

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

2 November 2025

All Saints' 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



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All Saints' Day (transferred from 1st November)

Daniel 7: 1-3, 15-18 Psalm 149 Ephesians 1: 11-end Luke 6: 20-31

Guardian angels are a comfort to many, but a longer-established idea of a heavenly being with personal connection to one is the patron saint. So our churches, cathedrals, schools and other institutions are typically dedicated to one or more recognised saints. A church will keep a date for a patronal festival, on the calendar day of that saint. Some have been more popular than others: a quarter of this country's old churches have the Blessed Virgin Mary as patron, while in this region SS Peter and Paul often figure.

‘What’s a saint?’ This question comes in John Henry Newman’s great poem, ‘The Dream of Gerontius’. The question is rudely answered by a chorus of demons: ‘A bundle of bones, which fools adore.....’

In the New Testament ‘saints’ are simply all members of the (sanctified) believing community, or followers of ‘The Way’. Some Christians still like to keep to this view, not needing the idea of canonisation. But the Roman Church, keeping the requirement of crediting two miracles to a departed worthy person, is happily still adding to the number of official saints.

The saints are not to be thought of as disappearing into special privilege, but as an inspiration and helpful example to all ordinary strugglers. They show that holiness is not out of reach to anyone. Further, they bring that warming comfort of linking earth with heaven. They make intercession for us, but that does not mean we may neglect our own prayers.

‘Saintly’ is a word widely understood, implying tolerance and endurance without any resentful reaction. It is not necessarily applied to believers, but is seen to show a different outlook from the normal human ‘tit for tat’, or for that matter the law of talion prescribed in the Jewish Law. Calling someone a ‘saint’ suggests one who will never complain, but always go the second mile.

This year the Gospel reading is not the Matthaean ‘Sermon on the Mount’ (called the Beatitudes), but the Lukan version known as ‘the Sermon on the

Plain'. Luke only gives four, not nine, beatitudes (or blessings) and also provides antithetical 'Woes', in a promised reversal of present conditions. Those now poor, marginalised and reviled will be restored, whereas those now comfortable will meet a time of suffering.

We're told Jesus had just chosen the Twelve on the mountain, but had come down to the crowds below. These injunctions are for all who 'listen', then and now. As an anticipation of the Kingdom, attitudes, words and actions must show heavenly values, as opposed to those of the world. You must love your enemies, give kindness for hatred, turn the other cheek, and be generous to all. And there is the golden rule, 'Do to others as you would have them do to you'.

However, there is usually something more varied in stories of the saints in the calendar. Many have taken a lonely, unpopular stand against accepted issues of their day, like the prophets of old. They may have shown a burning wrath against corruption or hypocrisy. Following Our Lord can mean showing a similar display of anger to that in his cleansing of the Temple from venal trading, or his condemnation of the complacent and self-righteous. Taking such a stand has often led to martyrdom and subsequent official sainthood, from a perceived holiness in disregard of earthly comfort.

An early Church Father said that the blood of the martyrs was the seed of the Church. The practice soon arose of celebrating the Eucharist on a martyr's tomb. As we know, shrines have become places of pilgrimage. Persecution fires dedication and devotion, with honour naturally given to those who placed love of God and heavenly values above safety on earth. Not all were put to death; some sustained a 'white martyrdom' of suffering, while others simply shone as beacons of holiness.

Celebrating this feast began in the 4th Century, on the Sunday following Pentecost, as martyrdom was seen as a baptism of fire, conferring near-apostolic status. From the 8th Century however, following a chapel's dedication in St. Peter's, November 1st became All Saints' Day. The Church has always marked the Eve of a major holy day, and 'Hallows' is another word for holy ones, hence 'Hallowe'en'.

The wonderful collect reminds us we are part of the elect 'knit together' in the mystical Body of Christ, and so humbly seek, following the saints, to be brought at last in the love of God to heavenly joys:

Almighty God,
you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship
in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:
grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints
in all virtuous and godly living
that we may come to those inexpressible joys
that you have prepared for those who truly love you:
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Again from Gerontius, the song of the angels and holy ones in heaven:

Praise to the Holiest in the height
And in the depth be praise:
In all His words most wonderful,
Most sure in all His ways.

Marianne Atkinson



Flickering candles at the Lark Valley and North Bury Team's **Memorial Service** held at All Saints' Bury on Sunday 26th October. See also at the end of this issue of the Viral Bulletin.



Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 2 NOVEMBER

SUNDAY 2 November All Saints' Day *Kingdom Season begins*

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 3 November Richard Hooker, priest, teacher of the faith, 1600 *Martin of Porres, friar, 1639*

7.30pm	Requiem Mass for All Souls' Tide	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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Tuesday 4 November

10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham St Martin
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Wednesday 5 November

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 6 November Leonard, hermit 6th cent

William Temple, archbishop, teacher of the faith

9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
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Friday 7 November Willibrord, bishop, 739

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

Saturday 8 November Saints and Martyrs of England

SUNDAY 9 November 3rd Sunday before Advent

Remembrance Sunday

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
10.15am	Service of the Word *	Fornham St Martin
10.50am	Sung Eucharist (CW) *	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
10.55am	Act of Remembrance	Flempton
10.55am	Act of Remembrance	Fornham All Saints
10.55am	Act of Remembrance	Culford

* with Act of Remembrance

Incorporation

Marianne Atkinson

Though we are personal all
And severally find our God
Yet boundaries of the self
The enclosing lines of skin and mind
Make natural barriers hard to cross
And keep us penned, to several loss.

