

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

31st March 2024

Easter Day

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



In this issue:

Easter Day ~ Mary: Andy Miller * Worship in Easter Week

Lent Course: Bread of Life * Occasional Attenders: Dave Walker

Wonderful and Such a Joy: School visits to our churches for Easter

Wonder Club at Lackford * Easter Dawn: Malcolm Guite

Living with *Living with Love and Faith*: Canon Andrew Dotchin at AffCath AGM

Praying Together ~ April * Caption Competition * Contacts

Easter Day

*Acts 10.34-43 or Isaiah 25.6-9 Psalm 118.1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15.1-11 or Acts 10.34-43 **John 20.1-18** or Mark 16.1-8*

MARY. When I read the passage set for Easter Day from St John's Gospel, it was this word that leapt out at me as describing beautifully what this celebration of Easter is all about and why it is the most amazing of feast days.

But before we think about what Jesus saying Mary has to do with this fabulous celebration, I want to give an honourable mention to another phrase that Jesus uses in this passage from John's Gospel that came very close to being the words that stuck out most clearly for me at this time of Easter. And these words are: "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" For me, Jesus is actually being rather obtuse with these questions for Mary. However, this is not the reason why they only came second in my ranking for the phrase of Easter. But either way, Jesus must surely have known the answer to the questions He is posing to Mary in this statement. Mary as He knows is weeping because she is devastated by what has happened in her life. And Jesus must know that this is because of what has happened to Him, her friend.

We are after all only a couple of days after Good Friday, a day of horrific memories for Mary. Horrific memories of what she witnessed in the terrible behaviour of people in robbing the world in the most brutal manner of the one whom she calls her Lord and Teacher. Terrible behaviour that led to the most terrible of deaths on the cross for this Lord and Teacher, Jesus. And when you add to this her belief expressed in this passage that grave robbers have removed the body of Jesus, what else can she do but weep?

It is bad enough that they have so brutally murdered her dear friend, but that they have gone even further by seeing fit, as she believes, to give Jesus no peace even in death, then no wonder she is crying. In fact, for me, it could not be possible for Mary to be doing anything other than being in despair and empty of hope given the circumstances of her life. And this Jesus surely knows. He must be aware that Mary is devastated by the loss of His presence in her life. And no matter what He says, Jesus must know that it is Him that she is seeking on that morning, given that it is the tomb where He was laid that she has headed to. Quite simply, Mary believes Jesus to be dead, she is missing Him desperately, and now she cannot even see His body. And so, she weeps.

But here then, at this point, we see the importance of the word Mary at this feast of Easter. For it is this simple word that transforms Mary and her life from a

place of devastation to one of unbridled joy. Her reasonable assumption that Jesus is gone, that the abominable behaviour of people in the world has seen Him brutally killed, and then even worse His body snatched from the tomb, is transformed by Jesus simply saying this word to her.

Of course, there is more to it than this. Mary is not a magic word, like Abracadabra, that sees Jesus appear like a rabbit out of a hat. And anyway, He had already performed the miracle that sees her transformation through His dying and rising to leave the tomb and to be there in all His glory. But it is by saying Mary that He reveals this truth to her. And this, like flicking a switch, sees her transformed. Transformed from sorrow to joy, from fear to gladness, from not really grasping the truth of Christ's teaching to believing the absolute wonder of His saving power and actions.

For through this she now truly sees that He is as He said, the Son of God. And, of course, this is a transformation not just for Mary, but for all. A transformation thanks to Christ risen from the grave that sees Him beating the grip of death on us. A transformation because of the destruction of sin and that restores us all to grace and holiness, such that we are right with God and have a place for all eternity in heaven.

Mary is then the word of Easter because today she represents us, all of us. She represents all people who are transformed as she is in this passage from weeping to glory by the victory and triumphant rising of Jesus from the grave that means that all He said about Himself was, and is, true.

But for me, as well, Mary represents not just who we are, and how our lives are changed at Easter, but she also represents how we can respond to the truth of a Risen Lord Jesus. For her response is not to keep the resurrected Jesus and what He has done for her to herself.

