

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

11 May 2025

4th 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



Great Churchyard, Bury St Edmunds

24 April 2025

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4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 9.36-end Psalm 23 Revelation 7.9-end John 10.22-30

It is like a flashback. Jesus is in Jerusalem, and it is the winter before the Passion. Today is the fourth Sunday of Easter, but we do not have the story of a resurrection appearance as our gospel for the day. Instead, we are pitched back to a key moment in John's account of the events leading up to Jesus's death.

It is the time of the Feast of Dedication or Tabernacles: a highly popular midwinter festival, a time of thanksgiving for the restoration in 164 BC of the desecrated temple sanctuary. From our Christian point of view, this seems like a prefiguring of the impact of Jesus himself, of God-with-us in the incarnation. Is not Jesus now the one who becomes the new temple?

The word 'tabernacle' in Greek is the source of the verb used by John when he says: 'the Word became flesh and lived among us', or 'dwelt among us'. Literally in the Greek this is 'tabernacled among us' or 'pitched his tent among us'.

Jesus is asked to say plainly if he is the Messiah, and he responds that his works testify to him. He uses the image of the shepherd - the 'I am the good shepherd' passage immediately precedes this one - to reassure his sheep that no matter what happens they will not be separated from him.

And on what is this assurance based? 'The Father and I are one.' With this claim the crisis deepens. Not entirely unreasonably, Jesus is accused of blasphemy.

The issues - references to Jesus as Son of God and Messiah - are the same ones that incense the authorities at Jesus's trial before the Sanhedrin. It is a crucial moment. The claim of Jesus is fully out in the open and sets off the reactions which lead to his death.

'The Father and I are one.' Jesus is concise and conclusive. In John's account the claim is both explicit and public. So is the response. As soon as Jesus says this he is threatened with stoning, narrowly escapes arrest and retreats to the far side of the Jordan. The next event in the narrative is the death and raising of Lazarus.

It is all highly symbolic, and there is also a layer of authenticity in the detail. Jesus is found in winter walking up and down in the Portico of Solomon, in the Eastern colonnade where the closed side would offer shelter from the biting wind from the wilderness. According to the Acts of the Apostles (3.11 and 5.12) this duly became a gathering place for the first Christians.

'The Father and I are one.' This is a real climax, and Jesus's opponents do not miss the implication: the claim of a profound and comprehensive unity. The stage is set for the Passion.

Why should we concentrate on this now in the midst of our Easter season? Surely because it is a timely reminder that it is the *crucified* Christ that is risen. His wounds are visible. They can be seen. They can be touched.

The glory of God in Christ is not just seen in his resurrection. It is seen in everything about him. His birth his humanity, his life and work. All of which culminates in his suffering and his death. *All of this* is glorified in the resurrection and the ascension.

This is what God is like. This Jesus and everything about him. This is what God is like. 'The Father and I are one'. This is the authenticity of God, given to us. An authentic God; not a fantasy twinkle in the sky where there is no suffering and therefore no reality.

Look around you. See and understand what goes on in the world, and ask: 'What would be the use of a God that did not know suffering?' This is the great mysterious, incomprehensible truth of the Christian faith: our God must suffer. Others might say that it is sheer nonsense for us to say that our God suffers with us. Or nonsense to say that our God is with us in the man Jesus. Or they'd say that a vulnerable God is no God at all. But surely the opposite is true.

In the light of the reality of human experience, is it not the case that a God invulnerable to suffering, separate from and impervious to the travails of humankind and of all creation, would simply be a *useless* sort of God?

No. 'The Father and I are one.' Jesus God - dead and risen, suffering and glorified - is with us in the reality of our lives.

