

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

# VIRAL BULLETIN

23 March 2025

3rd Sunday of Lent

*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](http://www.northburychurches.org.uk)



*St John's church in the sun*

*with thanks to Steve Robertson*

## *In this issue:*

3rd Sunday of Lent: Marianne Atkinson \* From the Registers  
Worship this week \* World Day of Prayer \* Threads of Lent 2025  
Stations of the Cross \* Lent Course: Searched Me Out and Known Me  
Caption Competition Result \* Culford Saturday Café  
Eucharist for the Annunciation \* I Will Follow Him: Mead Singers at St George's  
Caption Competition \* Walk of Witness 2025 \* Contacts

# 3rd Sunday of Lent

*Isaiah 55.1-9 Psalm 63.1-9 I Corinthians 10.1-13 Luke 13.1-9*

Accidents do happen, and sometimes disastrously. The whole modern industry of insurance is a kind of reliable safety-net against the unpredictable, which can happen to anyone. The rain falls on the just and the unjust alike, on the bad as well as on the good (*Matthew 5.45*). The Litany in *The Book of Common Prayer* (1662) holds petitions against various disasters, but insurance was first begun in Edward Lloyd's coffee shop in the seventeenth century. Lloyd's of London collected information for offering shipping insurance. (And in 1764 the condition had to be imposed that vessels must be seaworthy and without unknown latent defect.)

Today's Gospel passage begins with two instances apparently known about in Jesus' day, though there is no other recorded mention of them. The action of Pilate, as spoken of, is more typical of his usual ruthless methods than his attitude described on Good Friday. The Galileans who suffered had been apparently at some ritual of worship. Jesus is asked 'Did they deserve such retribution?' The idea was common that dire punishment must follow grievous sin. Even now, victims of accident, often as hospital patients, will ask 'What have I done to deserve this?'

Jesus says no, it was not directly deserved - these Galileans were no worse than any other. But they had met unexpected death without seemingly having had the chance to hear Jesus and to change their ways.

Jesus himself speaks of the second incident, the deaths of 18 people killed by the fall of a small tower (pyrgos) from the already ancient city wall of Jerusalem, by the pool of Siloam. (This pool, or fount, is mentioned in the book of Nehemiah, during the rebuilding long before after the Exile.) The point is made that these 18 victims had met sudden death not from their own fault. But they had not had the chance to repent, nor make the turnaround to believing in Christ and his message of the Kingdom. So for those with that opportunity, they should take it, before losing the chance.

To be clear, this is no other-worldly safety-net of insurance. Rather, it transforms life altogether. It puts into proportion human preoccupations, the empty vanities that fill our days, and gives loving care its pre-eminence.

Timing matters in the Gospel. The other two Synoptic authors, 'Mark' and 'Matthew', tell of Jesus cursing a fig tree that only had leaves, no fruit. The next day the tree was visibly withered. This sounds precipitate and unforgiving, but perhaps Jesus, at that time of people's failure to respond, was enacting God's words (*Jeremiah 8.13*) of wanting to find figs on the fig tree that were not there. Even the (metaphorical) leaves withered. 'And what I gave them has passed away from them'.

In today's passage, Luke has Jesus give a parable with an alternative approach. An owner, exasperated by a consistently unfruiting fig tree, wants it cut down. The gardener, more patient than the owner, suggests allowing more time and particularly encouraging treatment, before deciding on radical removal. The owner would have to see the merit of this, the kindness of hope extended.

We often get a reprieve, or a further opportunity, and need to be thankful for it.

The reading from Isaiah is in fact from the final chapter of the 'Book of Consolation', or Second Isaiah, with restoration assured on return from the Exile. After all the Israelites' disloyalty, unfaithfulness and unfruitfulness, God invites his people to celebrate, to feast on really sustaining food (as it were, not the empty calories of worthless attractions).

They should rejoice in the priceless gift of freedom after the grim years. They are invited to live better lives, closer to God, who now promises an everlasting covenant. They need to abandon fruitless ways and look to God for mercy. Since God has restored, even 'glorified' them, other nations will honour and admire.

However, a covenant must be kept, or bad consequences will follow.

The beneficence of God must not be taken for granted, as of easy understanding, or even manipulation. The reminder comes that the

thoughts and the ways of the Almighty Creator are infinitely beyond the limited capacity of mortals. The continuation of today's reading so memorably runs:

'For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater  
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth,  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.'