Instead, she immediately answers His call to spread the good news of what He has done and what He means to her, to others. As we hear, Mary heads off straight away to tell her friends, those fellow followers of Jesus that are her fellow disciples, that she has "seen the Lord" and tells them all the things that He said to her.

This lays plain how the truth of Jesus bursting from the tomb should see our lives changed such that we want to let that news burst free from us to other people. And this bursting free is not least to allow others like Mary to burst free from all that is worrying them. This spreading of this good news is the spreading of love that transforms lives.

Indeed, to head back to Maundy Thursday, what better way is there to show love to others around us, and hence follow the commandment that Jesus gave us to love one another like He has loved us, than through spreading the wonderful

truth of God's plan that Jesus finished? What can be more loving than declaring that through Jesus we all have sins forgiven, rightness with God assured, a heavenly future gained no matter what? And not least to those who like Mary are in the depths of despair?

But for me, the main way that the word Mary reveals what Easter is all about, is not actually about the word itself, but rather what this word is – her name. Jesus calls Mary by name and this is how He reveals His wonder to her, and how she comes to really know it. He knows her completely as an individual, as a person worthy of loving and transforming from sorrow into joy through placing her into a future with God in heaven.

And the wonderful truth about Easter is that, just as Jesus knows Mary by name, He knows each of us by name as well. Mary represents us once again because through her we see that Jesus went through the horror of Good Friday and the hatred of that day and then rose majestically on the third day for every person.

He faced this for all people who He knows and loves and cherishes equally and wonderfully. And this equality is seen not least through us all being part of God's family, as stated by Jesus Himself. As He says to our representative Mary, "go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

So, Christ's Father is their Father. And as well as this, He is my Father, and your Father too. His amazing resurrection has made all people right with God, such that they can now call Him Father. And yet again this is true, no matter what. Jesus has done all of this, going through all this Holy Week for every one of us. Quite simply we are cherished by God our Father, thanks to His loving Son. This is the amazing truth of Easter. Such love is our Easter joy. And once again, what possible response can we give other than sharing that love that knows no bounds with our brothers and sisters in Christ?

And so, at the end of this most amazing of weeks, the most Holy of weeks, the most amazing of words is simply Mary. Mary, the one who first saw the Risen Lord and was called by name to receive the joy of the resurrection, and who through this call knew that all God had promised through Jesus was true.

Mary, the word that saw her know that an eternal future in heaven was assured for her, and for all in the world. Mary, who told others about this wonderful news as soon as she could. Mary, then, who represents everyone. Everyone who, like her, is known by name by Jesus and is part of His family thanks to His bursting from the tomb.

Mary, who we should copy and let this news burst free from us to others around us in all that we do. Happy Easter. Amen.

Andy Miller

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

EASTER WEEK SERVICES 30 MARCH - 7 APRIL

Saturday 30 March EASTER EVE

8.00pm Team Easter Eve Ceremonies (CW) St John's, Bury St Edmunds

SUNDAY 31 March EASTER DAY

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 Benefice Eucharist (CW) Fornham All Saints

11.00am Sung Eucharist (CW) St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Monday 1 April Monday of Easter Week

6.00pm Eucharist (CW)
Jesus appears to the women St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Tuesday 2 April Tuesday of Easter Week

6.00pm Eucharist (CW)
Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Wednesday 3 April Wednesday of Easter Week

8.30am Morning Prayer (CW) St John's, Bury St Edmunds

9.30am Eucharist (CW)
The Road to Emmaus St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Thursday 4 April Thursday of Easter Week

9.30am Eucharist (BCP)
Jesus appears to the Apostles All Saints', Bury St Edmunds

Friday 5 April Friday of Easter Week

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

6.00pm Eucharist (CW)
Jesus by the sea of Tiberias St John's, Bury St Edmunds

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

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



The final meeting of the Lent Course 'Bread of Life'