This poignant autumn time
Brings mirrored view to the Church,
Its vast and trailing cloud
Of mixed and amorphous strains combined
With sparkling gems both cut and crowned
In various human, harrowed ground.

October 31st. All Hallows Eve comes first.
The shadows in churchyards are sensed
Quite wrongly, we say, by the children,
But unknown spirits seem unconfined
With something great at prescient hand,
Another dimension is felt in the land.

November 1st. Suddenly the cymbals sound,
Self-authentication is here;
All Saints of the Church now encompass us
They suffered, loved, died, their light shined.
They are one in hope and one in glory
Integral to the astounding story.

November 2nd. Some have no known memorial;
Their deeds and their thoughts are unsung.
They struggled with trivial setbacks
As ordinary hampered human-kind.
With All Souls we surely must keep tryst
For they too are the Body of Christ.

*In its way it gives another Triduum. For so many people only
one of the three days matters, and in quite different ways too. MA*

Wonder Club

Story
Wondering
Craft
Prayer
Cake



**St Lawrence,
Lackford**

2nd November, 3pm

Donations to 
Coffee Morning

Tuesday 4th November

10:00 - 11:15 am

Coffee or tea, cake and chat

All Saints Church

All Welcome



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

WEST STOW CHURCH

NOVEMBER 5TH

**CHAT, COFFEE, TEA,
BISCUITS**

9.30 – 11.30

**Donations in aid of
ST NICHOLAS HOSPICE
this month**

St. John the Evangelist
Bury St Edmunds IP33 1SN
Lark Valley and North Bury Churches



Adoration
of the
Blessed Sacrament
and
Benediction

Thursday 13th November

6pm

for half an hour

CAPTION COMPETITION RESULT



The judges were tempted to put a lid on it this week,
but are pleased to share the following entries with you:

"Oh ... so that's where the Rector's bin all this time!"

Matt Roecer

Mandy was sure there must be a Book of Common Prayer
somewhere.

Henry Allen

APOLOGIES ~ CORRECTION: Mandy knew where she'd find
Common Worship.

Henry Allen

Mandy found somewhere appropriate to store the copy of
the Rector's sermon that he left in the pulpit.

Matt Roecer

But the winner is **Lesley Langley** with:

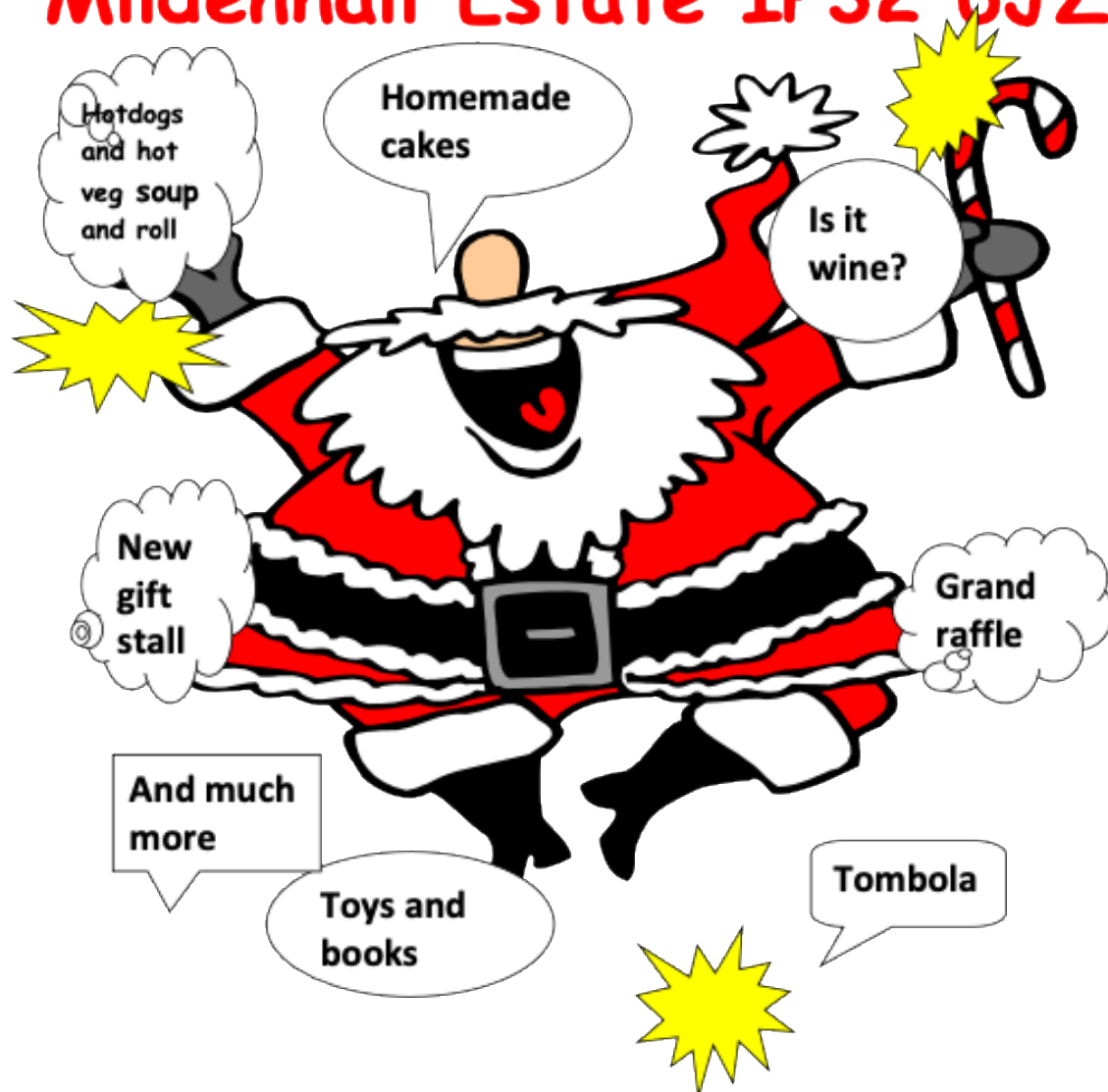
To date, the refreshments at
Timworth have always been delicious.