*Marianne Atkinson*

## From the Registers

### Holy Baptism

19<sup>th</sup> January      Lily Hoggett      St John's, Bury St Edmunds

### Funerals

16<sup>th</sup> January      Hilary Driver      All Saints', Bury St Edmunds  
followed by burial in the Borough Cemetery

10<sup>th</sup> February      Janice Connor      West Suffolk Crematorium

21<sup>st</sup> February      Joseph Brierly      St Mary's, Culford  
followed by burial at Culford Woodland Burial Site

3<sup>rd</sup> March      Pamela Knell      West Suffolk Crematorium

5<sup>th</sup> March      Valerie Ashdown      St Martin's, Fornham St Martin  
followed by burial in the churchyard

11<sup>th</sup> March      John Jones      St Martin's, Fornham St Martin  
followed by burial in the churchyard

# Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

## SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 23 MARCH

### SUNDAY 23 March 3rd Sunday of Lent

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)	Culford
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham St Martin
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
12 noon	Holy Communion (CW)	Flempton

Monday 24 March *Walter Hilton, mystic, 1396*  
*Paul Couturier, priest, ecumenist, 1953*  
*Oscar Romero, archbishop, martyr, 1980*

7.30pm Solemn Eucharist ~ Eve of the Annunciation St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Tuesday 25 March Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary

6.00pm A Quiet Space St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Wednesday 26 March *Harriet Monsell, founder of the Community of St John the Baptist*

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

9.30am Eucharist (CW) St John's, Bury St Edmunds

2.00pm Threads of Lent West Stow

5.00pm Evening Prayer (CW) St George's, Bury St Edmunds

Thursday 27 March

9.30am Holy Communion (CW) All Saints', Bury St Edmunds

Friday 28 March

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

6.00pm Stations of the Cross St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Saturday 29 March

10.00am Lent Course: *Searched Me Out and Known Me* St John's, Bury St Edmunds

### SUNDAY 30 March 4th Sunday of Lent

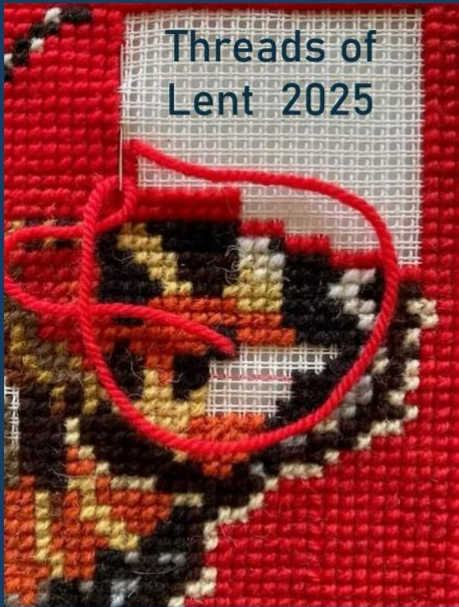
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Lackford
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds





## World Day of Prayer

This year the World Day of Prayer services were held on Friday 7th March, in the morning at St Mary's Church and in the evening at St Edmunds Roman Catholic Church. Over 100 people attended the two services, including in the morning, Peter Prinsley MP and Mayor Diane Hind. The service had been prepared by the Christian women of the Cook Islands, using the theme 'I made you wonderful'. Everyone received a lei and learnt about the lives of women in the Cook Islands. The Revd Sarah Gull, presently with us in our benefice, read the part of one of the women at both services.



## Calling all Crafters!

Are you wanting to have a sort-out for Lent ?  
Nurture your creativity?  
Complete a half-done project?  
Try something new?

You are welcome to our "Threads of Lent" Group  
at: St Mary's Church in West Stow  
On : Wednesday afternoons from 2pm  
Starting on: Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March and then each  
Wednesday until the 9<sup>th</sup> April

Easy parking  
Tea and coffee  
Bring your own materials

Enquiries to Sarah Gull [seg30@cam.ac.uk](mailto:seg30@cam.ac.uk)

Fridays in Lent  
at 6pm

*from*  
7<sup>th</sup> March  
*to*  
11<sup>th</sup> April

St John's Church  
Bury St Edmunds

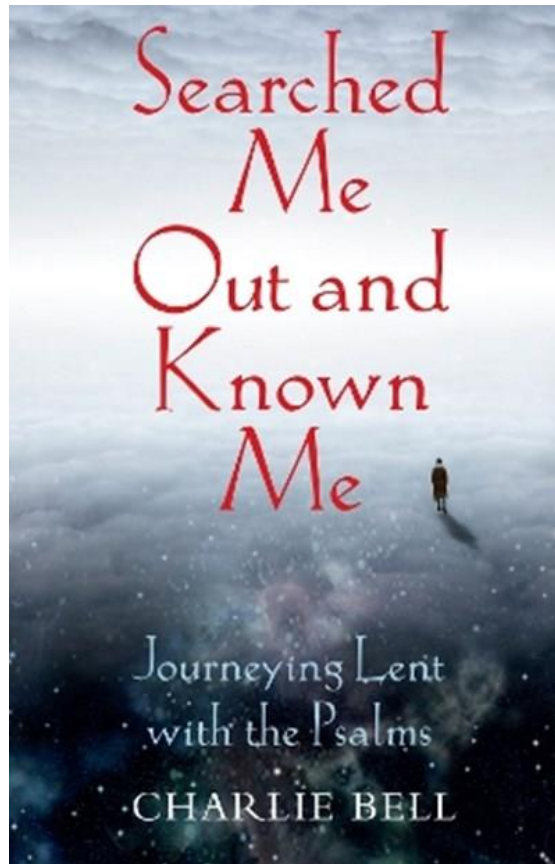


# Stations of the Cross

Reflections following  
the narrative  
of Christ's passion  
using the pictures  
created by Iain McKillop



