

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

3 August 2028

7th Sunday after Trinity

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



Can you spot the two swifts speeding past St John's spire at dusk earlier this summer?

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7th Sunday after Trinity

Ecclesiastes 1.2,12-14; 2.18-23 Psalm 49.1-12
Colossians 3.1-11 Luke 12.13-21

You all know the story of King Midas, I am sure. The tale of an ancient King, who according to the version that I read recently is offered one wish by the Greek God Dionysus because he is such a kind man. Midas chose the ability to turn everything that he touched into gold, seeing this as a choice that would make his life become more fulfilling than it was before.

But the result of this wish was the exact opposite. This unlimited wealth did not make his life better, but much worse. And in the most awful consequence of his new ability, Midas turned his daughter into a shimmering statue and therefore lost the most precious thing in his life - something that gold could certainly not replace.

The Parable of the Rich Fool, as the words from the Gospel of St Luke for this Sunday are often called, is one that shares much with the tale of King Midas and one that speaks volumes about the dangers of wealth. For these words are a clear warning about the fate of the soul of the rich person. And as is clear, this will not be a rosy one unless great care is taken. A truth that is revealed in what happens to the so-called fool in this tale of Jesus.

But to begin with, we may wonder how much of a fool this man is. As the tale begins, these words of Jesus would appear to describe not foolishness, but rather success. The man is a land owner and has had a very good year with his land producing abundantly. We have no reason to believe that this is down to anything other than hard work and good management. But either way, that this man is an example of what not to do with such an abundance of possessions, is clear from how Jesus begins the description of the end of his life.

He says to the crowd “take care!” before launching into this tale of folly. This man’s life is highlighted as a warning, a guide of what not to do. It is not simply being rich like this man that is being warned against, rather it is the man’s attitude toward his wealth that is wrong. This is made blatantly clear by Jesus who says that what he is warning against is greed. And one of the dangers of greed that is offered in this parable is also seen in the story of King Midas.

Thanks to his golden touch Midas finds himself alone. And in the parable that Jesus tells of the rich fool he is also alone. We hear of no other human characters being mentioned in this passage. And such solitary confinement is indeed a very dangerous place for those with wealth, as is revealed through this story of our fool. For even though he has just been given a huge crop, one that dwarfs what this individual usually reaps (hence he needs larger barns), our wealthy landowner can think of nobody beyond himself. All the treasures of the land, and the wealth that will result, are going to be used and given to only one person in this story, because there is only one person in the thoughts of this man, and that is himself.

This selfishness and greed reveals the greatest mistake that this man commits and that sees him described as a fool by our Lord. For as we hear, through thinking of his increased possessions only in terms of himself, he believes that his life is now complete. In fact, more than this, he believes that his soul can be at rest, and for years to come, such that now is the time to “relax, eat, drink” and “be merry.”

But as God says when arriving on the scene “You fool!” And why is this man a fool? Well because these things he believes will be the making of his perfect life and will give his soul rest for many years are nothing of the sort. Instead, his life is being taken from him there and then. All these things that he has, these things he thinks will bring happiness - whether crops, cattle, food, fine clothes, money, gold, jewels, trinkets - cars, houses, computers, televisions, shares, if he had them too, perhaps - are useless to him and to his soul. What a fool indeed!

But even worse than the shocking discovery for this rich man of the uselessness of what he had so set his stall upon for his long-term future, is that through his attitude to these things he has become poor – or “not rich” as Jesus calls it. And this poverty is in the most important way possible. For his attitude toward his possessions, that sees him storing up such treasures only for himself, has seen him failing to be rich towards God. Which we know is the greatest crime of greed for Jesus, because this is the punchline delivered by our Lord to end this sorry tale.

Which raises what we could call the billion-dollar question. How are we rich towards God? How do we avoid being like this rich man and instead live lives that see our treasures offered to our Lord? Well, it must come from paying attention to the teaching of God about what it means to lead a Godly lifestyle, a life that is rich and full of God’s presence. It must come from listening to Jesus. And foremost in this must be Christ’s answer given when

he is asked what are the greatest of all the commandments for God's followers, those things that are most crucial to inheriting eternal life.

