

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

# VIRAL BULLETIN

5 December 2021

2nd Sunday of Advent

*Please forward this to anyone you know who might not be in our Google group.  
For links to information about us please visit: [www.northburychurches.org.uk](http://www.northburychurches.org.uk)*



Advent Sunday at Fornham St Martin

Beryl Dykes

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# Second Sunday of Advent

The Common Worship lectionary has introduced the Kingdom season (ended a week ago) of four Sundays before Advent. So the last Sunday after Trinity now precedes that, and the Collect for it in Common Worship is now the one from the old Book of Common Prayer set for the second Sunday in Advent.

Popularly known as ‘Bible Sunday’, this is its Collect that we used to expect and pray in early December:

Blessed Lord,  
who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning,  
Grant that we may in such wise hear them,  
read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them,  
that by patience, and comfort of thy holy Word,  
we may embrace, and ever hold fast,  
the blessed hope of everlasting life,  
which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Christians are often called ‘People of God’ (as for instance in current orders of service for Institution and Licensing). They are also called ‘People of the Book’. After all, in past centuries the Bible was the only book that mattered. It is now by far the most translated in the world, and of course has arrived in English through much translation, even costing lives in the process. A range of versions is now available, of various styles and used by different traditions.

The Collect (Cranmer’s almost certainly) speaks of Scriptures in the plural. You will know that the Bible is a collection of collections of books, written at widely different times by very different men. Most of the later writers knew and quoted some of the earlier works, while scholars from the rabbis onwards have compiled commentaries.

All this sounds factual enough. And study in other disciplines often requires one to ‘read, mark, learn and inwardly digest’. But the Collect proceeds to ‘ that ... we may ... hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life ... given in our Saviour Jesus Christ’. Instantly this brings another dimension to the purpose of the reading and the nature of the text. There is a due capital letter for Word. It is God’s Word that permeates the writing and eventually takes form, as foretold, as Our Lord himself. So the Scriptures relate in a particular way to Advent, reminding us of the awe and reverence always felt towards the divine Other, the

God who is coming, whose power has originated everything that exists, whose realm stretches eternal, compared with which our little days vanish like smoke.

How do we, how do you, read the Bible? There are many ways, but to list them takes us back to the factual, the observer status. Now in Advent especially we should be touched in our souls by the sense of drawing closer to God. We are not passive spectators, or audience; we are participants, part of the ever-unfolding illumination of life. It is not an intellectual exercise, but a waiting upon the Word. However you read the Bible, interpretively or simply picturing, each occasion has its unique effect. It contributes to your inward journey, the way in which you enter the mystery and approach the living source of all.

St. Paul speaks of having ‘the mind of Christ’. So when we read what was written by fallible human beings about even more fallible human beings, in the context of a developing relationship with God, we are also trying to take Our Lord’s standpoint on it. He and the scriptures will tell us about ourselves, if we give space to honest reflection. Bringing such thoughts to God is indeed prayer. It is not just a re-visiting and reciting the past; it is searching for guiding significance for today and tomorrow, and what lies hereafter.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin wrote:

‘.....the star for which the world is waiting.....is, necessarily, Christ himself, in whom we hope. To desire the Parousia (the coming) all we have to do is to let the very heart of the earth....beat within us.’

*Marianne Atkinson*

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## ***FROM THE REGISTERS***

### **Holy Matrimony**

23 October Adedapo Adeniran and Oluwatoyosi Oni ..... St John

### **Funerals and Memorial Services**

3 November	Malcolm Alan Larter .....	Fornham St Martin
5 November	Richard Appleton .....	WSC (All Saints Bury)
8 November	Roy Frederick Egan .....	WSC (All Saints Bury)
10 November	Peggy Edith ReardonWSC .....	(Fornham St Martin)
12 November	Mary Olive Clarke .....	WSC (St John)
26 November	Michael John Oliver .....	WSC (St George)

WSC: West Suffolk Crematorium

## Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

# SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 28 NOVEMBER

### 2nd Sunday of Advent 5 December

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Timworth
10.00am	All-age Communion Service of Thanksgiving	West Stow
10.00am	worship@fornham (Christingle)	Fornham All Saints
11.00am	Parish Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
6.30pm	Team Advent Carols	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

### Monday 6 December St Nicholas

7.00pm	Carols on the Green	Flempton
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### Tuesday 7 December St Ambrose

8.30am	Morning Prayer (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham St Martin
6.00pm	A Quiet Space	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

### Wednesday 8 December Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8.30am	Morning Prayer (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Eucharist (CW) Walsingham Cell	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
5.00pm	Evening Prayer (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds

### Thursday 9 December

9.30am	Eucharist (CW)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
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### Friday 10 December

7.30am	Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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### 3rd Sunday of Advent 12 December

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Culford
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints', 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	Parish Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
11.00am	Zoom Service	Please email <a href="mailto:clairerose1953@gmail.com">clairerose1953@gmail.com</a> to receive the link.
3.00pm	Nine Lessons and Carols	St George's, Bury St Edmunds

## LIVE-STREAMED WORSHIP

The **Parish Eucharist** is live-streamed from St John's every Sunday at 11am on Facebook [@StJohnsBSE](#) and is later posted onto our website [www.northburychurches.org.uk](http://www.northburychurches.org.uk)

## CHURCH on ZOOM

Our **Zoom Service** is at 11am on the second Sunday of each month. All are welcome.