Photo: Steve Robertson

OCCASIONAL ATTENDERS

EXAMPLES OF 'TWICE A YEAR' CHURCHGOERS

WE ONLY GO AT CHRISTMAS AND EASTER - FOR THE KIDS MAINLY



WE GO WHEN IT IS A PARADE SERVICE - MOTHER'S DAY AND REMEMBRANCE USUALLY



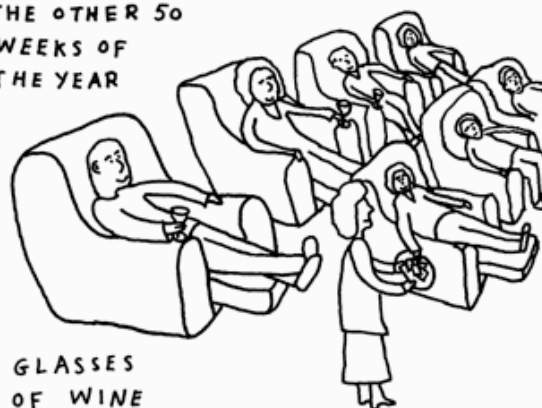
WE TEND TO GO ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY AND THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY - I DON'T KNOW WHY REALLY - IT'S JUST A HABIT WE'VE GOT INTO



HOW TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO COME TO CHURCH A BIT MORE OFTEN

TELL THEM ABOUT THE GREAT TIMES WE HAVE DURING SERVICES FOR THE OTHER 50 WEEKS OF THE YEAR

WE REPLACE THE PEWS WITH RECLINING ARMCHAIRS



GLASSES OF WINE ARE SERVED

AND THE MONEY IS GIVEN OUT RATHER THAN BEING COLLECTED IN

Such a Joy

It was such a joy to welcome **St Edmundsbury Primary** to St John's on Monday 25th March. It was a lovely service, led by Andy and Ali and enjoyed by the children and staff, along with some parents and toddlers. There were lots of songs and readings by the children. Here we share with you part of their EASTER RAP:

We dressin' up
Let's go take some pictures
Then go to church
Eat some good food with ya
Jesus is real
He conquered the grave
That's why we celebrate
the whole world can be saved

It's so much fun
when we're all connected
I thank the Lord
so I count my blessings
Amazing
This time of year is special
So Happy Easter
let me share the message

Sara Harper

Wonderful

It was wonderful on Tuesday of Holy Week to welcome **Sextons Manor Primary School** to All Saints' Church in Bury St Edmunds for their Easter Celebration. The Church was packed with the whole school and lots of parents, grandparents, friends and other relatives there.

And what a celebration it was. There were Springtime and Easter songs, from the whole school and the choir. There were groups playing seasonal tunes on the recorder and the glockenspiel. There was a country dance routine wonderfully performed down the main aisle.

And of course we heard the Easter story, the story of Jesus dying and rising again, beautifully read by Year 6, who had also done some baking for the cake stall beforehand. And I even got to say a few prayers and an Easter blessing!

I want to thank Mrs Knight, all the teachers and parents, but especially all the children for making the afternoon so special.

Andy, the Team Rector

The Wonder Club

Story
Wondering
Craft
Prayer
Cake



**St
Lawrence,
Lackford
7th April, 3pm**

EASTER DAWN

Malcolm Guite

He blesses every love which weeps and grieves
And now he blesses hers who stood and wept
And would not be consoled, or leave her love's
Last touching place, but watched as low light crept
Up from the east. A sound behind her stirs
A scatter of bright birdsong through the air.
She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,
Or recognise the Gardener standing there.
She hardly hears his gentle question 'Why,
Why are you weeping?', or sees the play of light
That brightens as she chokes out her reply
'They took my love away, my day is night'
And then she hears her name, she hears Love say
The Word that turns her night, and ours, to Day.