This answer reveals that it is all about our attitude to others and indeed our giving our love to them. For as Jesus says the greatest commandments are to love God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind, and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

Significantly in the reading from the Gospel of St Luke that was used for the 4th Sunday after Trinity, Jesus goes on to expand the truth of this through the Parable of the Good Samaritan, a story that saw the Samaritan as an exemplar of what it means to look to all around you as your neighbour and worthy of your love. And crucially in that story, this saw the Samaritan giving of his own wealth as part of this, through paying the innkeeper to care for the stricken man.

Unlike this rich man who has no regard for anyone else when it comes to his wealth, those who are Jesus's followers are called to look to the needs of others with all that we are, and all that we have. All that we have that cannot assure us of an eternal future, but that can be used to help others around us, and that can even be used to offer a glimpse of the kingdom of God to people in our world, as happens in the parable of the Good Samaritan. And like the battered man who the Samaritan helped, it is those in greatest need who this applies to most. For it is those who are facing the greatest challenges in our world to whom Jesus constantly looked in his ministry – those who were poor, sick, and ostracised amongst many others.

For those who follow Jesus, to be rich towards God must mean doing all we can to ape how Jesus lived his life. It must mean living lives that are shaped by his love and offering that love to all, and especially those in greatest need. And yes, to do otherwise would be foolish, for it would not be doing the will of our Lord.

And so, whether we are like Midas and the fool of the parable, dripping with gold and with barns fit to burst, or whether we have little or nothing to our name - in truth whatever we do or do not have - to rely upon our possessions as an assurance of an eternal future is folly. For eternal life comes from God through our Lord Jesus Christ. A Lord Jesus Christ who warns us today about greed, and who through the example of his life leads us see what it means to be rich towards God. Rich through offering our love to God and neighbours with all that we have and all that we do. Love that will help to see God's richness and treasures fill our world.

Andy Miller

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 3 AUGUST

SUNDAY 3 August 7th Sunday after Trinity

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 Worship	Fornham All Saints
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
3.00pm	Wonder Club	Lackford

Monday 4 August *Jean-Baptiste Vianney, curé d'Ars, spiritual guide, 1859*

Tuesday 5 August Oswald, king, martyr, 642

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

Wednesday 6 August Transfiguration of Our Lord

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 7 August *John Mason Neale, priest, hymn writer, 1866*

9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
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Friday 8 August Dominic, priest, founder of the Order of Preachers, 1221

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

Saturday 9 August Mary Sumner, founder of the Mothers' Union, 1921

SUNDAY 10 August 8th Sunday after Trinity

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

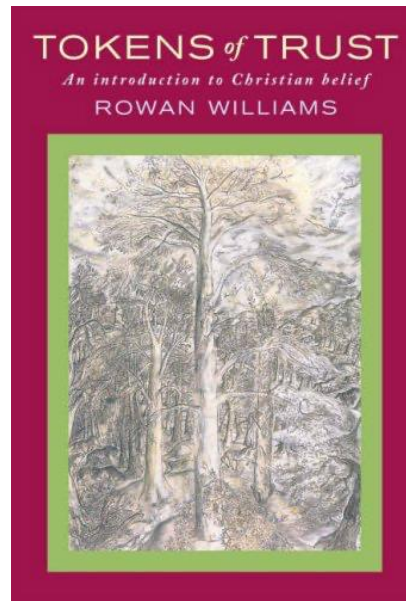
Big Coffee Morning and Cake Sale

All Saints'
Bury



Many thanks to
Claire Rose for
these photos,
providing another
chance to see the
barrel organ,
made by Robin.
There was a visit,
too, from Rod
and Carol's family,
visiting from
Hong Kong.

