

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

7th April 2024

2nd 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



Crab apple

1st April 2024

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2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 4.32-35 Psalm 133 | John 1.1-2.2 John 20.19-end

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The other day, somebody said to me, “Well, that’s Easter over for another year” in the sort of voice that indicated that this person was glad to see the back of the festival. I was a bit at a loss to know how to respond because Easter is at the root and heart of the Christian faith. Every Sunday is a mini Easter and that’s why we meet on a Sunday, to celebrate the wonder and glory of the resurrection. That’s why Sundays are not fast days.

Every Sunday (and perhaps during the week as well) we meet as a community, the community of Jesus. We are the Church, the body of Christ in the world. We are just a little bit of that worldwide community of faith. And churches all around the world can look very different in how they go about their worship and devotion to the Lord. Some may seem strange to us, especially if we are accustomed to a very particular style of worship – but this doesn’t mean that other styles are invalid. We are all part of the larger community, not just here on earth but also in heaven.

So how are we doing as a community in our own home patch? Our reading from Acts this morning paints a picture of what this community should be like when it is functioning with love, generosity, fellowship and trust. It may be that Luke has idealized it a bit – but wouldn’t it be wonderful if this was how all church communities functioned, without any factions or conflict. Sometimes as church we have to learn to deal with the difficulties of rubbing along together as human beings with divergent views. We have to learn to put up with one another with good grace despite some of the silliness and selfishness that you sometimes get in church circles.

This picture we have in Acts reminds us that even if it is an idealized image, it is still something to which we can aspire. After all, Jesus tells us to be perfect, and this must surely apply to Christian communities as well as to individuals.

Then the reading from the first letter of John reminds us of what it is that is so important. The writer gives a declaration of what has been seen and heard and touched, not simply by individuals but by the community. This is the lived experience of the Christian community on what it is to live in the light of the risen Christ, the word of life. We all need to walk in the light of Christ, the one whose blood cleanses us from all sin.

The last bit of the reading from this letter tells of Jesus being an atoning sacrifice. However, this idea of an atoning sacrifice isn't always one that 21st century people find easy to take on board. We have to remember that in the time of Jesus animal sacrifices were offered to God as a way of seeking forgiveness for sin. Such sacrifices could be very expensive because the creature offered had to be perfect, without any physical defects.

But now animal sacrifices are not necessary for Christians because of the once and for all sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Jesus is the perfect slain paschal lamb, the one whose sacrificial blood on the cross takes away our sins. We are reminded of this whenever we sing or say the *Agnus Dei* "O Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us." As the writer of this letter says, it's not just my sin or your sin that Jesus takes away, but the sin of all the world. This is the atoning work of Jesus that enables him to give to his church the authority to declare the forgiveness of sins. In our gospel reading we find Jesus giving this gift to the church community in the first resurrection appearance in the evening of the first Easter Day.

Then the second resurrection appearance takes place a week later when we have the wonderful story of Thomas who won't believe unless and until he has seen and touched the risen Lord.

Seeing, touching, and hearing – all these are first hand experiences for Thomas. He's not content with simply getting reports from other people about the risen Jesus. He wants to know it for himself in the most basic sensory experiences that are shared by all human beings.

Perhaps Thomas is there on our behalf, standing in for us. He represents all of us today who have come to believe after the time of the first disciples.

No doubt some of us today would long to have the opportunity offered to Thomas to see Jesus, to hear his voice, to touch his wounded, risen body. Maybe some of us are a bit like Thomas, especially if we have difficulties in believing, as we all do sometimes. We can reflect on the kind words of Jesus as he speaks to us and calls us blessed because we are those who have not seen - and yet have believed.

And the only thing that Thomas can say when Jesus comes to him is “My Lord and my God.” In these words, Thomas shows absolute faith and trust and recognition of who Jesus really is. And Jesus comes to us today in his sacramental presence in the holy bread and wine of the altar. When we receive our dear Lord in the fragile wafer and the little sip of wine we can join with Thomas and say with thanksgiving and awe from the depths of our hearts, “My Lord and my God.”

Because ...