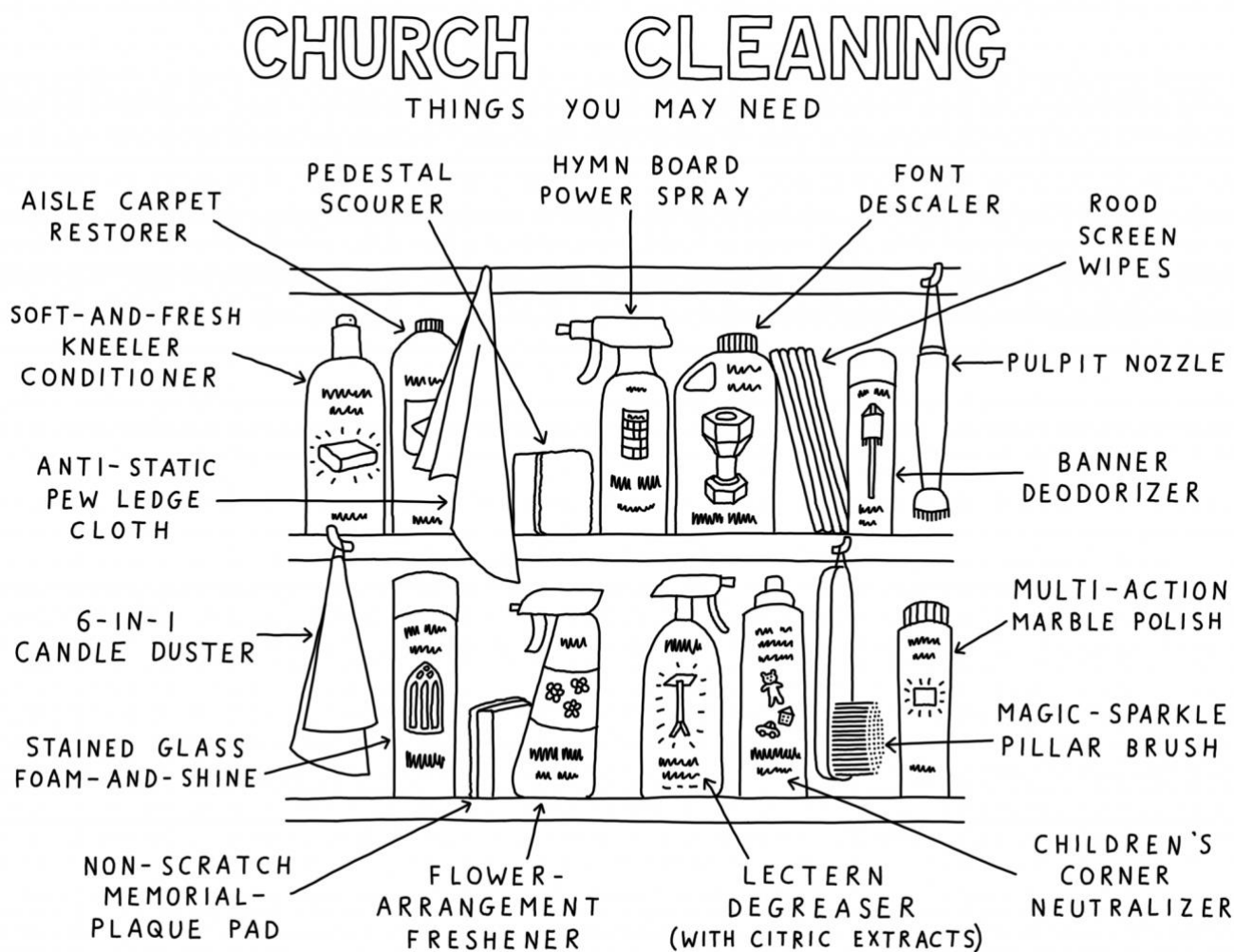
The Passion takes on all of *created* reality: Jesus is human.

The Passion is part of *eternal* reality: Jesus is God.

And the crucified God is risen.

That is the source of our faith and hope,
and the measure of God's love for us.

Adrian Mann



Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 11 MAY

SUNDAY 11 May 4th Sunday of Easter

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

Monday 12 May *Gregory Dix, priest, monk, scholar, 1952*

Tuesday 13 May

6.00pm	A Quiet Space	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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Wednesday 14 May Matthias the Apostle

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 15 May

9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
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Friday 16 May *Caroline Chisholm, social reformer, 1877*

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

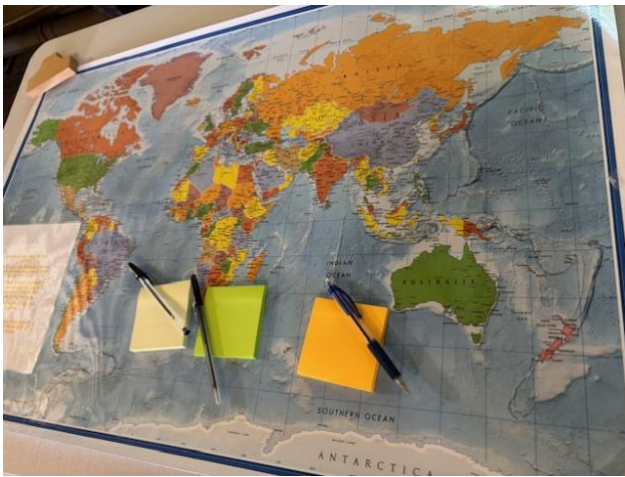
Saturday 17 May

SUNDAY 18 May 5th Sunday of Easter

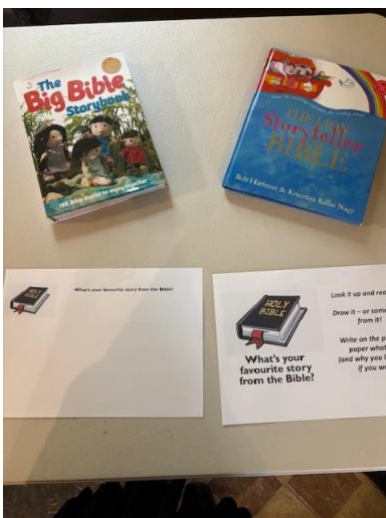
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Matins (BCP)	Timworth
10.00am	Eucharist (CW) <i>gathering for breakfast at 9.15am</i>	West Stow
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham All Saints
10.30am	All Age Worship	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW) <i>Preacher: The Revd Richard Stainer</i>	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
4.30pm	Evensong: Service of Rededication of the Bells <i>with Bishop Graeme Knowles</i>	Fornham St Martin

Wonder Club at Lackford

Ali Miller



At Wonder Club we looked at the liturgical lesson called The Circle of the Holy Eucharist. It helps us understand the different parts of the service. Then we did activities related to the Liturgy of the Word (contemplating favourite bible stories and writing prayers for the world) and Liturgy of the Sacrament (two ways of looking at the Real Presence of Jesus!). Plus: building blocks ... because why not?