Summer Book Club



**2025 marks the 1700th anniversary of
the Nicene Creed.**

**It states what we believe as Christians –
but what is this?**

**Get a copy of *Tokens of Trust* by Rowan Williams and let's find
out together!**

Read the relevant chapter before each session.

Chapter 1 - 17th July - *Who Can We Trust?*

Chapter 2 - 24th July - *The Risk of Love*

Chapter 3 - 31st July - *A Man for all Seasons*

Chapter 4 - 7th August - *The Peace Dividend*

Chapter 5 - 14th August - *God in Company*

Chapter 6 - 21st August - *Love, Actually*

We will be meeting in Edmundo's, 7.30pm

To express interest, contact Revd Ali Miller

teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com

Matabeleland Church Linens



The church linens used at some of the churches in our benefice come from Zimbabwe. The linens have been hand sewn by members of the Mothers Union in the Anglican Diocese of Matabeleland and in buying them we have given direct support for the work of the church there.

In this part of Africa, the MU is a lively and vital part of the Church's work and witness as it engages in many projects. These include helping women to care economically for their families, develop their faith and serve their neighbours. There are over 50 MU branches within the diocese, all of which serve many communities.

Through the willingness of churches in the UK to buy linens, the 'linens project' has been able to support teaching village women to make clothes for their families, support the training of ordinands, helping MU members to care for neighbours during times of bereavement or caring for AIDS sufferers and orphans. In the Binga area, young girls made pregnant by rape and left to bring up their offspring alone are helped by the MU. These traumatised girls are given food, shelter, clothing for themselves and all they need for their babies.

It is good to know that by buying what we need to use in church on a day-by-day basis helps the MU to do such vital work.

Valerie Wilde

Wonder Club

Story
Wondering
Craft
Prayer
Cake



St Lawrence,
Lackford

3rd August
3pm

Coffee Morning

Donations to



Tuesday 5th August

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

CAPTION COMPETITION RESULT



The judges' heads spiralled in confusion as they considered:

Alan decided to leave the plate-spinning to Andy and Ali. *Steve Robertson*

Has Alan been inspired to take up fishing? *Gail Bate*

Whimsical Delight: "Wonder Club at Lackford, where magic meets adventure." *Cijo Joboy*

Alan demonstrates his patent device for polishing shoes while still wearing them. *Henry Allen*

Alan stopped at nothing to improve the wi fi at Lackford. *Gina Robertson*

Deep in thought, or perhaps just drawing some conclusions, Alan Birt at Wonder Club. *Cijo Joboy*

Beware! The hypnotic gaze of the snake charmer. *Janet Hayward*

But the winner is **Carol Allard** with:

"The one that got away was much bigger."

**WEST STOW
CHURCH**

AUGUST 6TH

**CHAT, COFFEE, TEA,
BISCUITS**

9.30 – 11.30

**Donations in aid of
MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT
this month**

CREAM TEA
on Saturday 9th August
from 3-5pm
in the Anselm Centre garden
IP32 6JZ

In aid of the
Bury Drop-In Centre and St George's Church



Everyone welcome
£6.00 per Adult £3.00 per child
To include scones, cream and jam
Unlimited tea, coffee or cold drink

To book your place contact either:

Wendy on 01284 768714 or

Maz on 01284 767758 or

Email: maz.callaby@btinternet.com

The first of many?



Here with Andy is Gina Robertson, the benefice's potential ordinand, after delivering her first homily at St John's on the Feast of St James.

The poster features several decorative illustrations: a butterfly with orange and yellow wings in the top left; green leaves in the top right; a pink rose with green leaves in the bottom left; and a cluster of white and pink roses in the bottom right. The background is a light cream color with faint, larger-scale floral patterns.

