

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

24 and 31 May 2026

Pentecost and Trinity Sunday

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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Pentecost

*Acts 2.1-21 or Numbers 11.24-30 Psalm 104.26-end
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2.1-21 John 20.19-23 or John 7.37-39*

The following sermon was preached in St Paul's Cathedral on the feast of Pentecost, 8th June 2025.

This weekend has been a joyous one. I have officiated at two weddings, both fairly long in the planning. It is always a privilege and joy to witness such intimate moments, liminal moments, as two people hover on the threshold of change, something new, after waiting so long; their lives transformed as they head back down the aisle and through the church door ...

In our reading from Acts, we find ourselves with a number of other people who are waiting, and while not for a wedding it is for something else completely transformative. Following Jesus's Ascension, and the choosing of another apostle, Matthias, these people are all together in one place. But who are they? Now, while not entirely clear, we guess this is our beloved apostles, and mother Mary and the women, plus others. Previously, they were devoted to prayer in the upper room. In fact, they were doing exactly what Jesus had told them, nay ordered them to do: wait. And they did. So, from the moment he left, they entered a Jesus-shaped-hole, a liminal space (which I will return to). A liminal space - and in this case, one of absence ... until finally ... presence.

The presence is the Holy Spirit, the helper, the Advocate, which Jesus promised would come to them, though he did not say that it would happen in such dramatic fashion.

It is less of the gentle Spirit-like-a-dove, but if we stick with an avian theme, it is more like an energetic bird of prey. There is a roaring sound of wind as it flaps through the room, and its keen eye ensures darting tongues like fire reach every person present. There is no escape from this noisy disturbing experience which transforms them all such that they begin to speak different languages 'as the Spirit gave them ability'.

It causes such a kerfuffle that the noise spills out onto the streets and attracts the attention of those gathered in Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost. People have come from many nations for this celebration and now they have that little moment of homecoming within whereby they each recognise the sound of their

mother tongue and so, if receptive, can readily absorb the message of 'God's deeds of power'. This is a language of love and salvation.

However, not everyone in the crowd is amazed or perplexed; some sneer and accuse the followers of drunkenness. Step forward Peter, flanked by the Eleven. He is emboldened, finds the strength within, an empowerment from the Spirit to recall the words of the prophet Joel about prophesying and the coming of the day of the Lord and he links it with the happenings of Jesus. Peter the Preacher! How about that?

But let's just press pause. Let's return to the liminal space, that place where Jesus's friends waited in his absence. A liminal space is often a confusing space where one is neither one thing or another, where one straddles a threshold – what is clear is that to arrive on the other side involves transformation, a different status even. This is the stuff of rites of passages, pivotal moments in our lives. With the arrival of the Spirit, Peter (and all with him) cross the threshold into something else, another way of being.

For Peter particularly, there is deep transformation ... gosh, here is a character who has been on a journey featuring uncertainty, hot-headedness, betrayal, through to rehabilitation and loving loyalty. Peter now has a clear understanding of Jesus's identity and therefore his own identity rooted in Christ. Jesus said 'Feed my lambs; tend my sheep.' The Spirit of truth brings clarity and courage. Step forward, Peter: Feed, tend, and preach!

But you know there is someone else present who has already walked a liminal path and undergone quite a transformation. Peter would do well to look to her for encouragement. She went from everyday girl to Servant of the Lord. I am talking about Mary, Mother of God.

Mary's mother tongue has long been one of love and transformation through the Spirit. She is named right at the beginning of Luke's Gospel. Her holy consent to be the God-bearer and her subsequent overshadowing by the Spirit, emboldened her to sing prophetic words of a world to be transformed; this is the song we know as the Magnificat.

The fruit of her encounter with the Spirit was the birth of Jesus. She is also named at the beginning of Acts. I wonder if for Mary, this day of wind and flame is a spiritual top-up. We may wonder if she encourages Peter to embrace his gifts of the Spirit: 'Peter, get out there: preach and lead!' And he does, despite the naysayers.

Peter preaches using Joel's words, telling us the time is now. The fruit of both Peter and the apostles' encounter with the Spirit is the birth of something else. The birth of a Christian community with its fruits and gifts. Yes, it is frequently said that Pentecost is the birth of the Church. Fight it out amongst yourselves about whether you are Team Pentecost or Team Foot of the Cross concerning when the Church begins! Certainly, at Pentecost with the proclamation of the Good News, many are baptized and the family of believers grows.

But who is in this family? Perhaps the clue is in the prophecy. We, like all the rest gathered there, hear bookending words of universality, where God declares 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh' and 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved'. Yes, the Spirit is for everyone, there is true equality here, and the Spirit has a fluidity that sees her get into all places to ensure this. Here, in Joel's, now Peter's words, we hear that sons, daughters, young, old, and slaves/servants both women and men, all will prophesy, dream, have visions.

