

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

20 September 2026

16th Sunday after Trinity, in Creationtide

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



Bishop Joanne, St Edmund and Gina Robertson outside the cathedral following Sunday's Commissioning Service for Ordinands. Scroll down for more photos.

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1 6th Sunday after Trinity

Jonah 3.10-4 end Psalm 145.1-8 Philippians 1.21-end Matthew 20.1-16

'It's not fair, sir', complained a certain prep-school boy to a member of staff. The master (who later became a theological-college lecturer) said: 'How old are you?' 'Twelve, sir'. 'And you've lived twelve years on this earth and are still expecting things to be fair?'

From childhood most people want things to be fair, and will become angry, even outraged, when surprised by unfairness. It's often about reciprocity, a balancing of actions or gifts or equality of permissions or sanctions. This is found at all levels; we're seeing it now on the international stage. The word 'equitable' shows the equal nature of fairness.

Many disputes arise when people fail to see the whole picture, when factors they hadn't thought of will affect opinion, assessment and outcome. Such factors may need research and checking, but still there is human limitation in what can be known.

Today's readings contrast the omniscience of God with partial human knowledge. The God who created all things, as this season of Creation underlines for us, has a constant, instant awareness of all sides of every question, and human beings can never presume to reach anything like this, despite advances in modern technology. Indeed, we are hearing new warnings about human inventions that lack wisdom.

The story in Genesis of the Tower of Babel shows the Lord observing overweening human efforts and saying: 'This is the start ... there will be nothing too hard for them to do.' The story is a 'just-so' story about the division of languages, but could ring bells for us now.

Today the end of the story of Jonah shows his very human reaction from partial understanding. Jonah, a prophet, revered the Lord God even though escaping from God's word of instruction. After an amazing rescue and repeat of the task, Jonah reached and entered the vast city of Nineveh. He

was still thinking only the Jews were God's favoured people, and the sinful foreign Ninevites deserved all that was surely coming to them.

But their humble reaction and resolve resulted in their being spared the disaster. Jonah was astounded and angry at God, even seeing no point to his life if he was to be so confounded. 'It is better for me to die than live'. (Notice the mood of that, utterly different from that of Paul in the second reading.) God merely asked: 'Is it right for you to be angry?' but Jonah, in a great sulk, waited outside the city, perhaps hoping for its still possible doom.

He was at least grateful for the shrub (a castor-oil plant with hand-shaped leaves) that grew to shade him. However, it quickly withered; Jonah, now in baking sun, in his self-concern again wanted to die. He had no concept of the potential suffering in the great city. Then came the illumination from God, the exposition of an outlook of breadth and compassion, of infinite understanding and loving care, far beyond Jonah's imagining.

God treasures, loves, all that he has made, - animals, shrubs, all people, and his actions are his choice.

The Gospel today gives a parable in which the owner of the vineyard clearly stands for God. The same word is used in Greek (Kyrios). The setting, familiar to Jesus' hearers, is easily imagined. Two centuries ago here, and less, labourers did get hired at markets, no doubt with pay agreed. The 'usual daily wage' is agreed in the parable with those hired early in the day. More workers would be needed at harvest-times, also imaginable, and more are then sought.

The parable illustrates the same message as in the story of Jonah. God's ways, God's thoughts are not those of humans, even if humans are made in God's image. The Gospel today shows the same opportunity, of working in the vineyard, being offered to all the workers. Those invited later seem to have been less motivated ('standing about') or less anxious to be hired, but the owner is just as keen to have them. The amount of work they do is not relevant to the value given them.

When this is made apparent, the earlier-hired men complain at the perceived unfairness. By human standards they consider themselves worth more (rather like Pharisees and others in gospel accounts). Such calculation is not in the mind of God, although people so readily make judging comparisons, and fall into the besetting sin of pride.

But words of Jesus, repeated more than once, are that the last will be first and the first will be last. There is a divine humility, the hard aspect of Christianity, that should be reflected in attitudes on earth, despite struggles for achievement and the recognition of it. Still we cannot expect to fathom the mind of God, though a best approach is through God the Son, Jesus Christ.

In 'The Pilgrim's Progress', by John Bunyan, is 'The Shepherd Boy's Song' - sung in the Valley of Humiliation:

He that is down need fear no fall,
He that is low no pride;
He that is humble ever shall
Have God to be his guide.

Marianne Atkinson

CartoonChurch.com



**THIS IS MY PEW
THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY PEW**

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 20 SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY 20 September 16th Sunday after Trinity *Creationtide*

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	Eucharist (CW) <i>preceded by breakfast from 9.15am</i>	West Stow
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham All Saints
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Monday 21 September Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

6.00pm	Solemn Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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Tuesday 22 September

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

Wednesday 23 September Ember 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 24 September

9.30am	Eucharist (CW)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
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Friday 25 September Lancelot Andrewes, bishop, spiritual writer, 1626;

Sergei of Radonezh, monastic reformer, teacher of the faith, 1392; Ember Day

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

Saturday 26 September Wilson Carlile, founder of the Church Army, 1942; Ember Day

SUNDAY 27 September 17th Sunday after Trinity *Creationtide*

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)	Culford
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
12 noon	Holy Communion (BCP)	Flempton

Commissioning Service for Ordinands and Readers



Gina Robertson (seen in the centre behind Bishop Joanne in the top left photo) from the Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry, joined three Readers and nine other Ordinands from across the diocese for their Commissioning Service led by Bishop Joanne in the cathedral last Sunday, 13 September.