BENEFICE

Bash

SUNDAY 17TH AUGUST

THE RECTORY, WEST STOW

6PM-8PM

Drinks and nibbles
provided

An informal occasion and a chance for all our
congregations to get together

Please bring a chair or rug to sit on

Park at the church

CAPTION COMPETITION

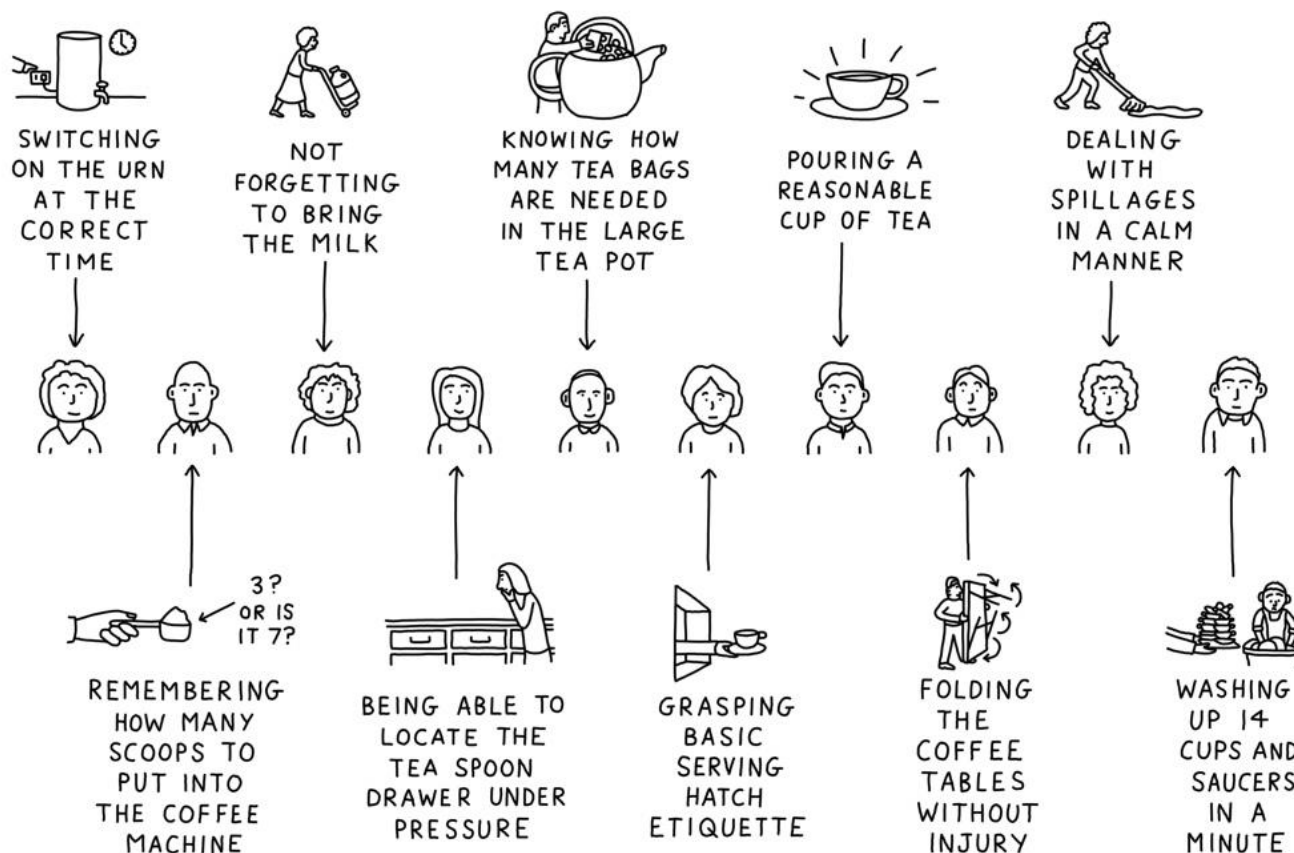


A choice of fairtrade wine or chocolate awaits the person who can contribute the winning caption for this photograph of Carol Allard, displaying virtuoso skills on the barrel organ.

Please send your entries by Tuesday 29th July to the Viral Bulletin at adrian.mann@btinternet.com

SKILLS

GAINED OVER A LIFETIME OF CHURCHGOING



CartoonChurch.com

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*We also have assistance 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.