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Julia Mann

The Wonder Club

Story
Wondering
Craft
Prayer
Cake



St
Lawrence,
Lackford
7th April, 3pm

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 7 APRIL

SUNDAY 7 April 2nd 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
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Timworth
10.00am	All Age Worship	Fornham All Saints
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	West Stow
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
3.00pm	Wonder Club	Lackford

Monday 8 April Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary

6.00pm	Solemn Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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Tuesday 9 April Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran pastor, martyr

8.30am	Morning Prayer (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
6.00pm	A Quiet Space	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Wednesday 10 April William Law, priest, spiritual writer, 1761

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

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 11 April George Selwyn, bishop, 1878

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

Friday 12 April

5.30pm	Evening Prayer (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
6.00pm	Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

SUNDAY 14 April 3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

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



New Cross in Fornham St Martin

Here is a picture from Fornham St Martin of our cross made by a woodworking community group. It has been made from the 200-year-old oak of the old bell frame now removed whilst we await our new one. Ali blessed the cross on Palm Sunday and Patrick who helped to make it is standing there.

Sarah Cooledge

CANINE CAPTION COMPETITION RESULT!!!

Dogs lead the way.



Some of the entries have been, unsurprisingly, absolutely barking.
But never mind, here they are anyway:

'Now that we've been absolved of our sins, can we get back to the pigeons and squirrels?'

Julie Morrison

And the winning dog, most like its owner, is ...

*Val Gagen****

'Hounds of Heaven'

Bob Torrens (pp F Thompson)

'Oi Rector, we've got a bone to pick with you.'

Mr Edwin L Lear

'All the best things come in Trinities ...'

Julie Morrison

The Rector was concerned that some at St John's had become rather dogmatic.

Mr Edwin L Lear

And the winning owner, most like their dog, is ...

*(you guessed it) Val Gagen****

Candles and Canines was a grrr-eat success.

Gina and Steve Robertson

'Well, we did say that only those in dog collars are allowed in the sanctuary.'

Mr Edwin L Lear

'At the parish dance, Henry told Susie he felt like a bit of a wooflower.'

Valerie Wilde

The dogs wondered who would be giving them their commendatory certificates.

Marianne Atkinson

**** And the result is a tie! Val Gagen shares the prize with (you guessed it) Val Gagen.*

BURY ST EDMUNDS OLD SCHOOL FUND GRANTS

The **Bury Old School Fund** is a small local charity which provides modest grants to students in both secondary and tertiary education to assist with costs such as travel and educational materials.

Applicants, or their parents, must live within the town boundaries of Bury St Edmunds in order to be considered for a grant and be under the age of 25.

For an Application Form please e-mail osfclerk@greene-greene.com.

All Applications for the 2024/2025 academic year must be received by the clerk by close of business on 31st August 2024.

Registration now open for **Churches Count on Nature (CCoN)** *8-15 June 2024*



CCoN focuses on the wildlife found in churchyards and chapel yards, whatever their size. Last year, over 250 churches across England and Wales took part in CCoN, the annual scheme where people visit churchyards, burial grounds and other church spaces to record the plant and animal species they encounter there.

Could your church take part? It will help you engage with the natural world and your wider community.

St Michael's church in the centre of Aldbourne, Wiltshire, for example, partnered with local schools and welcomed over 230 children to their churchyard.

Led by clergy, the children became wildlife detectives, explored hedgehog and small mammal tunnels, set humane traps to find wood mice and bank voles, discovered slow worms, and examined a moth trap catch of 51 species. There was a newfound appreciation for nature and the count was concluded by painting stones with the words of Psalm 24:1 and reflecting on its message that 'The Earth is the Lord's, and everything in it'. Churches of any denomination in England and Wales can register to participate.

To register, visit the noticeboard on the homepage at www.arocha.org.uk



Saturday 13 April 2024 at 10.15 for 10.30am
St John the Baptist, Orwell Road, Felixstowe IP11 7PW



Living with
Living with Love and Faith
with
Revd Canon Andrew Dotchin

Eucharist ~ Coffee
Address and discussion
Lunch (bring and share)
Annual General Meeting

Contact: Michael Wilde
01284 767415 cormack246@gmail.com

Affirming Catholicism ~ St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

We are a movement of inspiration and hope in the Anglican Communion, bringing together and strengthening lay and ordained people who recognize the positive, inclusive and joyful currents in the catholic tradition of Christianity. We value models of love, friendship and community for all seeking to follow the gospel, irrespective of ethnicity, gender, disability or sexual orientation.

All are welcome to join us at our meetings

Convenor: Michael Wilde 01284 767415 07342 100252
Secretary: The Revd Sarah Jenkins
Treasurer: Adrian Mann 01284 753984 07771 593403

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CAPTION COMPETITION

A choice of fairtrade wine or chocolate awaits the person providing the winning caption for this photograph of Sue Piper and Lesley Horn in the Anselm Community Centre kitchen at St George's.



Please send in your entries by Tuesday 9th April
to the Viral Bulletin at adrian.mann@btinternet.com

Contacts

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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 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.