## LENT IN THE LARK VALLEY NORTH BURY TEAM



Every year we make our Lenten journey together – but this year we will do so accompanied by the Psalms.

We will be using the wonderful book,  
Searched Me Out and Known Me, by Charlie Bell.

You may like to purchase your own copy - not least so you can continue to use it in Holy Week - but it is not essential.

Don't worry if you cannot make every session.  
Come to what you can. And bring a friend while you are at it!

**When: Saturday, 10-11.30am**

**Remaining dates: 29<sup>th</sup> March, 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April**

**Where: St John the Evangelist, St John's St, BSE**

**Further details: Mother Ali [teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com](mailto:teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com) 01284 728714**



# CAPTION COMPETITION RESULT



*Nestling amongst this week's entries we find:*

It is marvellous in our eyes.

*Gina Robertson*

'Has Easter gone yet? I'd like to lay my eggs in my hutch.'

*Lesley Langley*

Needing 'a safe, quiet place', with motherhood in mind?  
(But not like Jemima Puddle-Duck.)

*Marianne Atkinson*

'I've heard that the refreshments aren't just chickenfeed.'

*Carol Allard*

By a church there shouldn't be any foxy gentleman.  
(Again, not as met by Jemima.)

*Marianne Atkinson*

'I'm going to keep my eggs.'

*Marianne Atkinson*

*And the winner is ... Janet Hayward with*

*'This is why I crossed the road!'*

*You are warmly invited to the*

# **Culford Saturday Café**

**Culford Village Hall IP28 6DN**

**22<sup>nd</sup> March**

**10am-12 noon**

**Lots of cake, coffee and tea  
provided!**

***Donations in aid of St. Mary's Church,  
West Stow***





Monday 24 March 2025 at 7.30pm  
St John the Evangelist Bury St Edmunds IP33 1SN

*The eve of the* **Annunciation**  
*of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary*



# Solemn Eucharist

President: The Revd Ali Miller

Preacher: The Revd Julia Mann

followed by a party ~ **ALL ARE WELCOME**

*Members of the Society of Catholic Priests are  
warmly invited to join us for this celebration.*

*The Eucharist will be preceded at 6.30pm  
by the Annual Meeting of Affirming  
Catholicism, St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.*

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



# THE MEAD SINGERS

Conducted by Michael Phillips



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## ***I WILL FOLLOW HIM***

Music and Readings for Choir and  
Congregation for Passiontide

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**Sunday 6th April**

**3PM**

**St George's Church, Anselm Avenue,  
Bury St Edmunds, IP33 6JZ**

Organist and Meditations by David Honeyball

Retiring Collection



# CAPTION COMPETITION



*Thanks to Ali Miller for this photograph, which comes with an explanation:*

Here's Ann Lee, brandishing a net at St Mary's Culford, after releasing a butterfly trapped in the church.

*Surely our readers can do better than that?*

A choice of fairtrade wine or chocolate awaits the person who can contribute the winning replacement caption. Please send your entries by Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March to the Viral Bulletin at [adrian.mann@btinternet.com](mailto:adrian.mann@btinternet.com)



Good Friday 18th April 2025

# Walk of Witness

10:30am

Short service in St Edmundsbury Cathedral

11:00am

Follow the cross. Silent procession into town

11:15am

At the stage in Market Square. Speaker Kevin Gladwell

11:45am - Finish



**CHURCHES TOGETHER BURY ST EDMUNDS & DISTRICT**

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## Contacts

Revd Dr Andy Miller .... 01284 728714

[teamrectorlvnb@btinternet.com](mailto:teamrectorlvnb@btinternet.com)

Revd Ali Miller ..... 01284 728714

[teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com](mailto:teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com)

Team Office ..... 01284 700400

[NBTLVB@outlook.com](mailto:NBTLVB@outlook.com)

*We also have assistance from priests within  
the benefice with permission to officiate.*

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## Please don't forget ...

to let Julie Hooton [NBTLVB@outlook.com](mailto:NBTLVB@outlook.com)

and the 'Viral Bulletin' [adrian.mann@btinternet.com](mailto: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.

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