

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

5 & 12 July 2026

5th & 6th 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



An intense heatwave dawn in Bury St Edmunds

With thanks to Marianne Atkinson

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5th Sunday after Trinity

Zechariah 9.9-12 Psalm 145.8-15 Romans 7.15-25a Matthew 11.16-19,25-end

6th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 55.10-13 Psalm 65 Romans 8.1-11 Matthew 13.1-9,18-23

Archdeacon's charge to churchwardens:

'I am about to do a new thing' *Isaiah 43.1-25*

The theme set for this year's series of Archdeaconry Visitations across the diocese is '***I am about to do a new thing***' and we have chosen as the reading the wonderful words of Isaiah 43.

Isaiah chapter 43:1-25 is a powerful prophetic passage offering profound comfort, focusing on God's unwavering faithfulness and redeeming grace toward a rebellious people. Definitely a feel-good piece. It transitions from the assurance of unconditional love and protection in times of suffering to God's promise of total forgiveness and future restoration. The overarching message is that human failure does not sever God's covenant relationship with His people. God's grace is sovereign, personal, and unconditional. No matter the depth of the waters or the heat of the fire, the promise remains: God is with His people, and His ultimate desire is to redeem and restore them.

At her installation Bishop Joanne told us that she 'saw' us, she 'saw' Suffolk, drawing attention to the agency needed to see someone or somewhere properly. Here in this passage from the prophecy of Isaiah, we are equally reminded that not only does God 'see' us he has called us by name. Names are important. They help form our identity and even colour the way we and others see us. When we are baptized or christened, made Christ's, our naming is at the very heart of that encounter. So here we are being reminded that we are known, we are loved and we are called. But we are also being challenged:

'Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.'

Yes, there is so much to give thanks for in our churches and in our wider community here in Suffolk, but we are not called to stasis. We are not called to mark time. We are called to new life, to respond positively to what God might be calling us to next.

Of course, we as a diocese remain committed to *Growing in God* and its four strands of growing younger, growing deeper, growing in influence and growing in number. *Growing in God* has brought real fruit to our diocese. For me one of the great strengths of *Growing in God* is the way in which it helps us to focus in on the God of small things, that personal encounter, that personal deepening which is at the heart of the Christian experience. Growing in God reminds us that mission is not just about growing numbers, important as that is, but about the quality of engagement and the depth of our understanding.

I am not an enthusiastic advocate for some of the recent developments in how the national church seeks to resource mission and ministry or indeed for macro plans in general. Scripture shows us time and again that Jesus recruited and converted by personal encounter and invitation and not by mail shot or slick campaign video. The English parish church, based in the locality, has proved itself a highly resilient vehicle for outreach and engagement: a place where the God of small things reaches out into the lives of ordinary folk. Despite the many ups and downs of church and civic life the parish church and its clergy and people remain for me at the very heart of what it means to be the Church of England.

But that said, we cannot turn our faces away from the reality of change and the necessity for change. If we look back with misty eyed affection seeking out a once glorious Anglican past, then I think we will need fairly powerful glasses. The good old days were never that great for those who had to live through them. There is a real danger that in constantly looking backwards in our settled complacency, content with the known and the comfortable, we become deaf to what new things God is saying to us. New things can be unnerving, frightening even. It can also be life-giving and a catalyst for a better and deep engagement with God's economy and with his people. Whether it be the arrival of a new incumbent or the introduction of new forms of worship or the adoption of new methods of governance welcoming the new is inevitable.

At the very top of that list needs to be our active engagement with, and promotion of, good Safeguarding practice and policies. We must always seek to protect those in our care and ensure that the most vulnerable amongst us are never put at risk. As I travel around the deaneries, I meet so many church wardens and their colleagues who are trying very hard to make their church a place where God can be encountered in a safe and welcoming environment. I recognise that many of us find the ever-changing landscape of safeguarding regulation frustrating and at times bewildering but it is absolutely at the very heart of the Christian

witness that we should do all we possibly can to protect the vulnerable from those who would do them harm.