GRAND CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday 15th November

from 11.30- 2.00pm

**at the Anselm Centre on
Mildenhall Estate IP32 6JZ**



In aid of St George's Church Charity Number XN 42173

All Saints Church

Park Road, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 3QW

Quiz Night

Friday 14th November

7:00 pm for a

7:30 pm start

Bring your own food, drink and glasses

£5 per person

Create your own team of 6 or less,
or join an existing team.

Contact Sheila to book your place on
01284 762774.

Lark Valley & North Bury Team Ministry

www.northburychurches.org.uk

Fornham St Martin Church

Book Sale, Christmas Stall, Coffee & Cakes

Saturday 15th 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

COFFEE MORNING

Fornham All Saints Church

10:30am

Saturday 29th November



In aid of Church funds

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 29th
12 - 2pm



Soup & Roll
+ Tea/Coffee
& Cream Scone



Festive
raffle

Suggested donation: only £10 per person

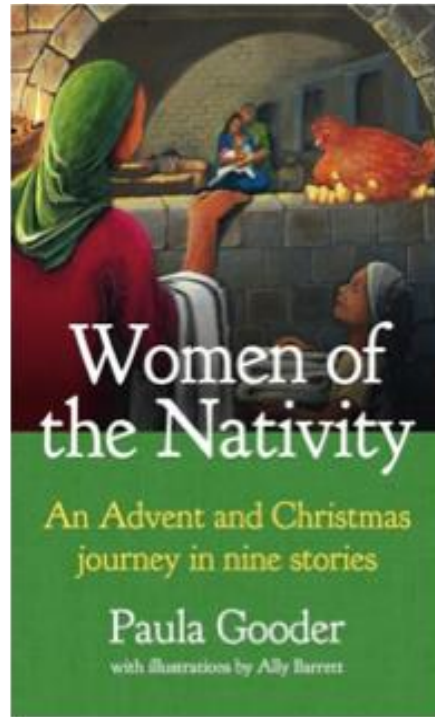
Please join us for the last café
of 2025.



**Get set for the
festive season!**



Advent Book Club



Get yourself a copy of **Women of the Nativity** by Paula Gooder and let's journey through Advent and Christmas material together. Read the relevant material before each session, both the stories and the accompanying notes.

20th November– Sarah's story and Huldah's story

27th November – Abigail's story and Elizabeth's story

4th December – Mary's story and Shiphrah's story

And ...

One-off **Epiphany** book club!

8th January Mariamne's story and Rachel's story

7.30pm at Abbeygate Cinema, Hatter Street

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

St John the Evangelist

St John's Street Bury St Edmunds IP33 1SN

Francis Young



Terrors made flesh:

M. R. James and the theology of the Christmas ghost story

Friday 12 December 2025 at 6pm

Admission £10 + 10% booking fee

Tickets from We Got Tickets at <https://wegottickets.com/event/677163>
or contact Adrian Mann on 01284 753984 or at adrian.mann@btinternet.com

Francis Young is a historian and folklorist who was born and brought up in Bury St Edmunds. He is the author of over 20 nonfiction books including *Twilight of the Godlings* and *Silence of the Gods*, as well as a couple of collections of ghost stories. He lives in Peterborough and is a lay canon of St Edmundsbury Cathedral, a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and an editor for Cambridge University Press, as well as a Reader in the Church of England.



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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, especially those suitable for
the Caption Competition, which can have a high value on the art market.
