Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

15 November 2026 Second Sunday before Advent

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



Remembrance Sunday ~ St George's

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Second Sunday before Advent

Zephaniah 1:7,12-18 Psalm 90:1-12 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30

The Church calendar is still just in its old year, but we are approaching Advent (the Coming). In the past, the Advent season was longer in places; in Milan once 7 weeks before Christmas. The bridging Kingdom season we're in now is a recent innovation, but has some of the old Advent character.

The readings relate to the Four Last Things - Death, Hell, Heaven and Judgement, from the Biblical Day of the Lord, as described by the prophet Zephaniah, the end of the present world, when the Lord should come in irresistible power. In the New Testament it is the Second Coming of Jesus.

The earth is far older than the ancients imagined, and will last for far longer, but even heavenly bodies are finite. Those that have atmospheres are subject to their more ready alteration; we are all aware now of the extraordinary rapidly accelerating change to our planet's atmosphere. It has been brought about by our human species, so very recently.

Secular society seems further ahead than the Church in realisation of the consequence for all species, animal and plant, not just for our own future generations. All varieties of life here are interconnected, and many are already lost. In the COP31 United Nations climate summit, now being held in southern Turkey with negotiations led by Australia, the hope particularly for vulnerable countries is for promises made to become practical action, concerning emissions, energy and finance. The COP17 biodiversity summit in Armenia ended a week ago, agreeing to the need for faster action and more substantial funding.

It is God's Creation that has been thoughtlessly and selfishly exploited, to grim effect. The planet will survive for unimaginable time, but conditions of life on it face severe threat. So we need to pray for researchers, decision-makers, and for changes of heart where destructive old ways persist.

It is hard to think about these things and easier to turn to the short-term. Christmas is less than 6 weeks away and the almost-month of Advent in recent years seems to have become an introit to actual celebration. Themes in the readings will look more narrowly towards the birth at Bethlehem, rather than ahead to the imminent (or delayed) Second Coming of the Lord. There are Christmas trees visible already. Quiet preparation

before the Festival is observed less; other significant events crowd into the calendar.

This Sunday for St. John's and St. George's is Thanksgiving Sunday, incorporating also a recognition of 'Full Measure', in which church members are all kept in touch in a caring network. And this Sunday is about **giving.**

Thanksgiving, whatever the season, is at the root of our faith. It is the meaning of the Greek word 'eucharist'. We all owe thanks for all that we have and are, our very being. To give thanks is an acknowledgement of a gift, and should be mindful of the extent of it. To overlook or forget it is disrespectful to say the least, yet our minds can quickly dance away to other matters. In turn this lessens the value of the bond with the giver, whether that gift was small and incidental, or great and lasting.

From the first gift of life, existence, come countless others along the way. Life unfolds differently for everyone, but at all times we owe thanks for our preservation and the blessings of this life. Words alone seem an insufficient response for everything given. Feelings of gratitude translate into giving back, and with the constant flow of gift from God there needs to be a constant return, traditionally of money as well as time and talents.

This week's gospel has the parable of the talents (very large units of money in Jesus' time on earth). We now speak of 'talent' as particular ability, and disapprove of such talent being wasted - that is, not used for the benefit of the community, or for enabling some talent in others. In the parable the initial gift was according to the slaves/servants' ability, but not prescriptive relative to use of the gift. The servants made their own choices of what to do; humans have free will.

Choices may be good or not so good, happy or fatal. The first two servants fulfilled expectations and were equally commended, though apparently they were not equal in ability. They were both glad to do what they could. The third hadn't been expected to do so much, but had dishonoured his gift by declining to do anything. His lack of willing response broke the co-operative link, or bond, with his powerful master. The extra talent, with its potential, was then given to the servant who could make most use of it.

Not all enterprises work out well. In pursuing work, besides making choices one must take chances. Unwillingness to do this will have wider consequences than for the individual alone. The Church as a whole, and any particular church congregation, is a community that needs to benefit from every member's contribution. It should be given in common goodwill,

though actual possible amounts (of time, money, or talent) will vary. It is the attitude that matters.

St. Paul wrote that Jesus said it was more blessed to give than to receive. The Greek word often translated 'blessed' is also translated as 'happy'. The joy of giving feels different from the joy of receiving; this is learned, it's not innate. Generosity is one of the fruits of the Spirit, an integral part of our thanksgiving.