Another new thing is of course the church's growing concern with the environment and what we unhelpfully refer to as green 'issues'. In perhaps more theologically literate terms, we are now of course painfully conscious that part of caring for God's creation must be about reducing our individual and corporate footprint as we pass along on our journey. Ruth Newton, the Archdeacon of Carlisle, has written these helpful words: "*Responding to the climate crisis is also an act of mission. It demonstrates the relevance of Christianity when the church's actions so far have fallen short. It models responsible discipleship. It responds to human need.*"

However we feel about the modern debate around ecology and environment we do need to be clear that care for the world in which we live is a Christian duty.

In addition, responding to the growing body of building and church legislation and all that comes with it inevitably fills much of our thinking and planning and I know for many churchwardens and others it feels a burden at least some of the time if not indeed most of it. What remains constant over the decades, however, is that without your commitment and hard work, the church could not properly function or fulfil its potential as God intends. We are the Body of Christ. We are the church. As Paul reminds us, we each play an indispensable part in making up the whole. Those who encounter us in our roles as priests and churchwardens and members of the church will judge the integrity of the church by our integrity. They will judge the integrity of the gospel by our integrity. If they are warmly welcomed and made to feel valued by you, they will feel welcomed and valued by the church and by God.

The role of churchwarden is I hope both a rewarding and challenging one but when those moments come, and they will surely come, when dissent is in the air, when tension arises within the worshipping community, or folk are despairing and losing hope and even faith, it is to you that the bishop and I look for wisdom and discernment in dealing with these moments of crisis. It is to you also that the church looks to support and care for your priest. To be that critical friend ready to challenge but also to affirm and stand alongside. Take the opportunity from time to time to thank your priest for their ministry; and clergy, you too in turn should do likewise. We all need to be valued and affirmed.

As you make your declaration, please be assured of the prayers and gratitude of us all as you commit yourselves afresh to the task that lies before all of us; the

growing and nurturing of God's kingdom here on earth. As churchwardens you are called not just to care for the bricks and mortar; not simply to ensure that 'order and decency' are maintained; not just to provide adequate seating for all who wish to attend divine worship; not just to deal with 'riotous, violent or indecent behaviour in church'; not just to do those jobs that no one else will do. Canon E1 charges you 'by example and precept to encourage the parishioners in the practice of true religion and to promote unity and peace among them'. You can be an example to your peers and to be peacemakers when unity is threatened. You can be an encouragement to your fellow-Christians even, or perhaps especially, when the going gets tough. If you are always seeing the glass half-empty, who is left to proclaim the good news that the glass is still half-full? If your litany is one of despondency and cynicism, who is left to pray with joy and thanksgiving?

If I may add to this worthy if rather intimidating list, please also be joyful! There is only one thing worse than a miserable churchwarden and that is a miserable archdeacon! Remember we are called to be gatekeepers for the Lord not bouncers. We are all called to proclaim the joy of the Gospel through our lifestyle; through our words and our actions; to be like a mustard seed that blossoms and encourages so that growth happens in those around us. Like the mustard seed we are called to flourish in the service of the Lord so that others might have their faith renewed and fed by example and faith. What we sow as church wardens and as ministers of the gospel may indeed be like the fig tree; slow to bear fruit but we need to take the long view. We need to stick with it; to persevere so that we can leave our children and our grandchildren that wonderful legacy which is the Christian presence here in Suffolk.

If the last few years have taught us anything then surely it is that we are amazingly resilient both as individuals and as a church and that ordinary people, ordinary Christians, can do and achieve extraordinary things in the name of the Living God. We can make a difference. We can bring about change in a world which is crying out for a new voice free of hate and rancour. We have a new song to sing and we must not be afraid to sing it. And so I return to the prophet Isaiah:

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.
The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

David Jenkins

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 5 JULY

SUNDAY 5 July 5th 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 with Baptism (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

Monday 6 July *Thomas More, scholar, and John Fisher, bishop, martyrs, 1535*

Tuesday 7 July

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

Wednesday 8 July

8.30am	Morning Prayer (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Solemn Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
5.00pm	Evening Prayer (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds

