

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

6 April 2025

Passiontide begins

5th Sunday of Lent

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



River Lark, Abbey Gardens

24 March 2025

In this issue:

5th Sunday of Lent: Adrian Mann * Worship this week

Wonder Club at Lackford * The F Word: stories of forgiveness

Stations of the Cross * Threads of Lent 2025

Lent Course: Searched Me Out and Known Me * Caption Competition Result

I Will Follow Him: Mead Singers at St George's * Adoration and Benediction *

Holy Week * Easter Week * Caption Competition * Bury Town Pastors

Valerie and Michael Wilde: Golden Wedding Anniversary * Contacts

5th Sunday of Lent

Isaiah 43.16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3.4b-14 John 12.1-8

Now we enter Passiontide, so over the next two weeks we get the chance to focus on what Christmas is really about. We can really get to see the full implications of what it means for God to come to be with us, for the Word to become flesh and to dwell amongst us.

But will we do that? Dare we do that? Will we turn towards Christ in his Passion with a longing to understand who he is and what he is doing for us as he approaches Jerusalem for the last time? As Isaiah puts it: 'Thus says the Lord ... I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?'

That's the first thing these readings say to us. Do you understand what is going on? Do you see what is happening? ... how new it is? Do you comprehend that it changes everything? And how it changes everything? And why it changes everything?

Today is just one of those days when the Bible doesn't come up with simple answers, rather it comes up with questions. Pointed questions - it's annoying really. But mind you, I think we are told where to look for the answers to the questions - more of that later.

Then we move on to the second thing today's readings say to us, which is even more pointed. Now that everything has changed, how will you react to that? Will you allow your reaction to change you? Will I? 'I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?'

For everything has changed - a very new thing indeed has sprung forth, something we still struggle to comprehend two thousand years later. It is twenty centuries of intense theological reflection later and we still can't get our heads around it because it's too simple - and too incomprehensible - all at once.

The creator God reaches out to creation; inhabits it; shows unconditional love and generosity towards it; becomes profoundly vulnerable to it; suffers it, allows it to treat him as it will; forgives it; shows unconditional love and generosity towards it. Again and again.

And this doesn't just happen out there on the cosmic level - although it does, very much so. And it doesn't just happen back there in Jerusalem - although it does, very much so. It happens in the here and now, here on the personal level, intimately, inside me, inside you.

Like a secret lover, unknown to the world, that unconditional love and generosity comes to each one of us. To you. To me. Even hated and despised ones become loved ones. Even as we all become forgiven ones.

Like St Paul, who makes a great list of all the things that have been important to him, all the things that have given him status and a sense of self-worth. They all become rubbish, even negatives, he says, because of Christ. The change is that great.

Instead, Paul is filled with a new sense of longing:

'I want to know Christ
and the power of his resurrection
and the sharing of his sufferings ...'

It may be contrary to the ideas we may have about St Paul, but this is the language of loving, and longing, and desire. Of wanting to travel the whole way with the beloved.

Then we turn to the gospel story, John telling us about Jesus, knowing his hour has come, nearing the end of his journey, coming to Bethany (just a couple of miles east of Jerusalem), to the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.

So we know - now we are on life and death territory. Martha is still doing the housework, and Mary is still showing what devotion really means.

The story now turns on the contrast between Mary and Judas. 'I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?'

Mary lavishes on Jesus a year's pay's worth of expensive ointment, probably imported all the way from India. She pours it, not on his head, where perfume usually goes and where kings are anointed, but on his feet, where you start to prepare a body for burial.

And she wipes his feet with her hair. Jewish women kept their hair tied up in public and only let it loose when undressing for a husband or as a sign of distraction in mourning. So, as the smell of the costly perfume fills the whole house we are confronted by an outpouring of powerful emotion: of love, of grief, of desire, of mourning, of longing.

And Jesus says: 'Yes, this is alright ... you will not always have me.' She sees the new thing coming and knows its cost. That's alright. She too wants to travel the whole way with the beloved. It really is alright.

Not so with Judas, whose stated motive of care for the poor - although not accepted by the evangelist - is nevertheless understandable. Sensible, even. Treasurers necessarily have their red lines. Many of us, in the usual run of things, might well agree. Might well agree with Judas, who has come to the end of his particular road and who cannot go any further on Jesus's way.

