

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

30 August 2026

13th 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



Benefice pilgrims at their destination on 22 August

Photo: thanks to Claire Rose

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13th Sunday after Trinity

Jeremiah 15.15-21 Psalm 26.1-8 Romans 12.9-end Matthew 16.21-end

Following the Same Lord

When I was first offered the opportunity to serve my curacy across the Lark Valley and North Bury benefice, I must admit I wondered if ten churches might be just a little ambitious. Many of my fellow curates are settling into life with one or perhaps two churches, while I am still trying to remember the names of ten sets of PCC members, ten churchwardens and unite ten diaries into one colour coded work of art. And, at times, the seemingly never-ending succession of PCC meetings has felt rather like painting the Forth Bridge – by the time you've attended ten meetings your calendar reminds you that next Tuesday the cycle begins again.

But over these past few weeks, I've come to realise what an extraordinary blessing this benefice truly is. Every church and congregation has its own story, its own quirks and traditions, its own character and its own way of serving God and their community. Far from being a problem to overcome, the number of parishes and their inherent individuality has become something I sincerely cherish.

On the 30th of August at our benefice Service in Fornham St Martin I will be preaching for only the second time as your curate, and our readings, I feel, speak powerfully into this experience. Jeremiah reminds us that faithfulness is not always easy, yet God never abandons those He calls. In our Gospel reading Jesus challenges Peter to stop looking for a Messiah of comfort and glory and instead to follow the way of the Cross. And in our New Testament passage Paul, writing to the Christians in Rome, says nothing about making everyone the same. Instead, his message is one that says: "*Let love be genuine.*" Honour one another. Rejoice with those who rejoice. Weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another.

The focus is harmony, a quality defined in the Oxford English Dictionary as: a state of peaceful existence and agreement, but also as: the way in which different notes that are played or sung together combine to make a pleasing

sound, and also: a pleasing combination of related things, and: the way in which different elements work successfully together to achieve a set outcome. All of these are true of how I hope we come together as a benefice.

As an artist, I learnt that a painting conveys its beauty not because every brushstroke is identical, but because every colour, texture and mark has its place within the whole, drawing the eye towards one central point and message. As a Christian and as a minister I believe God paints His Church just like that. Every congregation, every tradition and every individual holds a unique part to play in revealing the glorious image of Christ to ourselves and to the world.

Our differences are not obstacles to our unity. They are a celebration of the individuality and the infinite eclectic creativity of and in God's creation. They remind us that our unity is found not in ourselves, or in who we imagine ourselves to be, but in Christ, and in who He knows us to be. That is why, at the heart of our worship, we gather around one altar. As Paul reminds us elsewhere, “...we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.” I Corinthians 10:17. We may come by different roads, and from different villages and areas of town, with differing traditions or preferences for liturgical nuance. We intrinsically bring different experiences, different burdens and different gifts, hopes, worries and joys. Yet together we receive the same Body and Blood of Christ, because before we are parishioners, churchwardens, choir members, bellringers or clergy, we are all brothers and sisters in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

My prayer is that this Benefice Service is more than an opportunity simply to worship together. I hope it will remind us that the Church has never been called to uniformity, but to communion; not to erase our distinctive gifts, but to offer them joyfully for the building up of the Body of Christ, because communion is not simply standing beside one another, it is learning, together, to follow the same crucified and risen Lord. So, as we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, may we discover that what binds us together is infinitely greater than anything that distinguishes us.

I look forward to worshipping with you all.

God Bless, Revd Jonathan

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 30 AUGUST

SUNDAY 30 August 13th 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
10.00am	Benefice Eucharist (CW)	Fornham St Martin
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
3.00pm	Pet Service	Timworth

Monday 31 August Aidan, bishop, missionary, 651

Season of Creation begins

Tuesday 1 September Giles, hermit, c710

6.00pm	A Quiet Space	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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Wednesday 2 September Martyrs of Papua New Guinea, 1901, 1942

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 3 September Gregory the Great, bishop, teacher of the faith, 604

9.30am	Eucharist (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
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Friday 4 September Birinius, bishop, 650

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

Saturday 5 September

SUNDAY 6 September 12th Sunday after Trinity

Festival of Creation in Christ

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	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

Benefice Pilgrimage ~ Saturday 22nd August



27 people and 2 dogs set out from West Stow, walking via Culford, Fornham All Saints, (seeing the tower of Fornham St Genevieve as we walked the Lark Valley path), St George's (so we could spot Fornham St Martin's tower from the footpath by the golf course), St John's and finishing at All Saints'.



Many thanks for pilgrimage photos above, by Ali and Alex, and below, by Claire and Simon





ECO CHURCH

There will be a service
at the start of **Creationtide**
to celebrate the 10th anniversary
of **Eco Church Awards**

Saturday 5 September at 3.30pm
St Edmundsbury Cathedral

Marking the 10th anniversary of A Rocha's Eco Church Awards.
Please register [here](#) so that the organisers know the numbers due to attend.