Some of these voices were not normally heard. The Spirit's outpouring falls on all peoples. And so this prophecy at the birth of something new is of a piece with the prophetic song of Mary as she prepared to birth Jesus. In the Magnificat, we hear of a world turned on its head so that the lowly are lifted, the powerful brought down, and the hungry are fed. And Jesus cultivates a heart for justice and compassion, but especially 'love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be'. Jesus always operates on the margins.

And, I think we're being called to pay attention to different voices, voices from the margins, voices of those the Church has ignored historically or been prejudiced against and sometimes, shockingly, still is – those the Spirit has also fallen upon but found the church door shut in their faces.

Welcome is bandied about in church circles, often the focus of church growth. I think we need to truly look to Jesus's welcome, where everyone is invited. Jesus's table is one of inclusion, of radical hospitality, a table where all can gather without fear or prejudice.

We must pray for the Holy Spirit to transform our hearts, to open doors. But caution: I don't mean welcoming people in such a way to suggest that we have all the power, the keys to the Kingdom. No, the keys belong to Peter and the prophecy he quotes points to a more egalitarian take for a diversity of peoples. Rather, think of permanently-wedged-open doors so anyone can freely walk in and take the place that is lovingly set for them as a beloved child of God. And

we? Well, we simply greet new companions in Christ who have their own gifts, dreams, visions, to share.

You see our mission is to recognise and remember that Church isn't just for one group of people (for instance just like me!). In our context of the Church of England, it is understanding that Church should be, is called to be - for both clergy and laity - diverse through the workings and outpourings of the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit is poured out on all flesh: whatever one's gender. It is poured out on all flesh: whatever one's ethnicity. It is poured out on all flesh: whatever one's sexuality. It is poured out on all flesh: whether one is in a good state of health or not, whether one lives with mental illness or physical or developmental disability or not, whatever one's age. And it is poured out on all flesh: whatever one's class, wealth, neighbourhood.

We know that prejudices are real and alas still fester in the Church. How quickly such will be rectified is another matter. For this we cling to that precious fruit of the Spirit: hope. As Christians, we must be allies for each other, to challenge some, encourage others, and enable diverse voices within our church communities to tell stories in confidence they will be heard.

We have a joyous array of voices to proclaim the Gospel. Let them! So, I think right now the Church hangs in a liminal space and what it will be transformed into remains to be seen, but this can only ever be the work of the Spirit of Truth as she burns and breezes through the institution, comforting and disturbing.

At Pentecost we see the unity amidst the diversity in the people coming together as they listen to Peter's words. The unity amidst the diversity of the Spirit being poured out on all flesh, all nations. And every week in churches all over the world people gather: we pray that such unity amidst the diversity is truly seen round the altar, where heaven kisses earth and bread is broken and shared.

The Holy Spirit of Truth may not always be easy to discern but at Pentecost we are given the chance to learn another language, a new mother tongue, which is a holy language of love, a language of inclusion rather than the language of exclusion. The language of love draws us together; to participate so we become one body as we encounter the loving presence of Jesus in the power of the Spirit.

And then, like Peter, let's spill out onto the streets, with souls inspired, mouths open, and tongues ready to proclaim God's glory!

Amen.

Mother Ali

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 24 MAY

SUNDAY 24 May Pentecost ~ Whit Sunday

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

Monday 25 May *The Venerable Bede, monk, scholar, historian, 735*
Aldhelm, bishop, 709

Tuesday 26 May *Augustine, archbishop, 605; John Calvin, reformer, 1544*
Philip Neri, founder of the Oratorians, spiritual Guide, 1595

6.00pm A Quiet Space St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Wednesday 27 May

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 28 May *Lanfranc, monk, archbishop, scholar, 1089*

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

Friday 29 May

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

Saturday 30 May *Josephine, Butler, social reformer, 1906; Joan of Arc, visionary, 1431;*
Apolo Kivebulaya, priest, evangelist, 1933

11.00am Holy Matrimony St John's, Bury St Edmunds

SUNDAY 31 May Trinity Sunday

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	Lark Valley Eucharist (CW)	Lackford
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 31 MAY

SUNDAY 31 May Trinity Sunday

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	Lark Valley Eucharist (CW)	Lackford
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Monday 1 June Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth *(transferred from 31 May)*

6.00pm	Solemn Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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Tuesday 2 June

6.00pm	A Quiet Space	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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Wednesday 3 June *Martyrs of Uganda*

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 4 June *Corpus Christi ~ Day of Thanksgiving for the Institution of the Holy Communion*

9.30am	Eucharist (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
7.00pm	Celebration Eucharist, Procession and Benediction <i>followed by a party</i>	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Friday 5 June *Boniface (Wynfrith), bishop, martyr, 754*