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

Over the next two weeks we can use the liturgy - the Holy Week and Easter worship of the Church - as it traces Jesus's journey into Jerusalem and as it follows him to the Upper Room and Gethsemane, to imprisonment and interrogation, to Golgotha and the tomb, and then to the extraordinary hope beyond.

We can do that. We can try to travel the whole way with the beloved. And we can search inside ourselves as we do so, as we stumble and falter on the way.

And find, in our faltering, glimpses of those answers we seek and of the love that reaches out to us.

And knowing that all of this does change everything, and how, and why ...

Adrian Mann

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 6 APRIL

SUNDAY 6 April 5th Sunday of Lent *Passiontide begins*

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 Service	Fornham All Saints
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
3.00pm	'I will follow Him' Passiontide Meditation	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
3.00pm	Wonder Club	Lackford

Monday 7 April

Tuesday 8 April

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

Wednesday 9 April *Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran pastor, martyr, 1945*

8.30am	Morning Prayer (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
2.00pm	Threads of Lent	West Stow
5.00pm	Evening Prayer (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds

Thursday 10 April *William Law, priest, spiritual writer, 1761*

William of Ockham, friar, philosopher, teacher of the faith, 1347

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

Friday 11 April *George Selwyn, bishop, 1878*

5.15pm	Evening Prayer (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
6.00pm	Stations of the Cross	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Saturday 12 April

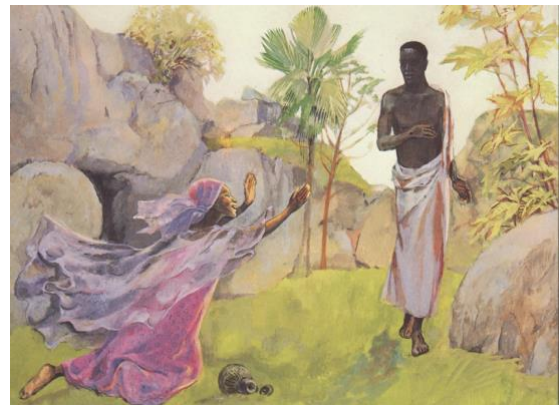
10.00am	Lent Course: <i>Searched Me Out and Known Me</i>	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
---------	--	----------------------------

SUNDAY 13 April Palm Sunday *Holy Week begins*

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	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)	Lackford
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham St Martin
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Wonder Club

Story
Wondering
Craft
Prayer
Cake



St Lawrence
Lackford

6th April

3pm

The F Word: *Stories of Forgiveness*

The F Word: Stories of Forgiveness exhibition has arrived at St Edmundsbury Cathedral where it will be open to the public until Sunday 13 April. A thought-provoking collection of arresting images and personal narratives, The F Word explores restorative justice and forgiveness in the face of atrocity.

Drawing together examples of restorative justice in England and Northern Ireland and examining forgiveness in South Africa, America, Israel and Palestine, the exhibition examines forgiveness as a healing process, a path out of victimhood and, ultimately, a journey of hope.

The exhibition comes from The Forgiveness Project. Founded in 2004 by journalist, Marina Cantacuzino, The Forgiveness Project provides resources and experiences to help people examine and overcome their own unresolved grievances. The testimonies they collect bear witness to the resilience of the human spirit and act as a powerful antidote to narratives of hate and dehumanisation, presenting alternatives to cycles of conflict, violence, crime and injustice.

At the heart of The Forgiveness Project is an understanding that restorative narratives have the power to transform lives; not only supporting people to deal with issues in their own lives, but also building a climate of resilience, hope and empathy.

Adult Learning Manager, Chris Eyden, who has brought the exhibition to St Edmundsbury says, “Forgiveness is something everyone can relate to. We’ve all forgiven something or someone, even if in a small, day-to-day capacity. This exhibition looks at the power of forgiving what many may consider the unforgiveable and how restorative justice is becoming increasingly important in the reconciliation both of offenders and their victims. It’s powerful and thought-provoking and everyone is welcome to encounter the stories that in many cases have been life changing.”

The exhibition is free to view and will be held in the Cathedral Nave.

It has been kindly sponsored by Greene & Greene Solicitors.

