

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

8 October 2023

18th 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



*Smiling faces at Steve Robertson's Confirmation at St John's on Sunday 1st October
left to right: Andy Miller, Ali Miller, Michael Phillips,
Steve Robertson, Gina Robertson, Bishop Mike, Adrian Mann*

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All good things around us ... : Ali Miller * Worship this week * Ethical Consumerism: World Mission Conference * Last Night of the Proms at All Saints', Bury * Community Harvest Festival Songs of Praise at St George's * The Wonder Club at Lackford * Steve Robertson with Bishop Mike again * Adoration and Benediction at St John's * Macmillan coffee morning at Fornham All Saints * Love is the Meaning: celebrating Julian of Norwich * Donations for St George's Grand Christmas Fayre * Warm Rooms at St George's * West Stow Harvest * Contacts

18th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 5.1-7 Psalm 80.9-17 Philippians 3.4b-14 Matthew 21.33-end

Harvest Thanksgiving

Deuteronomy 28.1-14 Psalm 65 2 Corinthians 9.6-end Luke 12.16-30

All good things around us ...

I heard tales of a sort of present-day gleaning from a churchwarden a few weeks ago; this included the scavenging of the odd onion or potato that bounce off the tops of the trailers as the tractors exit the fields.

Living in our part of the county, Harvest feels real, is real. It takes on a multi-sensory quality. We see fields of vegetables and grains; fruit trees are laden. Perhaps we may have been fortunate to gather blackberries, complete with scratches from brambles (it is worth it) and fingers stained purple but also lips: the tell-tale sign of who has put more in their tummy rather than the basket (but don't gather any now, for it is after Michaelmas and the devil will have spat, or worse, on them...leave them for the birds). We smell the sugar beet (thanks to the factory!). We see and hear the animals: plenty of pigs of course but also sheep and cows. All is safely gathered in and there is much to be thankful for.

It is perfectly natural and right to desire to give thanks to God for all these good things amongst others: all the gifts in Creation which sustain and nourish us. These are blessings indeed, hence we celebrate with Harvest Festivals and the like.

Yet amidst tales of abundance and bucolic episodes, we remain aware of a disconnect. We know that for all of the plenty being gathered in – and I'm talking about this country – many people cannot afford to eat it. I'm guessing that most C of E churches celebrating Harvest will also be collecting for Foodbanks and/or collecting donations towards overseas aid. Many go hungry. Harvesting may look and feel very different depending on where we are in the world. War, exploitative conditions, climate change and natural disaster see to that. So for those of us who can, this is a time to give generously, to share the bounty, to spread the blessings and care for

each other. This, however, is nothing new. See Deuteronomy. In chapter 28 we hear of God offering many blessings and more if the people simply obey – listen – to the LORD their God and diligently observe the commandments.

Part of a wider understanding of the law, not simply the ten commandments, is care of the ‘widow and orphan’ and also the ‘alien’ ie these groups were the most vulnerable. Listen to God, keep the law, and put the love and awe of the LORD into practical action. When this happens, we find that the cascade of blessings is not limited to a pastoral idyll; rather, it is for wherever the people find themselves (city, fields) and however they do their work (basket, kneading bowl).

In the very act of sharing resources and caring for each other, then, we find ourselves blessed by God. Perhaps this is where the rich chap mentioned in Jesus’s parable comes unstuck. Now, Jesus told this parable in response to a query about land and inheritance; we don’t hear these few verses, but the gist is that Jesus is guarding against greed. Greed is the very opposite of a kingdom understanding of Harvest which is about abundant generosity. In the parable the rich man doesn’t see widely; when his land produces abundantly, his vision is to tear down the small barns to make way for an even larger storehouse for all his grain. His vision is purely for himself.

Notice his language: I will do this, I will do that, I, I, I. No thoughts are wasted on the people who actually worked the land for him, or harvested it, or filled the barn. No hint of gratitude towards God either. It is all about him. All the treasures are for the rich man alone and he thinks this will guard his soul. But in the parable God says otherwise. Hoarding is useless and won’t give security; if anything, it shows that one is operating out of fear – which is not usually compatible with a generous heart. Rather, Jesus says look to God who can save our souls. Be rich with God.

Jesus discusses this further with the disciples. This being Jesus, he is kind of jokey and poetic, as he discusses not worrying about things, learning from the examples of the birds and the flowers. Consider the ravens, consider the lilies: God feeds them, God clothes them ... how much more you?! The disciples will have had worries; we have worries. Anxiety is nothing new

and we're only human. But God is God. Look to God in prayer, turn your heart to God. If we manage this, then likely we can handle our fears secure in the knowledge of our relationship with God, strengthened by the Spirit through love in Jesus Christ. That's our treasure. And when we are not living out of fear and insecurity, well we create room to live out of love and generosity and discover that, 'it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom'.

The kingdom of God is one of justice, peace, and generosity. St Francis, whose feast day was the 4th of October, saw our interconnectedness in Creation and this brought him joy. All of Creation emanates from the same source, God. So we are all family (see his Canticle of the Sun/Creatures), all to live in harmony together: to not exploit – be that land or sea, or mammal or other creature – and to be generous and caring rather than possessive. Francis lived out this understanding of the kingdom, caring for the poorest and most sick people; he knew something of God's generosity while living a life of simplicity.