# ADVENT CAROLS

DON'T MISS

the Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry's  
Advent Carol Service ~ back after two years

at St John's

on Sunday 5th December  
at 6.30pm

followed by Mulled Wine  
and delicious seasonal nibbles

It's not too late to join the choir for the service:  
please contact David Honeyball  
on 07827 668964 or at [dhoneyball5@aol.com](mailto:dhoneyball5@aol.com)  
There will be a rehearsal at 4pm on the day  
followed by a refreshment break before the service.



*A Rocha UK CEO Andy Atkins, comments on the outcomes of COP26.*

The success or failure of COP26 will ultimately depend on what happens next. Will progressive governments and civil society be able to use the opportunities that the Glasgow Climate Pact, the agreement which came out of COP26, offers to accelerate climate action in the year ahead? Or will the blockers prevail until all hope of keeping global temperature rise to no more than 1.5 degrees is dead? What the public, including Christians and Churches, do in the next twelve months could be decisive.

Sadly, COP26 failed to deliver on its two most important objectives: achieving a level of greenhouse gas reduction pledges which would equate with keeping global temperature rise to no more than 1.5 degrees above the pre-industrial average; and delivering on the past promise to provide \$100bn a year (by 2020) to help developing countries go green and adapt to climate change.

However, a majority of countries refuse to give up on getting there. So, significantly, the Glasgow Climate Pact requests countries to update their current (inadequate) emissions cuts pledges to bring them in line with 1.5 degrees, and commits to considering the adequacy of the aggregated pledges at next year (at COP27 in Egypt), instead of waiting until 2025 as originally planned. It also promises a meeting of Ministers in the year ahead to try to achieve the long-promised climate finance flows, while acknowledging that developing countries already need much more than the originally promised amount.

Incredibly, no previous COP text has even named fossil fuels and the need to get the global economy off them, even though they are the largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions. Such has been the power of the fossil fuel 'lobby' – oil companies and the like – and producer countries. This time the prime culprit role of fossil fuels is spotlighted and the text calls for the 'phase down' of coal (the most climate-damaging of all) and an end to 'inefficient' fossil fuel subsidies. Of course some countries will now argue that their subsidies are 'efficient'; but even the mention of 'coal', 'fossil fuels' and 'subsidies' breaks a long taboo which will open the way for more discussion and action.

Also significant at COP26 was the recognition that addressing climate change will require protecting the world's remaining forests and other 'carbon sinks' such as wetlands and grasslands, and restoring these at scale. An agreement early in the conference on ending deforestation by 2030 was signed by over 120 nations,

representing around 85% of the world's forests. Whilst a roadmap for delivering that goal was lacking, there seems more intention to act this time after a similar pledge made in a different UN process ten years ago failed to stop the destruction. This signifies an understanding that the drivers of the biodiversity crisis are often the same drivers of the climate crisis.

A Rocha UK greatly welcomes this recognition of the value of 'Nature-based Solutions' to climate change. If implemented well – including respecting the expertise and rights of local and indigenous peoples – they will be a 'win-win-win' with multiple benefits for climate, biodiversity and people's livelihoods.



So, what happens now? The lack of decisive breakthroughs on the critical issues of finance and emissions cuts, coupled with agreement to return to them in 2022, adds pressure on wealthier nations, like the UK, to give much greater priority to domestic climate policy and action in the year ahead. And that underscores the critical importance of maintaining and growing public pressure for change.

Key for 2022 will be holding the UK government to account for delivering on the commitments it has made at COP26. We also need it to stand by the spirit of the agreement and abandon plans to open a new oilfield off the Shetlands.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke some strong words about climate change at COP26 – but will the UK government follow through? When it comes to climate action, the proof is in the pudding. All Christians and Churches can play their part in holding the government to its promises. A Rocha UK will be providing our supporters with the means of doing so through our own programmes, such as Wild Christian and Eco Church, and through alliances we are part of. A first collaborative initiative, by the Climate Coalition of which we are a part, is to encourage the public to send the PM a Christmas card asking him to ensure that the promises made at COP26 are kept. You can send your own or add your name online to the giant card which will be delivered to No. 10 Downing Street. Sign the card here: <https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/christmascard>

**Do use your voice to speak up for nature, and for people vulnerable to climate change and nature loss. And stand by for many more actions in the critical year between now and COP27.**

*Andy Atkins co-led the A Rocha worldwide family delegation to COP26 along with Seth Apiah-Kubi, CEO of A Rocha Ghana.*



# Coffee Mornings

First Tuesday

of each month

From 10am

All Saints Church

Bury St Edmunds

Coffee or tea, cake and chat

Donations to charity

All Welcome



**STAGECOACH and  
THE MEAD SINGERS**  
**present**  
**Festive Music**  
**in Culford Village Hall**  
**on Tuesday**  
**14<sup>th</sup> December**  
**at 7.30pm**