Fridays in Lent
at 6pm

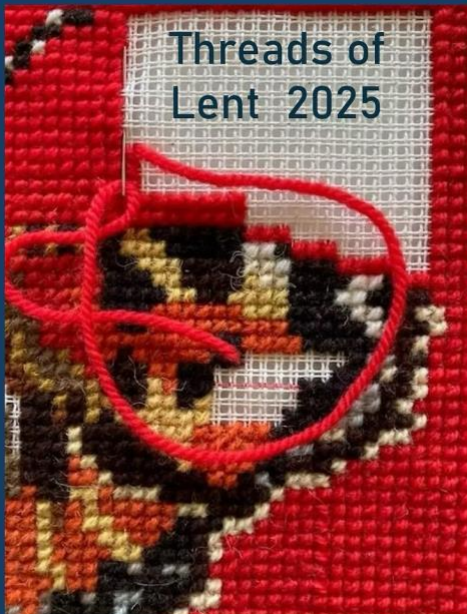
from
7th March
to
11th April

St John's Church
Bury St Edmunds



Stations of the Cross

Reflections following
the narrative
of Christ's passion
using the pictures
created by Iain McKillop



Calling all Crafters!

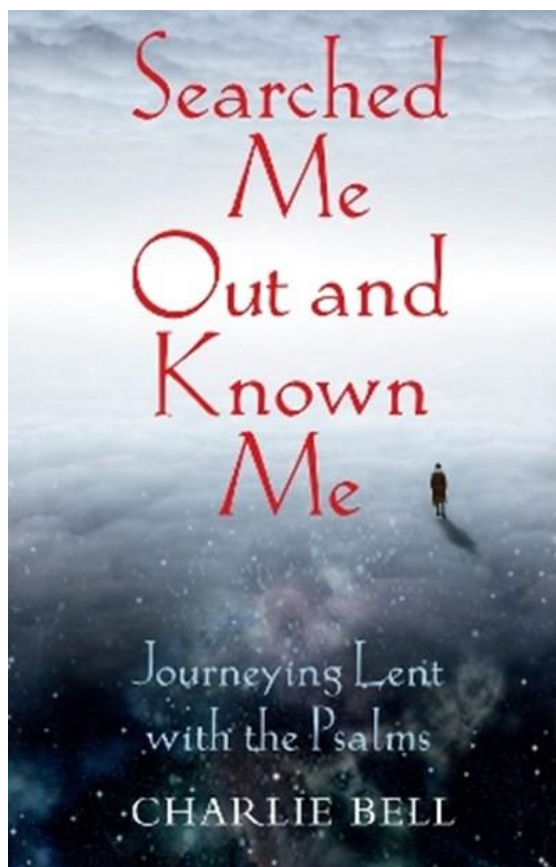
Are you wanting to have a sort-out for Lent ?
Nurture your creativity?
Complete a half-done project?
Try something new?

You are welcome to our "Threads of Lent" Group
at: St Mary's Church in West Stow
On : Wednesday afternoons from 2pm
Starting on: Wednesday 12th March and then each
Wednesday until the 9th April

Easy parking
Tea and coffee
Bring your own materials

Enquiries to Sarah Gull seg30@cam.ac.uk

LENT IN THE LARK VALLEY NORTH BURY TEAM



Every year we make our Lenten journey together – but this year we will do so accompanied by the Psalms.

We will be using the wonderful book,
Searched Me Out and Known Me, by Charlie Bell.

You may like to purchase your own copy - not least so you can continue to use it in Holy Week - but it is not essential.

Don't worry if you cannot make every session.
Come to what you can. And bring a friend while you are at it!

When: Saturday, 10-11.30am

Remaining dates: 5th and 12th April

Where: St John the Evangelist, St John's St, BSE

Further details: Mother Ali teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com 01284 728714

CAPTION COMPETITION RESULT



Entries this week include:

Rev'd Ali puts her East Anglian Air Ambulance sponsorship money for Julie's London Marathon in her pocket for safe keeping. *Julie Hooton*

The Team Vicar was chuffed with the practical response to her words on Luke 10 verse 7 "the labourer deserves to be paid". *Matt Roecer*

"Do you KNOW the cost of hair dye these days?" *Julie Morrison*

"This will add nicely to my ecclesiastical bling fund" she thought. *Matt Roecer*

The Team Vicar spots an opportunity to begin saving for the summer holiday. *Gail Bate*

The Team Vicar is quick off the mark to begin taking bets on candidates to be the next Archbishop of Canterbury. *Henry Allen*

*And the winner is **Bob Torrens** with*

"What, only five talents?"