At this time of year many thoughts turn to giving at many levels - gifts expected, of duty, gifts spontaneous or charitable, and uniquely significant gifts. All these are not just on account of a far-off birthday, but are a part of celebration, which always looks outwards, not within. In thanking God for all the goodness shown to us, a full response brings us closer to Him.

A prayer of St. Ignatius Loyola, rephrased in 1978 by Bishop Cuthbert Bardsley is:

> Take over, O Lord, all the remaining years of my life;
> Take my feelings, my understanding and my will,
> All that I am and all that I possess,
> my home, my money and my work.
> To you I give them back entire
> and to your will and guidance I surrender them.
> Give me in return but love of you
> and with it give your grace
> and I am rich enough and ask no more.

Amen.

The love of God means love for God's world.

Marianne Atkinson



Here is a photo of our Lay Elder **Carol Allard** with the bishop after the **Lay Elders Celebration Service** at the cathedral on Sunday 8th November. Our other Lay Elder **Gail Bate** was also at the service.

With thanks to Rod Allard for the photo.

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches
SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 15 NOVEMBER

SUNDAY 15 November 2nd Sunday before Advent ~ *Kingdom Season*

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) *followed by breakfast*	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Eucharist (CW) *Thanksgiving Sunday*	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Eucharist (CW) *preceded by breakfast*	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Matins (BCP)	Timworth
10.00am	Said Eucharist (CW) *preceded by breakfast at 9.15am*	West Stow
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham All Saints
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW) *Thanksgiving Sunday*	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Monday 16 November Margaret, queen, philanthropist, 1093
Edmund Rich, archbishop, 1240

Tuesday 17 November Hugh, bishop, 1200

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

Wednesday 18 November Elizabeth, princess, philanthropist, 1231

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 19 November Hilda, abbess, 680; *Mechtild, béguine, mystic, 1280*

9.30am	Eucharist (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds

Friday 20 November Edmund, king, martyr, 870; *Priscilla Lydia Sellon, a restorer of the religious life in the Church of England, 1876*

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

Saturday 21 November

SUNDAY 22 November Christ the King ~ *Sunday next before Advent*

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
12noon	Holy Communion (BCP)	Flempton

Please note: *Details of services at St John's may change in the light of progress being made with the interior building work being carried out in the church. Any such changes to the above details will be published via the Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry Google Group.*

Call Out for Confirmation!

Confirmation will take place with Bishop Joanne on Wednesday 2nd December at 7pm at St John the Evangelist, Bury St Edmunds

We already have several candidates who wish to be confirmed this year and so I am putting out an invitation to our parishes in the Benefice to see if anyone else feels drawn to this as well.

At its simplest, confirmation is another step we take in our journey of faith and it happens in a special church service led by the bishop.

We continue our preparatory sessions at 6pm in The Rectory on the 8th and 22nd November. If you cannot make the dates that is not a problem, let me know and we can work around it.

Contact Mother Ali for more information or if you have questions about confirmation:

teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com
or 01284 728714

St Edmundsbury Cathedral Installation of Canons, including the Revd Dr Andrew Miller

This will be at the service of Choral Evensong in the Quire at the Cathedral on Sunday the 15th November at 3.30pm. Andy is delighted to say that his stall will be that of Theodred, Abbot and Bishop of Elmham in the tenth century.

All are invited and Andy thanks everyone in advance for their kindness and support.



Beatrix and Josh send their thanks for the prayers, well wishes, cards and presents they have received from many lovely people across the LVNB Team following the arrival of their son, Rowan.

With thanks to Ali Miller for this photograph of Beatrix and Rowan.

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

ADVENT

CAROL SERVICE

St John's Church Bury St Edmunds IP33 1SN

Candlelit procession, carols
and seasonal refreshments*

Sunday 6 December at 5pm

with a special

Farewell

to *Miriam*

as The Revd Miriam Webb leaves the team at Christmas after her years of faithful service



All are welcome

** As is customary, incense is not used at the service*

To contribute to Miriam's farewell gift, please contact Lesley Horn at hornlmn@aol.co.uk.

A message from Miriam follows ...