Thursday 9 July

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

Friday 10 July

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

Saturday 11 July *Benedict, abbot, c550*

SUNDAY 12 July 6th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am	No Communion Service today	Culford
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)	Fornham St Martin
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Lackford
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 12 JULY

SUNDAY 12 July 6th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am	No Communion Service today	Culford
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)	Fornham St Martin
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Lackford
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Monday 13 July

Tuesday 14 July John Keble, priest, poet, 1866

6.00pm	A Quiet Space	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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Wednesday 15 July Swithun, bishop, c862

Bonaventure, friar, bishop, teacher of the faith, 1274

8.30am	Morning Prayer (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Solemn Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
5.00pm	Evening Prayer (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds

Thursday 16 July Osmund, bishop, 1099

9.30am	Eucharist (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
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Friday 17 July

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

Saturday 18 July Elizabeth Ferard, deaconess, founder of the Community of St Andrew, 1883

SUNDAY 19 July 7th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) <i>followed by breakfast</i>	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW) <i>preceded by breakfast</i>	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Matins (BCP)	Timworth
10.00am	Said Eucharist (CW) <i>preceded by breakfast at 9.15am</i>	West Stow
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham All Saints
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Ordinations to the diaconate



Bishop Joanne is seen with newly ordained deacons outside the Cathedral following the Ordination service on Saturday 27 June. The Revd Jonathan Boast (third from the right) is also seen below with Andy and Ali Miller. He was welcomed to the benefice in a special service of Evening Prayer for the eve of the feast of Ss Peter and Paul at All Saints', Bury on Sunday 28 June.



At St John's ~ the feast of the Birth of John the Baptist



A precious mix:
incense light heat
meld a holy haze
settling above the altar.
Here too
are prayers.
Nebulous striations
of all that is
and what we are
held in Love's great mystery
as heaven descends
to render Presence
and the grand taste
of humility.

*At the end of the mid-morning
Solemn Eucharist, incense smoke
is trapped beneath the intense
heat of the air held above it.*

*With thanks to Ali Miller
for the photograph and the
accompanying untitled poem.*

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

Charity number XN42173

The Wonder Club

Story
Wondering
Craft
Prayer
Cake



St Lawrence
Lackford
SUNDAY 5 JULY
at 3pm

Coffee Morning

Donations to

East Anglian
Air Ambulance

Tuesday 7th July

10:00 - 11:15 am

All Saints Church

Coffee or tea, cake and chat

All Welcome



Lark Valley & North Bury Team Ministry www.northburychurches.org.uk

Fornham St Martin Church

Book Sale, Coffee & Cakes

Saturday 18th July

10:00am - 3:00pm

Over 2000 books and lots of
cakes, scones and pastries.

All Welcome



Lark Valley & North Bury Team Ministry www.northburychurches.org.uk

A decorative header featuring blue musical notes on staves at the top, a green palm frond on the right, and yellow and blue musical notes scattered around the text.

Hymns and Pimms

FORNHAM ALL SAINTS CHURCH
SATURDAY 25TH JULY
6:30PM FOR 7:00PM

*Come and sing 10 hymns - one chosen
by each parish in the LVNB Benefice*

Enjoy a glass of Pimms or a soft drink

Free entry



THINGOE DEANERY RETREAT DAY

Led by Revd Stuart Baton

Wednesday 22 July 2026

At Clare Priory

You are invited to spend a gentle day away from the busyness of life by coming along to a special Deanery Retreat Day at Clare Priory

Revd Stuart Baton (DDO) will be focusing on a theme of

Early Church Fathers

Cost per person is £40 which includes a two-course lunch, teas and coffees

TIMETABLE

9.30am	Arrival and Coffee
10.00am	Session 1
10.45am	Coffee
11.15am	Session 2
12.00pm	Eucharist – followed by free time
1.00pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Session 3
2.45pm	Tea
3.00pm	Feedback and closing prayer
3.30pm	Depart

To book your place, please return the slip below to Andy Williams no later than 8 July 2026

NAME	PARISH/BENEFACT	CONTACT TEL

Do you have any dietary requirements? (please state) _____

Please return to: Revd Andy Williams, 12 Constable Road, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 3UQ

