

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

18 October 2026

St Luke the Evangelist

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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St Luke the Evangelist

Acts 16.6-12a Psalm 147.1-7 2 Timothy 4.5-17 Luke 10.1-9

Doctor, Doctor I feel like a bridge. Gosh, what's come over you.

Three cars and a bus!

Doctor, Doctor I feel like a pair of curtains.

Oh for goodness sake, pull yourself together!

I wonder if you know what connects Graham Chapman, Graeme Garden and St Luke, who is celebrated on the 18th of October each year? Well, if you are struggling to find a connection, then perhaps it may help to know that the rather feeble jokes above are a clue. Because what joins these three men is that they were all doctors. But more than this, they were those who were trained in the medical profession, but who found greater fame outside the medical world than within it.

Those of you who know your comedy of the 1960's 70's and 80's will no doubt be aware that Graham Chapman, following his studying medicine at Cambridge, went on to be one of the Monty Python team. And for his part, fellow Cambridge medic Graeme Garden was a comedy regular on TV and radio during these decades and beyond on such as the fabulous radio show "I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue."

Unsurprisingly, as is always the case we can be less certain of the background of St Luke, living as he did some 2000 years ago. However, it is generally accepted that this is the Luke described by Paul in the Letter to the Colossians as the beloved physician. And so, he was certainly likely to have been someone who practised medicine during his lifetime, and as such he is the patron saint of doctors still to this day.

And yet, when we celebrate the feast dedicated to this saint it is not of course Luke the physician that we are remembering, but instead Luke the evangelist. It is not the healing that he performed through his medical powers that marks Luke out for the church as worthy of remembrance, but instead his spreading of the good news of Jesus through the written word of the Gospel that bears his name. And furthermore, thanks to the other book credited to him, the Acts of the Apostles, we also hear of the great feats of

those who would form the very early church based upon Christ's teaching. And it is unsurprising that words from both these books may be used as the readings on the feast that recalls this man. However, as worthy as this scribing performed by Luke was and remains, that he was also involved in deeds of evangelism and didn't merely write down the works and acts of both Jesus and the early church in his two books is most certainly hinted at in the passage from Acts offered for Luke's feast.

For here this author, as on other occasions, slips into saying "we" when describing the journeys of the great apostle Paul. For it is "we" who Luke describes as endeavouring to head with haste to Macedonia. And "we" who eventually set sail from Troas. Luke then would appear to have been part of what he describes taking place, accompanying Paul on the journeys that he writes about.

Given what befell Paul and others as they spread the good news as described in the book of Acts, it could have been very useful to have had Luke, a medic, as part of the team. Famine, war, sickness, snake bites, shipwrecks, stoning, fires, mobs, imprisonment. Many things that are very much bad for the health befell Paul and others, and Luke we can assume included, and all for the sake of the gospel.

But these were situations that those whom Jesus commissioned to spread the good news expected to face, given what we hear Luke describe in the passage from his Gospel on his feast day. For here creature comforts are to be left behind and welcome is hoped for rather than assured for the seventy appointed by Jesus. And more so, the role of an evangelist was one that came with danger, risk and loss, being sent out as they were "like lambs in the midst of wolves" to proclaim that "the kingdom of God has come near."

And indeed, although open to speculation, the red hangings that are used to mark Luke's day in church show that he was believed to have been martyred, giving his life for the sake of the gospel message about Jesus that he spread then, and continues to do each and every time anyone picks up and reads the New Testament today. Luke then like so many other saints from the time of Jesus, and just after, saw that the message of Jesus – his death and

resurrection - meant something new and important enough for the world, to risk their lives for it.

That this was a message that needed spreading with urgency in Luke's eyes is also made apparent through the Gospel reading for his feast. Take nothing with you, stay where you can, leave if you are not accepted, know that there are only a few of you to say these words. This is what Jesus tells those sent out. This is an urgent task that needs to be begun straight way, with nothing of more importance than getting on with it. And this urgency is what Luke and his possible travel companion St Paul put across throughout their contributions to the New Testament. People need to hear this now!

