

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

# VIRAL BULLETIN

21<sup>st</sup> April 2024

4th Sunday 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](http://www.northburychurches.org.uk)



*At Minsmere*

*11 April 2024*

*In this issue:*

4th Sunday of Easter: Val Gagen \* Worship this Week  
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# 4th Sunday of Easter

*Acts 4.5-12 Psalm 23 I John 3.16-end John 10.11-18*

Today in our Bible passage from John's Gospel, Jesus talks about himself as the Good Shepherd. This is a metaphor used in all four gospels, not just in John's Gospel which we heard this morning.

We can find God described as a shepherd in the Old Testament too. So when John describes Jesus as the Good Shepherd it isn't a new idea.

But what is new is John's description of the relationship between the shepherd and the individual sheep. In John, we hear Jesus saying:

“My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.

I give them eternal life and they will never perish.”

John shows us how the life and work of Jesus demonstrates God's love for everyone. In the Old Testament, in Isaiah, we find that the name of Israel, the chosen nation, is imprinted onto God's hands. [49:16] But John goes further. He tells us that Jesus knows his sheep ... each one of us is known and loved individually.

When we are away in the Lake District we see many sheep on our walks ... and so when I read this passage ... I am always transported back to the fells and mountains of Cumbria.

Unlike the sheep we may see locally, such as those in Ickworth Park, the sheep of the Lake District are mostly wilder, wandering Herdwicks. These sheep are able to withstand the harsh weather and you find them right up in the highest places above 800 metres, hugging the sides of the fells precariously. So these are the sheep that remind me of the wandering sheep of the Bible.

On one particular occasion, when we were walking on the fells overlooking Rydal Water, we came across a small black lamb huddled by a gate post, quite alone. Walking a bit further down the hillside, we encountered the shepherd ... and so we told him about the little lamb all on its own.

He knew exactly which lamb we were talking about and which Mum it was. She was apparently a new Mum and wasn't very good at looking after both her two little lambs. And he strode up the hillside with big strides and carried the lamb back down to its Mum.

And so, just as this shepherd knew his sheep, Jesus knows each one of us and loves each one of us individually. The sheep hear the shepherd's voice. They do not follow strangers because they do not recognize the voice of a stranger.

They follow the Good Shepherd's voice ... because they have come to know, recognize and trust ... the call of him who knows their name.

Corbin Eddy tells us: "As amazing as it may seem, virtually unbelievable ... the God of the universe bothers to know us personally ... distinguishing each one of us with the unique dignity of a name."

John implies a special kind of intimacy when he writes that Jesus calls each one of us by our individual names. And when he adds that we will recognize Jesus' voice, he is saying that it is a two-way relationship.

Jesus knows us, but do we know his voice when he calls us?

Do we listen, and are we still and silent enough, to hear?

Do we walk by the still waters which we hear about in Psalm 23?

In our reading from Acts today, we hear that many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.

This encouraged the believers ... and it says that day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. The promise of eternal life was there for all the believers.

And in our Gospel reading, we hear Jesus saying that to those who hear his voice and follow him, he will give eternal life, and they will not perish.

And so Jesus took the familiar image from the 23<sup>rd</sup> psalm, and re-told it as a promise, that all those who believe in him, will rise to a new life.

If we listen for the voice of the Good Shepherd and follow him, each of us can be raised to new life.

Be encouraged by the love of the Good Shepherd for each one of you ... as you also love others.

I pray that God's love may be with us all, as we journey onwards, towards his heavenly kingdom.

Amen.

*Val Gagen*

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## Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

# SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 21 APRIL

### SUNDAY 21 April 4th 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	Matins (BCP)	Timworth
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham All Saints
10.00am	All Age Worship (gathering at 9.15am).	West Stow
10.30am	All Age Worship	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

### Monday 22 April

### Tuesday 23 April George, martyr, patron of England, c.304

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

### Wednesday 24 April Mellitus, bishop, 624

*Seven Martyrs of the Melanesian Brotherhood, 2003*

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 April Mark the Evangelist

9.30am	Eucharist (CW)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
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### Friday 26 April

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

### Saturday 27 April Christina Rossetti, poet, 1894

### 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)	Hengrave

## 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](http://www.northburychurches.org.uk)

# 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](mailto:jocopsey@burytownpastors.org.uk)**

Or download an application form from our website

Website: **[www.burytownpastors.org.uk](http://www.burytownpastors.org.uk)**

## CAPTION COMPETITION RESULT



Some of the entries have been immaculately turned out.  
Here they are:

'I told you I could push the baton up my nose.' *Paul Bearing*

'Uh ... got something in me eye ...  
uh ... it's me finger.' *(The late) Tommy Cooper*

Michael was looking forward to his first day as a waiter  
at the Old School Café but was beginning to worry he  
might be slightly overdressed. *Steve Robertson*

TED: 'Come on now, Dougal, let's try this again - Michael  
has TWO eyes, ONE pair of spectacles and ONE nose ...'. *Paul Bearing*

But the winner (again!) is **Gina Robertson**  
with:

M successfully activated the covert X-ray function.

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# Coffee Mornings *plus* in our churches during 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.

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 18th May 10am-3pm  
Fornham St Martin Church

**Book Sale, Coffee and Cakes**

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

## All Welcome !!!

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## CAPTION COMPETITION

A choice of fairtrade wine or chocolate awaits the person providing the winning caption for this egg-and-spoony photograph, submitted by an anonymous well-wisher.



Please send in your entries by Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April  
to the Viral Bulletin at [adrian.mann@btinternet.com](mailto:adrian.mann@btinternet.com)

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## Contacts

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[NBTLVB@outlook.com](mailto:NBTLVB@outlook.com)

*We also have assistance from priests within the benefice with permission to officiate.*

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## Please don't forget ...

to let Julie Hooton [NBTLVB@outlook.com](mailto:NBTLVB@outlook.com)  
and the 'Viral Bulletin' [adrian.mann@btinternet.com](mailto: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.

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