**Festive Refreshments, DONATIONS to  
THE MOTOR NEURONE ASSOCIATION**

# Coming up ...

## DECEMBER

Sunday 5	ST MARY'S, WEST STOW	<b>All-age Communion Service of Thanksgiving</b> 10am A service of thanksgiving and blessing for the work done in and on the church in the last five years ~ ALL WELCOME
Sunday 5	FORNHAM ALL SAINTS	<b>Christingle Service</b> 10am
Sunday 5	ST JOHN'S, BURY ST EDMUND	<b>Team Advent Carol Service</b> 6.30pm <b><i>PLEASE NOTE: this is a change from the previously advertised time</i></b>
Monday 5	FLEMPTON	<b>Carols on the Green</b> 7pm
Sunday 12	ST GEORGE'S, BURY ST EDMUND	<b>Candlelit Carols (booking required)</b> 3pm <b><i>PLEASE BOOK with Val Gagen - phone 01284 361963 -</i></b> <b><i>text 07874 067371 - email <a href="mailto:rev.valgagen@gmail.com">rev.valgagen@gmail.com</a></i></b>
Wednesday 15	CULFORD CHURCH	<b>Nine Lessons and Carols</b> 7pm followed by mulled wine and mince pies
Friday 17	WEST STOW	<b>Carols around the tree</b> 6pm
Sunday 19	WEST STOW CHURCH	<b>Christingle</b> 10am
Sunday 19	TIMWORTH CHURCH	<b>Nine Lessons and Carols</b> 3pm
Sunday 19	ALL SAINTS', BURY ST EDMUND	<b>Nine Lessons and Carols</b> 5pm
Tuesday 21	FORNHAM ST MARTIN CHURCH	<b>Nine Lessons and Carols</b> 7pm

## CHRISTMAS EVE

Friday 24	ST GEORGE'S, BURY ST EDMUND	<i>No 7.30am service at St John's today</i>
		<b>Chocolate Nativity and Crib Service (booking required)</b> 3pm <b><i>PLEASE BOOK with Val Gagen - phone 01284 361963 -</i></b> <b><i>text 07874 067371 - email <a href="mailto:rev.valgagen@gmail.com">rev.valgagen@gmail.com</a></i></b>
Friday 24	ALL SAINTS', BURY ST EDMUND	<b>Crib Service</b> 3.30pm
Friday 24	FORNHAM ST MARTIN CHURCH	<b>Crib Service</b> 4pm

<i>Friday 24</i>	ST JOHN'S, BURY ST EDMUNDS	<b>Crib Service</b> 4pm
<i>Friday 24</i>	FORNHAM ALL SAINTS CHURCH	<b>Midnight Mass</b> 11.30pm
<i>Friday 24</i>	WEST STOW CHURCH	<b>Midnight Mass</b> 11.30pm
<i>Friday 24</i>	ALL SAINTS', BURY ST EDMUNDS	<b>Midnight Mass</b> 11.30pm
<i>Friday 24</i>	ST JOHN'S, BURY ST EDMUNDS	<b>Midnight Mass</b> 11.30pm
<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>		
<i>Saturday 25</i>	ALL SAINTS' , BURY ST EDMUNDS	<b>BCP Christmas Day Eucharist</b> 8am
<i>Saturday 25</i>	TIMWORTH CHURCH	<b>BCP Christmas Day Eucharist</b> 9.30am
<i>Saturday 25</i>	ALL SAINTS' , BURY ST EDMUNDS	<b>Christmas Day Eucharist</b> 9.30am
<i>Saturday 25</i>	LACKFORD CHURCH	<b>Christmas Day Eucharist</b> 10am
<i>Saturday 25</i>	ST GEORGE'S, BURY ST EDMUNDS	<b>Christmas Day Eucharist</b> 10am
<i>Saturday 25</i>	FORNHAM ST MARTIN CHURCH	<b>Christmas Day Eucharist</b> 10.30am
<i>Saturday 25</i>	ST JOHN'S, BURY ST EDMUND	<b>Christmas Day Eucharist</b> 10.30am
<b>ST STEPHEN, deacon, first martyr</b>		
<i>Sunday 26</i>	ST JOHN'S, BURY ST EDMUNDS	<b>Team Sung Eucharist</b> 11am
<b>ST JOHN, Apostle and Evangelist</b>		
<i>Monday 27</i>	ST JOHN'S, BURY ST EDMUNDS	<b>Patronal Festival Eucharist and Brunch Party</b> 10am
<b>THE HOLY INNOCENTS</b>		
<i>Tuesday 28</i>	ST JOHN'S, BURY ST EDMUNDS	<b>Solemn Eucharist</b> 6pm
<b>JANUARY</b>		
<i>Saturday 1</i>	ST JOHN'S, BURY ST EDMUNDS	<b>Naming and Circumcision of Jesus - Solemn Eucharist</b> 11am

*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 details of forthcoming events at your church.