This mission is vital for the world that needs to hear it so desperately. And as we look and listen to our news today, can any of us deny that now, as then, the world is in turmoil with places ravaged by conflict, suffering and pain. This then is a mission to offer peace and comfort that still can be seen as urgent today given how desperately such peace and comfort are clearly needed in so many parts of our world.

And as is so common, it is the weak who find the greatest burden placed upon them by these things. This is a further trait that Luke shows and that perhaps points to his background as a beloved physician. For Luke's Gospel is full of care and compassion being offered to the weak and the poor and the downtrodden. And furthermore, such people play a crucial part in the story of God and their people.



*Sixteenth century icon depicting **St Luke painting the Theotokos** (Mother of God) of Vladimir).*

A later Christian tradition, starting from the 8th century, states that Luke was the first icon painter. He is said to have painted pictures of the Virgin Mary and Child, in particular the Hodegetria image in Constantinople (now lost).

In late medieval Europe, Guilds of St Luke were formed for the mutual benefit and protection of painters.

After all, it is in Luke's Gospel we hear that a simple young woman Mary, and her older relative Elizabeth, both people of low status and import, play crucial roles in the build-up to the birth of Jesus, the Messiah.

It is in the words of this evangelist via the parable of the Good Samaritan that lessons are learnt about what it means to be a true neighbour, thanks to the actions of someone hated simply for who they were, and where they were from. But perhaps most clearly, it is in Luke's Gospel that Jesus reads boldly from the book of the prophet Isaiah that he has come to bring good news to the poor, release to the captive, recovery of sight to the blind and to let the oppressed go free. Simply put, Luke the evangelist is a messenger not just for some, but for all. All are saved through Jesus within the pages of Luke's description of Christ's life regardless of status or background. And this is so, as is clear from the passages from the book of Acts and Luke's Gospel chosen for his feast, even if they may not wish to hear or respond to this evangelism.

St Luke says so much in the words that he wrote that are found in the Bible, so much through words that still shape the life of a follower of Jesus today. For he tells us that we may have a path to travel above and beyond what we thought was going to happen to us. Certainly, just like this great saint, we may be called to become known for our words and acts that show people Jesus, instead, or as well as, those other things that we do, or have prepared ourselves to do, in our lives.

Yes, this is a challenge, one that will see us taking little with us but our faith in God. And this may see rejection. And yet, either way, our message today is the same as the one that Luke and Paul and so many others had on their lips. The kingdom of God has come near through Jesus Christ, who offers healing to the world, through his peace, comfort and saving power. A whole world that can be healed thanks to this presence of Jesus Christ.

So - Doctor, Doctor I feel like I need healing, says our world.

Our answer is no joke, but rather it is the wonders of Jesus Christ our Lord, who inspired Luke the beloved physician to become St Luke the evangelist and who still inspires us to follow his example and be evangelists today. Amen.

Andy Miller

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 18 OCTOBER

SUNDAY 18 October Luke the Evangelist

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
10.00am	Said 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
3.00pm	Harvest Thanksgiving Evensong (BCP)	Timworth

Monday 19 October Henry Martyn, translator, missionary, 1812

Tuesday 20 October

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

Wednesday 21 October

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 22 October

9.30am	Eucharist (CW)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
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Friday 23 October

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

Saturday 24 October

SUNDAY 25 October Last Sunday after Trinity / Bible Sunday

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Eucharist (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Eucharist (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
3.00pm	Benefice Memorial Service	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds

FORTY-SEVEN!

For the last few months the **St George's Knit and Natter** group has been making blankets for Hamlin Fistula UK. Thirteen blankets were blessed at St George's Harvest Thanksgiving and have been sent to the charity. They will be given to women in Ethiopia having surgery to correct injuries suffered during childbirth. Very many thanks to all our knitters who have now made 47 blankets since starting in Spring 2025.