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

Saturday 6 June *Ini Kopuria, founder of the Melanesian Brotherhood, 1945*

SUNDAY 7 June 1st 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
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Timworth
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	West Stow
10.00am	All Age Worship	Fornham All Saints
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
3.00pm	Wonder Club	Lackford

St Lawrence, Lackford



Bring Your Own Drinks, Plate/Cutlery

Tickets available online



<https://lackford-community-council.sumupstore.com/>

NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE

to the

Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

Bank Holiday Monday, 25th May 2026

Leaving St John's at 8.45am

following Morning Prayer at 8am



12 noon Solemn Mass *in the* Abbey Grounds
followed by a picnic lunch

2.45pm Sermon
followed by Procession and Benediction

5pm Depart

Book to join us on our minibus ~ fare £30
payable to Michael Wilde in advance.

Come with £5 to buy an entry programme, bring a picnic
and something to sit on, and be prepared for all weathers.

*Please contact Mother Ali on 01284 728714
or teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com*

St John the Evangelist St John's Street Bury St Edmunds IP33 ISP



Corpus Christi

CELEBRATION EUCHARIST

with Procession and Benediction

Thursday 4 June, 7pm

*President The Revd Alison Miller Team Vicar
Preacher The Revd Helen Prior-Townsend*

Followed by a party - all are welcome

*Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry Organist: David Honeyball
Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Team Rector: Revd Dr Andrew Miller
Affirming Catholicism / Society of Catholic Priests*

St George's

BINGO

at The Anselm Centre, Anselm Avenue,
Bury St Edmunds, IP32 6JZ

Saturday 6th June
6.30pm for 7.00pm start

£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

although you may bring your own

To book your place please ring
Wendy on 01284 768714
or Maz on 07746 058179

Charity Number: XN42173

WONDER CLUB

Wonder Club is our monthly All Age afternoon benefice service, using Godly Play

We meet at St Lawrence, Lackford, 3pm

Expect stories, wondering, craft, cake



2026 dates

7th June

5th July

August - Break

6th September

4th October

1st November

December - tbc

What does Godly Play offer?

Ways to be community - Building trust and exploring together

Ways to create sacred space - Making a place to wonder, and taking time to reflect

Ways to get inside stories - Discovering the languages of word, gesture, symbol and silence

Ways to search for meaning - Supported by community, story and space, deepening spiritual meaning in our lives

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

Praying Together ~ June 2026

For the wider community and church

- 1 M For all with cost of living difficulties
- 2 T Food Banks - organisers and users
- 3 W Marham Park & Marham House Care Home
- 4 T The West Suffolk Crematorium
- 5 F Housing & businesses in Mildenhall Road area
- 6 S Industrial and retail estates in the north-east of the town

- 7 S** Doctors' & dentists' surgeries and health centres
- 8 M Bury Town Pastors
- 9 T Vineyard Church
- 10 W For industrial chaplains
- 11 T West Suffolk College and its chaplaincy team
- 12 F All who live in Culford
- 13 S St Mary's Church, Culford

- 14 S** *Growing in God* worship, work & witness at Culford
- 15 M Culford School
- 16 T Culford Village Hall
- 17 W Cedar Lodge Residential Home
- 18 T Rough sleepers & homeless people
- 19 F Trinity Methodist church; Bury Drop In for homeless people
- 20 S North Court Care Home

- 21 S** Manson House Residential Home
- 22 M St Andrew's Street housing area
- 23 T Northgate Street Business Park and other local businesses
- 24 W The Abbey Gardens - those who visit and those who work there
- 25 T Garland Street Baptist Church
- 26 F St Nicholas Hospice and its chaplaincy team
- 27 S West Suffolk Hospital and its chaplaincy team

- 28 S** For those who are unemployed or made redundant
- 29 M For all in relationship difficulties
- 30 T For those affected by addictions of all kinds

CREAM TEA
on Saturday 4th July
from 3-5pm

in the Anselm Centre garden
IP32 6JZ

In aid of the
Bury Drop-In Centre and St George's Church



Everyone welcome
£6.00 per Adult £3.00 per child
To include scones, cream and jam
unlimited tea, coffee or cold drinks

To book your place contact either:
Wendy on 01284 768714 or
Maz on 01284 767758 or
Email: maz.callaby@btinternet.com

Caption Competition



A choice of fairtrade wine or chocolate awaits the person who can contribute the winning caption for these action-packed photographs, showing the clearing-up process after the Lark Valley parishes' joint Annual Parochial Church Meetings held at Culford Village Hall this week.

Please send your entries by Monday 1st June to the Viral Bulletin at adrian.mann@btinternet.com



**WEST STOW
CHURCH**

JUNE 3RD

**CHAT, COFFEE, TEA,
BISCUITS
9.30 – 11.30**

**Donations in aid of
DEMENTIA AWARENESS
this month**

Contacts

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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.