PAYMENT IS REQUIRED BY 15 JULY – please pay as follows:

Thingoe Deanery Synod

Sort code: 201612

Account no: 40874566

Don't miss the



Benefice BASH

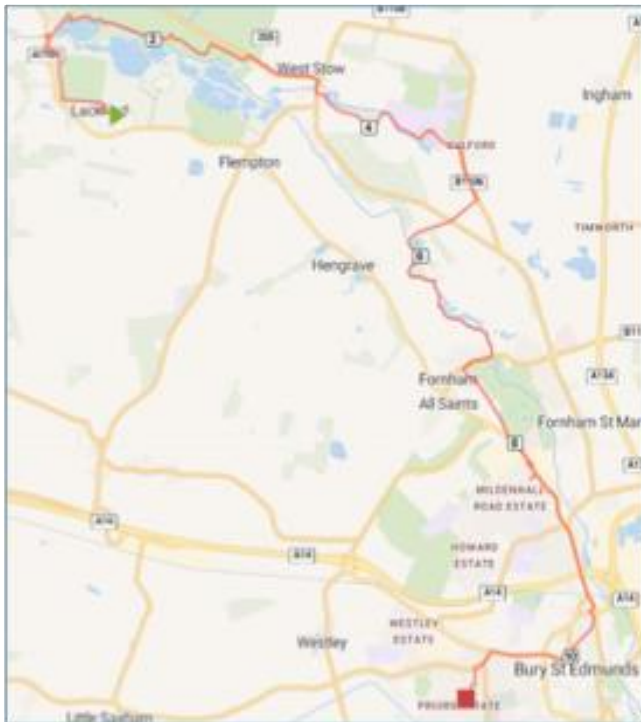
at The Rectory, West Stow

Sunday 16th August

6pm - 8pm

Benefice Pilgrimage Walk

22nd August 2026



Come and join us for a leisurely walk from Lackford into Bury St Edmunds. We will be stopping at:

- St Lawrence, Lackford
9am (meet from 8.30am)
- St Mary's, West Stow
10.30am
- St Mary's, Culford
11.30am
- All Saints, Fomham All
Saints 1pm
- St George's, Bury 2.30pm
- St John's, Bury 3.30pm
- All Saints, Bury 4.30pm

You are warmly welcome to join us for a pilgrimage across the Lark Valley and North Bury Team Benefice. The total journey from Lackford to All Saint's Bury is around 12.6 miles (20.28km). The pace will be reasonably slow (2mph) to allow us to enjoy the beautiful churches and countryside along the way. You may wish to do it all, or journey with us for part of the route only.

We will start from St Lawrence church in Lackford at 9am. Please arrive at the church from 8.30am for a walkers' briefing and prayers. There will be several stops on the way for toilets and to refill water bottles. We plan to eat our packed lunches at Fomham All Saints. The route will be a combination of footpaths and pavements so will require comfortable walking shoes/boots and weather/nettle appropriate clothing.

To find out more information and fill out a registration form, please contact Sarah Gull, seg30@cam.ac.uk

Sloightly On Th'Web



Charlie Haylock has entertained us several times with his blend of expertise and anecdotes, and now you can find him online.

His first book, **Sloightly On Th'Huh!** [2004] was a surprise best seller. Charlie is not just a master of Suffolk dialect. He understands the sound and the roots of most English dialects and has served as a dialect coach to major actors.

Since he retired from public speaking this year, Charlie has a new venture. He has been commissioned to recite classical works of literature in a Suffolk accent.

Find him on YouTube through these links.

Classic Poems in Suffolk - Part 1 <https://youtu.be/wSw4PwfzR10>

Classic Poems in Suffolk - Part 2 https://youtu.be/II3LnE0vy_s

Classic Poems in Suffolk - Part 3 <https://youtu.be/wBdwZf2VDzU>

Contacts

Revd Dr Andy Miller 01284 728714 teamrectorlvnb@btinternet.com

Revd Ali Miller 01284 728714 teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com

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.