With thanks to Valerie Wilde for the photos



On the first day of the week

Concluding our series of articles on Christian Giving - thinking about how much to give for God's work through His Church

We have considered how everything we are and have comes from the love and generosity of God. When we think about Christian Giving, that is the base line. That's why the keynote has to be *thanksgiving*. Our giving has to be an act of thanksgiving, of whole-hearted response to the love and generosity of God.

This sounds good, but it's not so easy. Jesus taught us to be generous, even sacrificial, and to care for the poor. Zacchaeus is asked to make a huge offering, for example. The rich young man is told to give away everything. It's tough stuff.

But all this is, if we think about it, in accordance with the *spiritual needs of the giver*. Zacchaeus needs to do this for his own well-being. His whole-hearted response brings out a fulsome comment from Jesus: "Today salvation has come to this house".

This chimes with Jesus' saying: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Jesus is telling us that it is good for us to be generous and to give. That is a salutary thought, and so often it is not what we tell ourselves.

Our giving is usually driven by someone else's need. The whole world of fund-raising marches to the beat of that drum. So often, the Church only addresses the issue of money and giving when it needs to receive. This is understandable because it can be an uncomfortable business. But Jesus takes on the discomfort and says to us - you need to give, anyway.

There's always more to do, more that could be done. There's always someone or something to be generous to - life's like that.

So Jesus comes at the issue from a different place. That's why he shocks us by saying "you always have the poor with you". He is looking through the other end of the telescope, seeing us writ large, and speaking profoundly about *our need to give*. Jesus looks at us and loves us, as he did the rich young man, and he sees us as we are, and he is much more engaged about our need to give than the Church's need to receive.

Jesus looks at us with love and says: "Where your treasure is ..." He knows what our situation is. He knows everything about us. He knows what is appropriate to our situation. We just need to find out what that means for us. That's why our giving needs to be *prayerful*, so we can search out and find his will for us, so we can align ourselves to his will for us.

St Paul writes to the Corinthians (1 Cor 16:2) encouraging them to set aside money "on the *first* day of every week". Our giving is part of our worship. It can be part of that sort of rhythm in our lives. Both worship and giving should be regular, not just when we feel like it.

The first day of the week idea expresses the principle that God should come first in our thinking. It's not a good thing, in other words, if we just give the remnants of what's left over after everything else. Weekly envelopes can put that very idea into practice. So can a banker's order, or use of the Parish Giving Scheme. Through such means giving can be aligned with worship - and is committed and consistent.

And our giving should be in *proportion* to what we have. Comparing it with what we spend on other things can be a useful exercise - if a somewhat uncomfortable one. Notice how Zacchaeus speaks in proportionate terms, half his possessions will go to the poor, he says, and ill-gotten gains will be returned fourfold.

I find myself hoping that Zacchaeus has got his sums right. If he's been very unscrupulous, that could mount up very quickly. But that's not the real point of the story. The real point is about what's going on *inside* Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus's response to Jesus.

And notice the response this draws, in turn, from Jesus. Jesus indicates that this sort of thinking brings salvation in its train. It's a big deal, in other words. Exactly what proportion is right for each one of us is between us and God. It's what's going on inside that matters. Hence, again, the importance of prayer.

It's our own decision, but whatever we decide to do, it will show the priority God has in our lives. And how much we are willing, deep inside ourselves, to turn what's going on, deep inside ourselves, towards God.

Adrian Mann

A big thank you ...

... to all who supported (in whatever way) the coffee morning that was held at St George's Church. We were raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support and will be sending them a cheque for £189.50. **So thank you everyone**, it was a very happy and enjoyable time together.

Lesley Horn



First snowdrops? Many thanks to Freda Murdoch for forwarding this photograph, taken by Janie Lee at Ickworth Park last week.