THE MEAD SINGERS

Conducted by Michael Phillips



I WILL FOLLOW HIM

Music and Readings for Choir and
Congregation for Passiontide

Sunday 6th April

3PM

**St George's Church, Anselm Avenue,
Bury St Edmunds, IP33 6JZ**

Organist and Meditations by David Honeyball

Retiring Collection

St. John the Evangelist
Bury St Edmunds IP33 1SN

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches



Adoration
of the
Blessed Sacrament
and
Benediction

Thursday 10 April

6pm

for half an hour

Holy Week

in the Lark Valley and North Bury Team

PALM SUNDAY 13th April

Holy Communion (BCP) with reading of the Passion Gospel
at All Saints', Bury St Edmunds and Culford at 8am
Parish Eucharist with reading of the Passion Gospel
at St George's and All Saints', Bury St Edmunds at 9.30am
at Lackford and Fornham St Martin at 10am
and at St John's at 11am

Monday in Holy Week 14th April

Eucharist at All Saints', Bury at 9.30am ~ Compline at Lackford at 7pm

Tuesday in Holy Week 15th April

Eucharist at St George's at 9.30am ~ Compline at West Stow at 7pm

Wednesday in Holy Week 16th April

Eucharist at St John's at 9.30am ~ Compline at Flempton at 7pm

MAUNDY THURSDAY 17th April

Chrism Eucharist at the Cathedral at 11am

A service at which Bishop Graeme blesses the holy oils for use in the churches of the diocese during the coming year, and at which bishops, priests and deacons renew their ordination vows.

MAUNDY THURSDAY 17th April

Eucharist with Commemoration of the Last Supper
at All Saints', Bury St Edmunds at 6.30pm *preceded by supper at 5.30pm*

Eucharist at Culford at 7pm

Eucharist of the Last Supper with Washing of Feet
and Procession to the Altar of Repose
at St John's at 8pm *followed by Watch until Midnight*

GOOD FRIDAY 18th April

Stations of the Cross at St John's at 9am

Matins (BCP) at Timworth at 9.30am

Churches Together Good Friday Walk of Witness
gathering at the Cathedral at 10.30am

Liturgy of Good Friday

at St John's and Fornham St Martin at 2pm

Easter Week

in the Lark Valley and North Bury Team



EASTER EVE 19th April

Team Easter Eve Ceremonies at St John's at 8pm

EASTER DAY Sunday 20th April

Holy Communion (BCP) at All Saints', Bury at 8am

Holy Communion (BCP) at Timworth at 9.30am

Parish Eucharist at St George's and All Saints', Bury St Edmunds at 9.30am

at Fornham All Saints at 10am

and at St John's at 11am

Monday in Easter Week 21st April *Jesus appears to the women*

Eucharist at St John's at 6pm

Tuesday in Easter Week 22nd April *Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene*

Eucharist at Fornham St Martin at 10am

Eucharist at St John's at 6pm

Wednesday in Easter Week 23rd April *The Road to Emmaus*

Morning Prayer at St John's at 8.30am

Eucharist at St John's at 9.30am

Evening Prayer at St George's at 5pm

Thursday in Easter Week 24th April *Jesus appears to the Apostles*

Eucharist at All Saints', Bury at 9.30am

Friday in Easter Week 25th April *Jesus by the Sea of Tiberias*

Evening Prayer at St John's at 5.15pm

Eucharist at St John's at 6pm

CAPTION COMPETITION



*Thanks to an unnamed benefactor for this mug-shot.
Surely our Caption Competition judging panel will find that
their cups runneth over? Will they be able to handle it?*

A choice of fairtrade wine or chocolate awaits the person who can contribute the winning caption. Please send your entries by Easter Monday 21st April to the Viral Bulletin at adrian.mann@btinternet.com

Bury Town Pastors



Is God calling YOU?

Could you join the Prayer Team, praying for the Town Pastors and people in the town?

Could you be a Town Pastor patrolling the streets of Bury, showing the love of Jesus and caring for people on one Saturday night each month?

***Apply now for
Town Pastor
Training 2025***

Town Pastor Training Dates: Saturday 17th May (9.00am - 4.00pm) & 4 evenings: Tues 20th May, Thurs 5th June, Wed 11th June, and Mon 16th 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. Each month you would have the opportunity to say when you are available.

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**

Email: **jocopsey@burytownpastors.org.uk**

Or download an application form from our website

Website: **www.burytownpastors.org.uk**

Valerie and Michael Wilde celebrating their Golden Wedding anniversary at St John's last Sunday



With thanks to Mary McGuire for the photo

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 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 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.