from Sounding the Seasons, Canterbury Press, Norwich



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

cormack246@gmail.com
revdsarahjenkins@gmail.com
adrian.mann@btinternet.com

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

Praying Together ~ April 2024

For the wider community and church

- 1 M All affected badly by cost of living difficulties
- 2 T Homeless people; Tayfen House & Britannia House
- 3 W All who work in and visit the King's Forest
- 4 T For our initiatives in dealing with the climate change emergency
- 5 F Lark Valley farms and all who walk on the Lark Valley Path
and St Edmunds Way
- 6 S All Saints' Church, Wordwell (Churches Conservation Trust)
- 7 S All who live in Wordwell
- 8 M Moseley's Farm Business Centre
- 9 T All who live in Fornham St Genevieve
- 10 W Hall Farm Business Park
- 11 T Park Farm Business Centre
- 12 F All who take care of the fabric of our churches
- 13 S All who visit our churches as tourists
- 14 S All those preparing for baptism, marriage or confirmation
- 15 M All whose funerals have taken place recently
- 16 T All who mourn
- 17 W West Stow Country Park & Kings Forest Caravan Park
- 18 T West Stow Club
- 19 F St Mary's Church, West Stow
- 20 S *Growing in God* worship, work & witness at West Stow
- 21 S All who live in West Stow
- 22 M Sports clubs & golf courses
- 23 T Fullers Mill Garden; Chimney Mills Gallery
- 24 W *The Suffolk Wildlife Trust* at Lackford Lakes
- 25 T St Lawrence's Church, Lackford
- 26 F *Growing in God* worship, work & witness at Lackford
- 27 S All who live in Lackford
- 28 S All our Clergy, our Reader & Lay Elders
- 29 M For vocations to the ordained and other ministries
- 30 T That our congregations may grow in faith and numbers

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

Praying Together ~ April 2024

For the Lark Valley and North Bury family

- 1 M Jane Starnes; Robert & Carina Starnes
- 2 T Hugh & Margaret Steavenson; Wendy Stebbings
- 3 W Helen Stevens; Claire Stickings; Alison Stiff
- 4 T Jean Stiling; Catherine & Joseph Stocking
- 5 F Wendy Stott; Sheila Sturgeon
- 6 S Carole & David Talbot

- 7 S Colin Thompson; Ben, Nikki, Joseph & Stephen Titmus
- 8 M Mandy & Michael Trodden
- 9 T Chris, Ruth & Mia Turner; Dave Turner
- 10 W Kyra Turner; Rose, Ben & Edward Turner
- 11 T Wendy Underwood; Polly Upperton
- 12 F Emmanuel, Maureen, Nmemeka, Favour, Chiedozie & Sandra Uzor
- 13 S Christine Vatcher

- 14 S Suzanne Veal
- 15 M Jenny & John Vereker
- 16 T Henry & Jessica Wadsworth; Ivy Walker
- 17 W Elaine Wallace; Victoria & James Wale
- 18 T Marc, Melanie & Jemima Wallage
- 19 F Judy Warner; Peter Warren
- 20 S Doreen Watson; Dominic Watts; Joan Webb

- 21 S Miriam Webb; Margaret Wheeldon
- 22 M Jane & Tim Whelehan
- 23 T Penelope & Matthew White
- 24 W Janet Whymark; Georgina Wilson
- 25 T Michael & Valerie Wilde
- 26 F Brenda Wood; Margaret Woodhouse
- 27 S Helen & Mark Woodroffe; Stella Woodstock

- 28 S Jennifer Woolley; Julie Wright
- 29 M David, Margaret & Philip Yates
- 30 T Doreen Young; Ali Zare

To change, add or remove names please contact the Revd Julia Mann. Email: jc.mann@btinternet.com

CAPTION COMPETITION REMINDER

Your last chance to enter!

A choice of fairtrade wine or chocolate awaits the person providing the winning caption for this photograph (*Photo: thanks to Ali Miller*).



Please send in your entries by Tuesday 2nd April
to the Viral Bulletin at adrian.mann@btinternet.com

Contacts

Rev'd Dr Andy Miller 01284 728714

Rev'd Ali Miller 01284 728714

Rev'd Val Gagen 01284 361963

Team Office 01284 700400

teamrectorlvnb@btinternet.com

teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com

rev.valgagen@gmail.com

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 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.
