- 16 T Our work with children, families & schools
- 17 F Mustow Street, Cotton Lane & Eastgate Street area
- 18 S Northgate Street area; Suffolk Deaf Association

- 19 S Crosspenny Court & Redwood Gardens sheltered accommodation
- 20 M Mental health services
- 21 T All who live in Fornham St Martin cum Fornham St Genevieve
- 22 W Fornham St Martin church
- 23 T *Growing in God* worship, work & witness at Fornham St Martin
- 24 F Fornham House Care Home
- 25 S The Pines assisted living residence

- 26 S Havebury Housing
- 27 M Our organists, choirs and other musicians
- 28 T For all affected by domestic violence, child & vulnerable adult abuse
- 29 W Our Safeguarding Officers Valerie Axton, Sarah Cooledge
& Valerie Wilde
- 30 T Pubs, cafés & restaurants in our benefice
- 31 F Water, energy & telecommunications providers

CAPTION COMPETITION

A choice of fairtrade wine or chocolate awaits the person providing the winning caption for this photograph.



Please send in your entries by Tuesday 7th May to the Viral Bulletin at adrian.mann@btinternet.com

Contacts

Revd Dr Andy Miller 01284 728714

Revd Ali Miller 01284 728714

Revd Val Gagen 01284 361963

Team Office 01284 700400

teamrectorlvnb@btinternet.com

teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com

rev.valgagen@gmail.com

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.
