

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

12th May 2024

7th Sunday of Easter ~ after Ascension 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



Great Churchyard, Bury St Edmunds

29 April 2024

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7th Sunday of Easter ~ after Ascension Day

Acts 1.15-17,21-26 Psalm 1 | John 5.9-13 John 17.6-19

The reading from Acts shows that in that earliest gathering of believers, besides the apostles and those immediately close at the time of the Resurrection, there were already 120 people. Peter was the accepted leader (Jesus had prayed for him to strengthen his 'brothers' when he had recovered).

That mystical quality of the number 12 needed restoring, since the Lord had chosen 12, whom he called apostles. It becomes apparent that all along there had been other faithful followers who had witnessed the whole ministry of Christ, including, it seems, some Resurrection appearances. Out of this number, more than 100, someone worthy had to be chosen to replace the now dead and utterly disgraced traitor Judas. Choosing by lot meant the choice could still be divine, rather than human.

With the choice of Matthias, a picture is neatly completed. Yet we note the new replacement had not in fact witnessed the Ascension, according to both Matthew's and Luke's accounts. So Matthias had not personally received the apostolic charge from Jesus, (as neither had Barnabas, also called apostle). St Paul we know had his own encounter. We also note that when James son of Zebedee was executed, some years later, there was no talk of another 'twelfth man'. But the idea of 12 persists. A set of windows, high in St. Mary's Church in Bury St Edmunds, has 12 named apostles, but to include Matthias and Paul they have omitted James 'the less' as well as Judas Iscariot.

Since the apostles were to be sent out as envoys, in those days they had to be men, as have pre-eminent authorities in the Church ever since, despite veneration always accorded to holy women saints, and above all to Our Lady the Blessed Virgin. The Jewish Law could never validate the word of a woman, as Jesus very well knew. He said he had come to fulfil the Law, but also he was above it (as for instance in saying he was Lord of the Sabbath). So his followers did include women, who even supported his group with their resources (Luke 8 v3). But apart from journeys within the Holy Land to Jerusalem, women do not seem to have travelled much, whereas the apostles apparently reached many far countries. The New Testament speaks of many women, several in connection with St. Paul's missions, but they remained where they lived though many could lead house groups.

The traditional view is often portrayed in artwork showing the Last Supper. There is a certain unlikeliness in depictions of the 12, with Jesus, all at one side only of a table. And years ago an aristocratic Roman Catholic lady said to me; 'Don't tell **me** the disciples did the washing-up!'

However, the Gospel for today, from the 'High Priestly Prayer' that is part of the Farewell Discourses, placed in this Gospel after that supper, is for the apostles. They are to be sent out (the meaning of the word 'apostle') into the world. Because they now belong to Jesus, they need protection from worldly dangers as they continue his work.

Simon Peter, as spokesman and later leader, is a recognisable character. More shadowy, though known for the world's most famously condemned betrayal, is Judas Iscariot. He is not a rough fisherman, nor a tax-collector; he was trusted with the common purse, their treasurer. (The sentence in John chapter 12 suggesting he stole from it is fairly certainly a malign interpolation.)

We suppose Judas an idealist; he stayed throughout Jesus' ministry and went out on the 'mission practice' excursions. Perhaps he held too-worldly an idea of the Messiah, making for great disappointment. He had not witnessed the Transfiguration, nor in his time was it spoken of. Realisation coming too late, he could not live with himself.

All the disciples fled from Gethsemane, despite a little bravado with a sword, still showing worldly ideas. Even stronger than any attempt to prevent their beloved leader's arrest was the urge to save themselves, to run away. All did betray, and notably Peter.

Jesus had chosen those who were to continue his work (catching people). He was said to see inside the hearts of all; he had known that there would have to be a Judas, as the scriptures foretold (as in Psalm 41). At the Last Supper he clearly knew what was about to happen. Three Gospels have Jesus saying: 'The Son of Man is going to his fate, according to the scriptures, but alas for that man by whom he is betrayed! Better for him if he had never been born'.

Judas is uniquely vilified, but the rest of the '12' still harboured misconceptions and also deserted Jesus. All, and including Judas, repented. What was his fate? His suicide was a kind of dark martyrdom, or witnessing, in total misery instead of martyrs' joy. And is anyone quite beyond God's overseeing mercy?

A ballad-style poem written in the 19th Century by Robert Williams Buchanan has 21 stanzas, of which here are 9:

'Twas the soul of Judas Iscariot,
Strange, and sad, and tall,
Stood all alone at dead of night
Before a lighted hall.

The body of Judas Iscariot
Lay stretched along the snow;
'Twas the soul of Judas Iscariot
Ran swiftly to and fro.

'Twas the Bridegroom sat at the table-head,
And the lights burnt bright and clear--
'Oh, who is that,' the Bridegroom said,
'Whose weary feet I hear?'

'Twas one look'd from the lighted hall,
And answer'd fierce and low,
'Tis the soul of Judas Iscariot
Gliding to and fro.'

The Bridegroom stood in the open door,
And he was clad in white,
And far within the Lord's Supper
Was spread so broad and bright.