2002 It was all Kathie Siddall's fault. I was asking the nice man in the Bible Bookshop about churches in Bury St Edmunds – he looked as if he had never heard the word 'church' before – when from the book-case she had been browsing, Kathie said, "you would be very welcome at my church." She was proved to be right.

I had settled in Bury after a year of three-way commute between Surrey, Felixstowe and Bury; housing was difficult then too. Working shifts at West Suffolk Hospital attendance at church could be sporadic but irregularity has never been a bar to joining the PCC, and later Deanery Synod.

2013 After 43years I finally turned in my test tubes and sample bottles anticipating an idle retirement. Already doing Open-the-Book, I now joined cathedral volunteers as a children's guide and licenced storyteller.

Incumbents come and go and after a while the new one suggested I should consider ordination. "Too old," I said, so did the DDO of the day. I was accepted to train as a Reader, being licenced in 2017. Meanwhile, the C.of E. was rethinking its training policy to allow older people to train. After much prayer and discussion I was persuaded to apply. I was ordained Deacon in 2019 and Priested in 2020. Since 2017, based initially at All Saints Park Road I have worked across the Lark Valley and North Bury Team in the churches and community.



2023 Over the official retirement age for clergy, I retired from my post as Assistant Curate and needing a place of worship away from the Team, the Rector at Woolpit agreed that I should sit behind one the pillars, under the watch of the dusty angels. A year later, receiving Permission to Officiate, I returned to Bury and the Lark Valley. Finding myself drawn into the worshiping community at Woolpit and Drinkstone, the time now seems right for me to remove myself and my household - far too many books - to Woolpit.

I have received so much loving support from the good people of the Lark Valley and North Bury and I will be sad leave you all. Be assured of my prayers for your future wellbeing, physically and spiritually.

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds.. Hebrews 10: 23,24

Modern Slavery

At any one time there are approximately 5,000 live Modern Slavery investigations ongoing across the UK. It is a hidden harm and to tackle it effectively the Suffolk Police needs information and intelligence from our communities.

Modern Slavery is difficult to spot. In towns and cities where streets are busy, it can be hidden amongst the hustle and bustle. In rural areas it is often hidden in remote locations, off the beaten track. It is also under-reported.

So what should we look out for?

Visible indicators could be:

- People who may appear frightened or confused
- Workers who may always be accompanied or who are being overly or aggressively supervised
- Individuals who lack protective equipment or suitable clothing and who appear untrained and work unsafely near machinery
- Structures such as decrepit horseboxes, shipping containers, ramshackle buildings which may be being used for accommodation

Not so visible indicators could include:

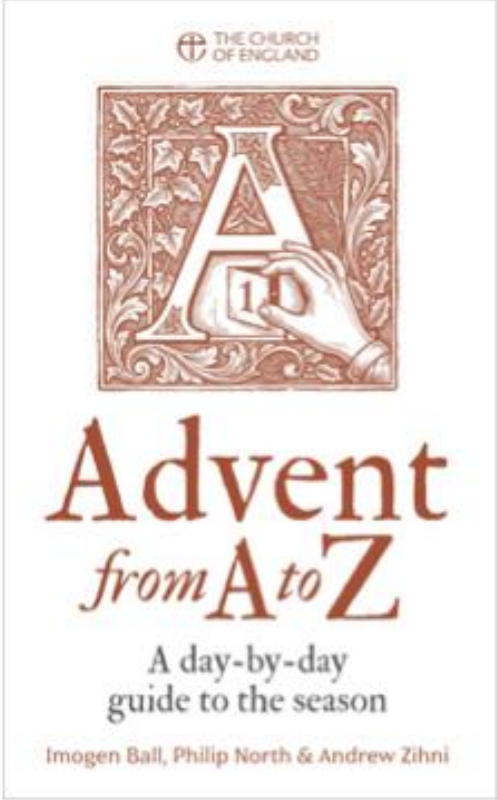
- People who have no documents such as IDs or passports
- Individuals who have no contacts and may not be receiving the minimum wage or not paid at all
- Workers who are forced to stay in overcrowded accommodation provided by their employer
- Multiple people arriving at work in an overcrowded vehicle
- Someone who might not accept money or be afraid to accept payment

Any of the above would be of interest to the Police.