Ride and Stride



Claire Rose writes: Peter Rose with our grandchildren on their afternoon Ride and Stride cycle ride. They went to a few town churches and out as far as Thurston, which had M & S biscuits (very exciting!). They visited nine churches and ended at All Saints', Bury where Lesley Langley kindly let them sign in at 5.01 pm.

With thanks to Jenny Newcombe for the photo, taken at Great Barton.

Building and Blessing Habitats in Lackford churchyard

with thanks to Alex and Ali for the photos

Hopefully you will spot:

- * fire bugs
 - * construction of a reptile hibernaculum
 - * the finished hibernaculum (looks like soil on top of a flag stone but it will be cosy underneath!)
 - * solitary bee homes (drilled holes in a trunk)
 - * construction of a bug hotel
 - * and the finished hotel itself!
 - * compost heap box
- and Alex's jam tarts with her mum's homemade jam.





After a couple of hours of highly skilled construction and enjoying the fresh air, we moved round the churchyard saying prayers of blessing for each dwelling. We also blessed the barn owl box, but that is awaiting being placed up the tree! The children assisted in dousing the new properties with holy water!

Afterwards a hearty tea was consumed - fruit cake, cheese scones, and jam tarts!

From the Registers

From the Registers is a list of the Church of England services known as 'occasional offices' such as baptisms, weddings (and we include blessings), and funerals, conducted by benefice clergy for the churches within the Lark Valley and North Bury Team.

Holy Baptism

26 th July	Florence Eaton	All Saints, Fornham All Saints
26 th July	Violet Eaton	All Saints, Fornham All Saints
26 th July	Evelyn Eaton	All Saints, Fornham All Saints
26 th July	Megan Morecraft	All Saints, Fornham All Saints
23 rd August	Penny Page	St Lawrence, Lackford

Holy Matrimony

18 th July	Ashleigh House and Nathan Farrant	St John the Evangelist, Bury St Edmunds
8 th August	Kimberly Hammond and Justin Hammond	St Lawrence, Lackford
29 th August	Sarah Rudman and Harry O'Connor	St Martin, Fornham St Martin

Wedding Blessing

24 th August	Virginia Navarrete and Tobias Hamp	St John Lateran, Hengrave
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Funerals

15 th July	Jenifer Stacey	St Mary, Culford followed by interment in Culford Woodland Burial Ground
5 th August	Malcolm Stennett	St Martin, Fornham St Martin
5 th August	John Wild	All Saints, Fornham All Saints followed by interment in Fornham All Saints cemetery
1 st September	Valerie Flack	St Mary, Culford followed by West Suffolk Crematorium
14 th September	Dorene Nice	St Mary, West Stow followed by West Suffolk Crematorium

Special Harvest Caption Competition



A choice of fairtrade wine or chocolate awaits the person who can contribute the winning caption for this photograph, bravely taken by the *Viral Bulletin's* staff photographer in a dangerous corner of a vestry in the benefice. (*Scale 1:1 approx*)

Please send your entries by Tuesday 27 September to the Viral Bulletin at adrian.mann@btinternet.com

Contacts

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We also have assistance from our Curate, Jonathan Boast, 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.

Read on for events coming up

BAND NIGHT



**£10
ENTRY**

ARTIST LINE UP



**LOCAL BAND
SHOP AND DROP**

LACKFORD CHURCH

19th September 6:30 for 7pm till 9pm

Entry £10 include Ploughmans supper

**Bring your own drinks, plates and
cutlery**

<https://www.sumupbookings.com/lackford-community-council>

CAFÉ

**Saturday September
26th**

10am -12 noon

Culford Village Hall

Savouries and cakes.

Tea and coffee

Jigsaw puzzle swap

**Donations gratefully
received for Lackford St
Lawrence church**

EVERYONE WELCOME

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Fornham All Saints Church

10:00am -
12:00pm

Saturday 26th September



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



Lark Valley and North Bury Team
St George's Church

Please join us as we...

KEEP CALM



AND



EAT CAKE

for Macmillan Cancer Support

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

**COFFEE
MORNING**



**10:00 - 12:00
Tuesday 29th
September
2026**

Coffee Morning

Donations to



Tuesday 6th October

10:00 - 11:15 am

Coffee or tea, cake and chat

All Saints Church

All Welcome

Lark Valley & North Bury Team Ministry

www.northburychurches.org.uk

As part of Hospice Care Week, join us 8 October 2026



We invite members of faith communities to a welcoming space drop in session

Do come along and find out more about how we serve our community.

We would love to meet you on the 8 October in The Garden Room, St Nicholas Hospice Care from 2pm – 4:30pm.
Refreshments provided on the day



*because
you matter*

**St Nicholas
Hospice Care**

A Registered Charity No. 287773

Please e-mail education@stnh.org.uk or call 01284 766133 if you would like to book in to attend this session, alternatively do drop in on the day.



St Nicholas Hospice Care, Hardwick Lane,
Bury St Edmunds, IP33 2QY.



ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

Anselm Avenue, IP32 6JZ

**issues a warm welcome to you all
to join us on**

**SUNDAY 11th OCTOBER at 3.00pm
at our**

HARVEST FESTIVAL

featuring 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.**

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Your welcome gifts will go to local food banks