Our Pets



TIMWORTH CHURCH Pet Service



Sunday 30th August
3pm



Lark Valley & North Bury Team Ministry

www.northburychurches.org.uk

CREATIONTIDE

CREATIONTIDE, or the 'Season of Creation', begins on 1 September each year and runs until 4 October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. It is a time when Christians of different denominations around the world celebrate God as Creator, acknowledging Creation as a ongoing gift and act of God, and earth as our common home. It is a time of worship, prayer, reflection and action as Christians seek to collaborate, with God and each other, to love and care for all of Creation.

The Season of Creation theme for 2026 is **Living Water**, which is inspired by the prophet Ezekiel's vision of life-giving water flowing from the temple of God (Ezekiel 47:1–12):

"Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live ... Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing."

The Festival of Creation in Christ, 6 September 2026

At its 2026 Synod in July, the Church of England **approved a new festival, the Festival of Creation in Christ** on the first Sunday in September.

Introducing the motion, the Bishop of Lichfield, Michael Ipgrave, said:

"The Festival of Creation in Christ comes before Synod after extensive ecumenical conversations involving churches across the world, including the Anglican Communion, the World Council of Churches, the Roman Catholic Church and Orthodox partners.

"The new title recognises the placing of Christ's role in creation at the very centre: creation made through Christ, held together in Christ and destined for renewal in Christ.

"This Festival is an opportunity to give thanks for God's gift of creation and to recognise our responsibility to cherish it. Together with the teaching document **Hope for All Creation**, it reminds us that our response to climate and environmental crises must be drawn from the faith, life and worship of the Church."

Coffee Morning

Donations to



Tuesday 1st September

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

CAPTION COMPETITION RESULT



The judges were greatly elevated by the content of this week's entries:

'What a ridiculous looking creature ... holding a balloon.' *Matt Roecer*

'There's nothing deflating about the Rector's sermons.' *Julie Morrison*

No balloons were harmed during the taking of this photograph. *Henry Allen*

'The Team Rector secretly wishes he had glasses like those on the balloon. He even considers sticking his tongue out to match too.' *Julie Hooton*

'Well at least one of them bothered to remove his hat in church.' *Matt Roecer*

Andy felt rather deflated with his prize. *Valerie Wilde*

'What a ridiculous looking creature ... holding a balloon.' *Matt Roecer*

Cap in hand, the Team Rector sought to show that his sermons were light and uplifting, and not just full of hot air. *J C Higginbotham*

So *that* is what he was keeping under his hat. *Gina Robertson*

'Whoever said that the Rector was full of hot air obviously hadn't seen his efforts at blowing up balloons ...' *Julie Morrison*

But the winner is **Gail Bate** with:

Andy is delighted with his gift from above, but what does it mean?

WEST STOW CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2ND

**CHAT, COFFEE, TEA,
BISCUITS**

9.30 – 11.30

St George's Church

BINGO

at

The Anselm Centre, IP32 6JZ

on

Saturday 5th September

6.30 for 7pm start

**£8 per person which includes
entry fee and bingo cards
(extra cards can be purchased on the night)**

Hot drinks and snacks will be on sale in the interval
although you may bring your own

Please pre-book your place by contacting either
**Wendy on 01284 768714
or Maz on 07746 058179**

EA 50

THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA IS CELEBRATING ITS **50TH ANNIVERSARY**

GOLDEN JUBILEE FLOWER FESTIVAL

As part of the celebrations
at St Edmund King and Martyr,
Bury St Edmunds, we are holding a
'Golden Jubilee Flower Festival'

The event will be opened by
Cllr Donna Higgins, Mayor
of Bury St Edmunds Town Council
on Saturday 5th September 2026,
at 11am.



Enjoy the floral displays from
up to 30 local groups,



plus live background music,



church tours,



and a photographic exhibition
in the Crypt.



Refreshments will be available.

ALL WELCOME

FREE ADMISSION - Donations Invited

Time: Saturday 5th - 11am - 4pm
Sunday 6th - 12.30pm - 4pm
Monday 7th - 11am - 3.30pm

Address: 21 Westgate St, Bury Saint Edmunds IP33 1QG

The Wonder Club

Story
Wondering
Craft
Prayer
Cake



St Lawrence
Lackford
Sunday
6th September
at 3pm

CAPTION COMPETITION



The Team Vicar has submitted this photograph and provides us with the stirring story of the Team Rector's epic, noble and heroic struggle to complete the Benefice Pilgrimage against incredible odds:

"Andy's shoes gave up the ghost en route to St George's and by the time we got to St John's both soles were flapping. He emerged from the vestry after using Gorilla tape to secure them for the last leg to All Saints'."

A choice of fairtrade wine or chocolate awaits the person who can overcome their emotions and contribute the winning caption for the photograph.

Please send your entries by Tuesday 1st September to the Viral Bulletin at adrian.mann@btinternet.com

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.