Please contact the Police by calling 101
or in an emergency 999
or
Modern Slavery Helpline 08000 121 700

(Information provided by the Suffolk Constabulary)

Advent Book Club



Get yourself a copy of Advent from A to Z and come along to discuss the season of Advent at St John's Centre:

Thursday 3rd December, 7pm

Thursday 10th December, 7pm

Thursday 17th December, 7pm

then on

Wednesday 30th December, 10.45am, at St John's Church (following the midweek Eucharist at 9.30am)

As ever, don't worry if you cannot make every session

To express interest, contact Mother Ali Miller
teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com

CAPTION COMPETITION RESULT



The Rector is rubbish at playing hide and seek. *Gina Robertson*

'The limbo needs a bit more practice, I fear.' *Gail Bate*

Unfortunately, the Rector hurt himself bending over backwards to please everybody. *Henry Allen*

Andy will take any opportunity to show off his Louboutin shoes. *Valerie Wilde*

The Rector finally realised that his Limbo dancing days were over ... *Sara Harper*

But the winner is ***Kelly Cornish*** with:

Just like Tom Cruise, Andy does his own stunts in 'Mission: Im-pastor-ble'



CAPTION COMPETITION

A choice of fairtrade wine or chocolate awaits the person who can contribute the winning caption for this photograph.

Please send your entries by Tuesday 17th November to the Viral Bulletin at adrian.mann@btinternet.com

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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 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 more events coming up

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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

Winter Warmer Café

At Culford Village Hall

In aid of St. Mary's Church, Culford

Saturday November 28th
12 – 2pm



Choice of Soup
& Crusty Bread
and
Tea/Coffee &
Cream Scone.









Christmas Table
with cards, festive
gifts & raffle

Only £10 per adult/
£5 per child



Please join us for the last café
of 2026.



Coffee Morning

Donations to Crisis at Christmas

Tuesday 1st December

10:00 - 11:15 am

All Saints Church

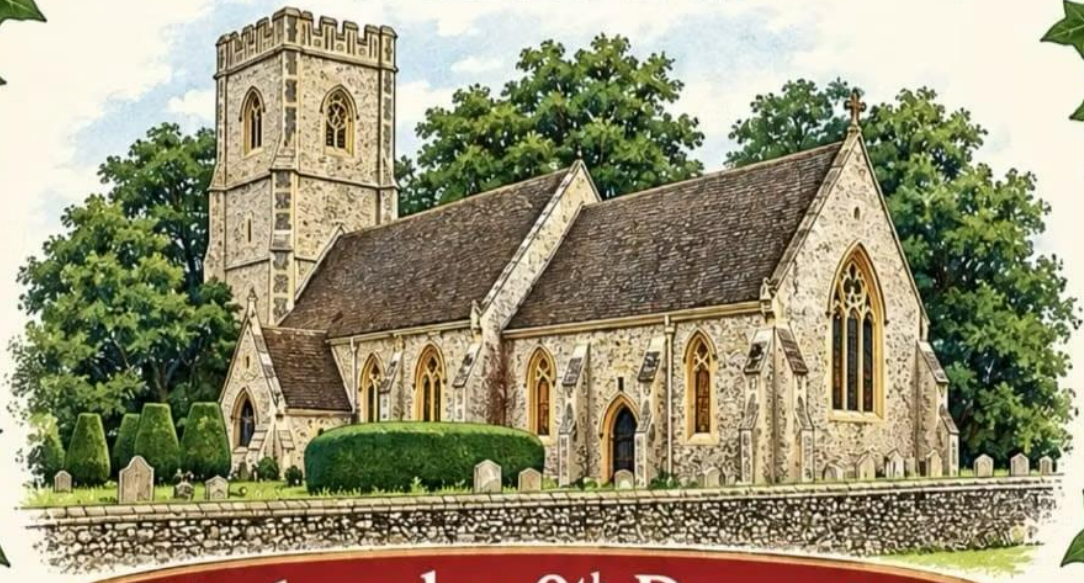
Coffee or tea, cake and chat

All Welcome



Lark Valley & North Bury Team Ministry www.northburychurches.org.uk

St Mary's Church, Culford



Wednesday 9th December at 7pm

A service of Nine Lessons *and* Carols

followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Everybody most welcome

Wonder Club

Story
Wondering
Christingle
Craft
Prayer
Cake



St Lawrence Lackford

2pm
Tuesday
22nd December