This Harvest time I hope that each of us is aware of God's generosity and I pray that we may enact such generosity ... and that this in turn becomes the source of our blessing ... so, to paraphrase Deuteronomy, if you listen to the LORD your God:

Blessed are you in the office block, on the ward, in the classroom
and blessed are you in the shop, in the kitchen, on the farm.

Blessed shall be your fruitfulness and creativity in body and soul,
in life, in art, in science, in nature.

Blessed shall be your laptop, your pen, your scalpel, your books,
and blessed shall be your duster, your tea towel, and your tools.

Blessed shall you be when you come in,
and blessed shall you be when you go out.

This Harvest, may we know and recognise God's blessings in our lives and may we live out of such blessing to be blessings to each other.

Ali Miller

*All being well, Ali will be on the Sunday programme, on BBC
Radio East, at 7.40am on 8th October for their 'Happy News' slot.*

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 8 OCTOBER

SUNDAY 8 October 18th SUNDAY after TRINITY

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Culford
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Harvest Festival Communion (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Harvest Festival Communion (CW)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Lackford
10.00am	Dedication Eucharist (CW)	Fornham St Martin
11.00am	Harvest Festival Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
3.00pm	Wonder Club	Lackford
3.00pm	Harvest Festival Songs of Praise with Norton SA Band	St George's

Monday 9 October *Denys, bishop, martyr, c253; Robert Grosseteste, bishop, scientist, 1253*

Tuesday 10 October *Paulinus, bishop, missionary, 644;*

Thomas Traherne, poet, spiritual writer, 1674

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

Wednesday 11 October *Ethelburga, abbess, 675*

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 12 October *Wilfrid, bishop, missionary, 709*

Elizabeth Fry, prison reformer, 1845; Edith Cavell, nurse, martyr, 1915

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

Friday 13 October *Edward the Confessor, king, 1066*

7.30am	Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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SUNDAY 15 October 19th SUNDAY after TRINITY

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham All Saints
10.00am	All Age Service	West Stow
10.30am	All Age Service	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
11.00am	Said Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
3.00pm	Harvest Evensong (BCP) with Archdeacon David	Timworth

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



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich



World Mission Conference

Ethical Consumerism

7th October 9.00 — 1.00

at the Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE



Transform Trade

CCLA

GOOD INVESTMENT

Three Speakers will talk about ways in which we can all make a difference to the poorest in the world by the way we shop and the way we invest our money.

Sarah Brazier will talk about Fairtrade and the impact we as consumers can have when we shop for food

Ruth Lindley will talk about how trade needs to be changed in particular in the clothing industry.

Andrew Robinson will speak about how we can do some good by choosing our carefully where we invest.

The conference is open to everybody, is free and can be booked via Eventbrite, or through the Diocesan Office.

We hope you can join us for what should be an interesting and informative day



ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

Anselm Avenue, IP32 6JZ

issues a warm welcome to you all
to join us on

SUNDAY 8th OCTOBER at 3.00pm
at our

COMMUNITY HARVEST FESTIVAL SONGS OF PRAISE

With the



**NORTON
SALVATION ARMY
BAND**

~
tea and cakes to follow

There will be a collection of non-perishable tinned food, packets of cereal, rice, pasta etc. and essential toiletries like soap or toothpaste and so on.

Your welcome gifts will go to the Gatehouse Food Bank

The Wonder Club

**Story
Wondering
Craft
Prayer
Cake**



**St Lawrence Lackford
8th October 3pm**



Here's Steve Robertson
with his confirmation
candle and Bishop Mike
again.

St. John the Evangelist
Bury St Edmunds IP33 1SN

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches



Adoration
of the
Blessed Sacrament
and
Benediction

St Wilfrid
Thursday
12th September
6pm *for half an hour*



The good folk at **Fornham All Saints** provided super refreshments at the MacMillan coffee morning. It drew in the community – there was a packed church and a wonderful buzz! Here's Elizabeth, Judith, Julie, and Roberta in action. *Ali Miller*





LOVE IS THE MEANING

An exhibition of new art
celebrating the words
and *shewings* of
Julian of Norwich

10am to 3pm

Wednesday 18 October –

Thursday 16 November 2023



St John's Church Timberhill
St Julian's Church Rouen Road
St Stephen's Church Rampant Horse St



www.julianofnorwich.org

#Julian650



@JuliansShowings



@JuliansShowings

Image courtesy of Julia van Griensven, juliavan@orange.fr

Donations for the Grand Christmas Fayre at St George's on 25th November

This is a call for your help please.

Can I ask you to hunt out all those unwanted gifts that you received throughout the year, you know the ones I mean - new bits that you say 'oh that's lovely' to and stuff in a drawer, bottles of perfume, soaps, odds and ends etc.

Basically anything new for the 'New Gifts' stall.
Children's toys, games etc.

Nearer the time any donations of cakes, very good bric a brac (that you would buy yourself, please) etc would be most welcome. Many thanks.

Donations can be left at the church.

contact Rev Val on 01284 361963 email rev.valgagen@gmail.com
or Maz on 01284 767758 or 07746 058179
email maz.callaby@btinternet.com

Warm Rooms at St George's

Warm Rooms are now under way
at St George's on a monthly basis.

It is a coffee and craft morning,
but it's open to all to come and
have a chat and a free cuppa.

Every first Monday of the month from
9.30 to 11.30 in the Lady Chapel.

Do come and join us
- with or without a craft.

West Stow Harvest



1st October 2023

with thanks to Ian Hobley

Contacts

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Rev'd Val Gagen 01284 361963

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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.