The Bridegroom shaded his eyed and look'd,
And his face was bright to see –
'What dost thou here at the Lord's Supper
With thy body's sins?' said he.

'Twas the wedding guests cried out within,
And their eyes were fierce and bright—
'Scourge the soul of Judas Iscariot
Away into the night!'

'Twas the bridegroom stood at the open door,
And beckon'd, smiling sweet;
'Twas the soul of Judas Iscariot
Stole in, and fell at his feet.

The supper wine is pour'd at last,
The lights burn bright and fair,
Iscariot washes the Bridegroom's feet,
And dries them with his hair.

Marianne Atkinson

This Christian Aid Week, what will you do?



12–18 May 2024

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 12 MAY

SUNDAY 12 May 7th SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Culford
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	Eucharist (CW)	Lackford
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham St Martin
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Monday 13 May

Tuesday 14 May Matthias the Apostle

8.30am	Morning Prayer (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
6.00pm	Solemn Eucharist	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Wednesday 15 May

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 16 May Caroline Chisholm, social reformer, 1877

9.30am	Eucharist (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
6.00pm	Adoration and Benediction	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Friday 17 May

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

Saturday 18 May

SUNDAY 19 May PENTECOST

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Matins (BCP)	Timworth
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham All Saints
10.00am	All Age Worship (gathering from 9.15am)	West Stow
10.30am	All Age Worship	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

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

Fornham All Saints...



... held their first Saturday summer coffee morning (the next will be at 10.30am on Saturday 1st June). It brought the community together and was a joyful morning. Plenty of cake and scones, as you'd expect, and all delicious.

Ali Miller

More Coffee Mornings in May

Monday May 13th 9.30-11.30am

St George's Church, Anselm Avenue IP32 6JY

Coffee Morning

All donations will go to Christian Aid

Saturday May 18th 10am-3pm

Fornham St Martin Church

Book Sale, Coffee and Cakes

Over 2,000 books and lots of cakes, scones and pastries

All welcome !!!

CAPTION COMPETITION RESULT



Funnily, entries this week frequently seemed to mention someone called Valerie. Here they are:

‘Before you tell Valerie, I can explain ...’.

Marianne Atkinson

‘Your bakery needs YOU!’

Julie Morrison

‘I don’t really approve of putting chocolate on a doughnut, so I wanted to get rid of it as quickly as possible.’

Paul Bearing

‘Remember if Valerie asks, I had a salad.’

Mr Edwin L Lear

‘My advice to you is, don’t try this at home folks it won’t taste as good.’

Maggie Kealy

‘Now this is what I call a Wilde party.’

Mr Edwin L Lear

‘I’ve told you before, doughnut disturb me while I’m eating.’

Mr Edwin L Lear

But the winner has to be **Valerie Wilde** with:

‘Shhh! Don’t tell Valerie.’

May is Mary's Month ...

... was the theme of Wonder Club at Lackford last Sunday.

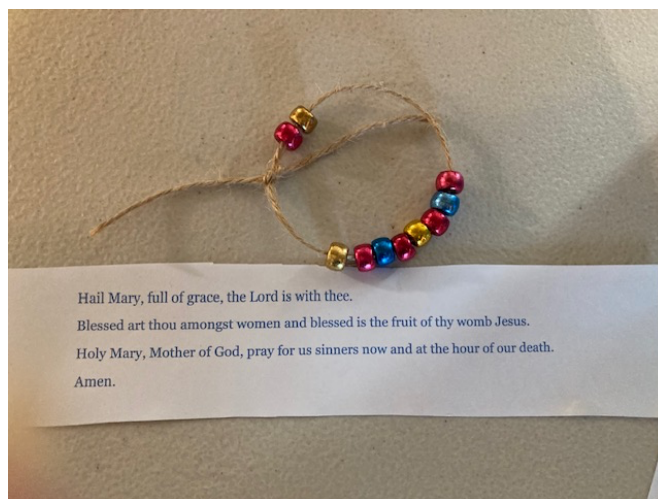
We heard a Godly Play telling of Mary's life and how she points us to Jesus.

We made mini-Rosary beads, paper Mary and Jesus ornaments and prayer stones.

Everyone had a go at the collage of the Blessed Virgin Mary but Alan and Beatrix did the bulk of the work and were steadfast in completing it!

Cake and tea made a good reward.

Ali Miller



St John the Evangelist St John's Street Bury St Edmunds IP33 1SN



Corpus Christi

CELEBRATION EUCHARIST
with Procession and Benediction

Thursday 30th May
7.30pm

Preacher The Ven Dr David Jenkins *Archdeacon of Sudbury*
President The Revd Alison Miller *Team Vicar*

Followed by a party
- all are welcome.

Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is offered
at St John's on the second Thursday of the month at 6pm.

Remaining dates during 2024 are 13th June, 11th July, 8th August,
12th September, 10th October, 14th November and 12th December.

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry
Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

Organist: David Honeyball
Affirming Catholicism

CAPTION COMPETITION

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



Please send in your entries by Tuesday 7th May to the Viral Bulletin at adrian.mann@btinternet.com

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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.