ALL SAINTS CHURCH
PARK ROAD
IP33 3QW

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

INFORMAL BIBLE STUDY AND DISCUSSION

BRING YOUR OWN PACKED LUNCH



29th May
26th June
24th July

12:00 - 13:00

Tea & Coffee provided



Good News from St John's!

After a certain amount of cursing and techno-anxiety we have earned a silver award from A Rocha's [Eco Church](#) scheme. Many thanks to all of you who helped to bring this about.

Particular thanks are due to our neighbour Sue Thompson from the [Suffolk Organic Society](#), who is managing the churchyard along organic lines to encourage biodiversity. It is joyful to see so much going on, and Sue reports she has had many positive remarks from passers-by.

Also, thanks to James Rolls, Net Zero Carbon Officer for the Diocese, who understands how to reveal the mysteries of our carbon footprint. (Out of interest, this is calculated from the amount of Kilowatt Hours used and the type of energy source. In 2024 this amounted to 11.9 Tonnes (net) of CO₂, 92% of which came from gas, and 8% from electricity).

The award covers five areas of practice: worship and teaching, buildings, land, community and global engagement, and lifestyle. This can help us to recognise our achievements as well as areas where we might go further. How wonderful that 91 swift chicks were hatched last year! Our boiler, however, is over 22 years old, and inefficient.

Was it worth doing? Some might wonder what it has to do with church ministry. The late Pope Francis laid out his theological perspectives on the environment in his encyclical letter, [Laudato Si](#) (2015). He stressed the need for us all to recognise our Christian responsibility for good stewardship of the Earth. The Church of England updated their [“Five Marks of Mission”](#) in 2017 to include *“To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth”*.

In parallel with ecclesiastical commitment comes a growing awareness within the scientific community and our society for the need to manage our own environment differently. There is an increasing awareness of the [interconnected nature](#) of Climate Change, pollution, and loss of biodiversity. Sadly, the world's poorest places become the most vulnerable to weather extremes. Climate change is currently recognised to be the result of [human activity](#) in industrial nations.

We are fortunate locally that there is lots going on which is responding to this challenge. Suffolk County Council makes [renewable energy](#) from refuse, and nothing goes to land-fill. They promote home composting through their [Master Composter](#) scheme, and encourage efficient use of food through their [Food Savvy](#) campaign. Did you know, for example, about “Taking a Shelfie”? Photographing the inside of your fridge before going shopping is supposed to make the experience more rational and cost-effective. Other charitable organisations are also doing their best to reduce waste. [Still Good Food](#) collects food beyond its sell-by date from local supermarkets, and gleans surplus or unsellable fruit and veg. from local farmers. This is redistributed to those who want it.



The Eco-Church exercise, for me, helped reveal wider possibilities for interconnection of these various threads. Environmental issues particularly concern young people, and we are blessed in many ways by the beautiful churchyards which connect together in our Benefice. The natural world is [God's First Bible](#), where everything on Earth (and the Universe) is deeply connected. This deserves our greater recognition and encouragement.

If any of our Lark Valley and North Bury parishes want to discuss their own Eco Church application I would be delighted to help.

May 1st 2025

Sarah Gull seg30@cam.ac.uk

**Help us respond
faithfully to the
climate and
nature crises**

Worship and Teaching



Embedding creation care
in worship, prayer and learning

Buildings



Finding energy efficient and innovative
ways to manage our places of worship

Land



Nurturing spaces
for people and nature

Community and Global Engagement



Transforming local and global
communities and ecosystems

Lifestyle



Living joyfully and sustainably as
followers of Christ

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

Fornham St Martin Church

*Book Sale,
Coffee & Cakes*

Saturday 31st May

10:00am - 3:00pm

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

All Welcome



Women's Voices Women's Bodies

**We will meet Bathsheba, Anna, Mary and others, to explore
the Abused Body, the Disabled Body, the Aged Body, the
Nurturing Body and the
Suffering Body**

**A day event led by The Revd Canon Dr Liz Shercliff
and The Revd Dr Kate Bruce**

21st June

10.30am – 4pm

**St John the Evangelist church,
St John's St. Bury St Edmunds
IP33 1SP**

**To let us know you are attending, book here
[Women's Voices, Women's Bodies - Insight CofE Suffolk](#)
or for more information contact
Revd Ali Miller teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com**

Bring your own lunch ~ Drinks provided



CAPTION COMPETITION

There were no entries last week, allowing the prize to remain at the disposal of the editor (which is not good for him), so see if you can do better with this photo of Valerie Wilde with the new bell rope for St John's.



A choice of fairtrade wine or chocolate awaits the person who can contribute the winning caption. Please send your entries by Monday 12th May to the Viral Bulletin at adrian.mann@btinternet.com

Contacts

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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.