READING THE LESSON

ADVICE



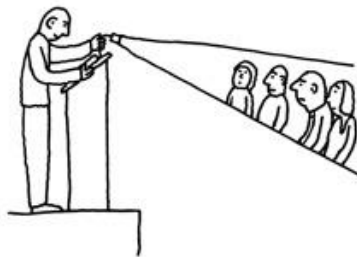
SPEND TIME REHEARSING
AT HOME



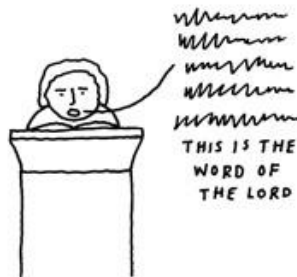
WORK ON YOUR DICTION
AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY



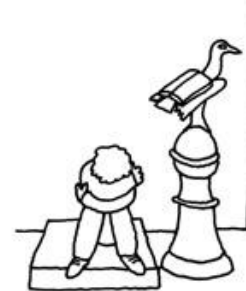
TURN UP



ADJUST THE MICROPHONE
AND LECTERN LIGHT



TRY NOT TO RUSH



BE CONFIDENT-
RELAX AND ENJOY IT

CartoonChurch.com

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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 in the online edition for events coming up

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH
ANSELM CENTRE
IP32 6JZ

KNIT AND NATTER

FORTNIGHTLY
TUESDAYS

2:00PM -
3:30PM



We knit squares to make blankets
to help support the work of
Hamlin Fistula UK.

<https://hamlinfistulauk.org>

This registered charity is
dedicated to the prevention and
treatment of childbirth injuries in
Ethiopia.

For information about knitting
squares contact

jc.mann@btinternet.com



Multicultural Women's Group
Bury St Edmunds

**You are warmly invited to come
and enjoy food from around the world**

Suggested minimum donation on the door of **£10** per adult
in aid of a local charity

✉ mwgburystedmunds1@gmail.com

 Multicultural Women's Group Bury St Edmunds

St John the Evangelist

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

Monday 2 November



All Souls

SOLEMN

REQUIEM MASS

7pm

Followed by refreshments

Coffee Morning

Donations to



**The Sick
Children's
Trust**

We're here, so families can be together

Tuesday 3rd November

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



Lark Valley and North Bury Team

St George's Church

HOMEMADE
CAKES



CHILDREN'S
GAMES

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

GRAND
RAFFLE REFRESHMENTS
TOMBOLA & STALLS
GALORE!

Saturday 14th November 2026

11:30 till 2pm

St George's Church + Anselm Community Centre
Anselm Avenue, Bury St Edmunds, IP32 6JZ

Fornham St Martin Church



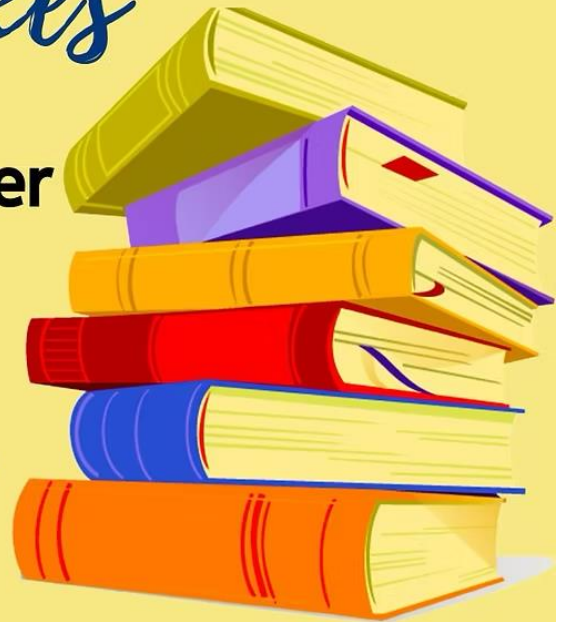
*Book Sale,
Christmas Stall,
Coffee & Cakes*



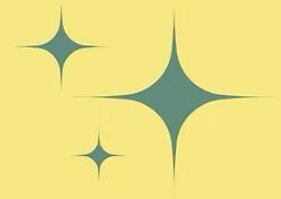
Saturday 28th November

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