

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

27 April 2025

2nd Sunday of Easter

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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2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 5.27-32 Psalm 118.14-end Revelation 1.4-8 John 20.19-31

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Last Sunday on Easter Day we heard how Mary Magdalene sees the risen Jesus and then marches into the company of the disciples and announces, 'I have seen the Lord!' Then she passes on the message of the new risen life of Jesus to the disciples. That's why Mary is sometimes known as the apostle to the apostles. This is because Jesus sends her to the apostles to deliver his message. The word apostle means someone who is sent.

In our gospel reading today Mary's announcement '*I* have seen the Lord' becomes '**W**e have seen the Lord' when the disciples tell Thomas that the risen Jesus has come to them on that first Easter Day.

The first thing that Jesus does is to say to them, 'Shalom, peace be with you.' This peace of the risen Christ casts out their fear that has made them cower in abject terror behind locked doors for fear of what might happen if the authorities got hold of them. Just as Jesus sent Mary with a message to pass on to the disciples, so he says he is sending out the disciples to the world. He breathes on them, giving them the Holy Spirit and the authority to pronounce forgiveness.

So we may try to imagine the feelings of Thomas who missed out on seeing Jesus on that first Easter Sunday evening. We don't know why he wasn't there. When he heard the others going around saying 'We have seen the Lord!' we may wonder what he was thinking. Maybe he thought, 'well, why haven't I seen the Lord? Aren't I good enough?'

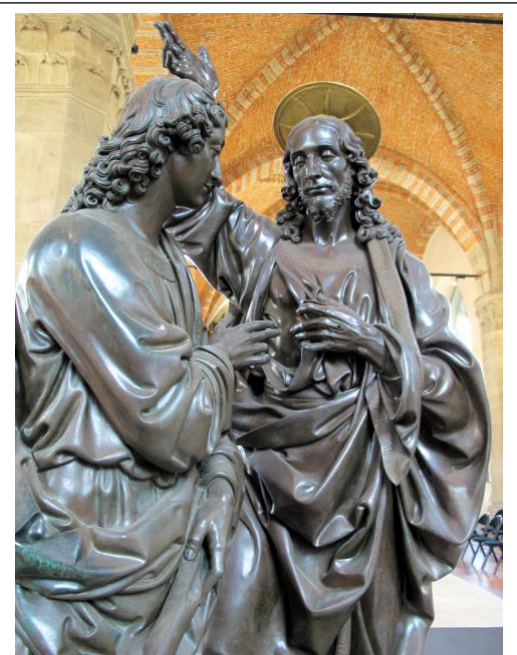
Perhaps he thought that the other disciples were suffering from a collective delusion or were full of wishful thinking. Maybe he was simply so full of misery that he was quite unable to take on board the idea of the risen Christ and did not want to suffer any more disappointment and disillusionment.

Perhaps he thought it was all too good to be true. We all know today that if something sounds too good to be true, it is probably a scam.

Anyway, he's had a whole week of hearing the others saying 'We have seen the Lord!' and he still won't believe. Who knows, maybe the more they went on about it, the more he refused to countenance the fact that Jesus was risen.

Then Jesus comes to him. A week after appearing to Mary Magdalene and the other disciples, Jesus invites Thomas to handle his wounded hands and feet and side. He invites Thomas to use the basic human sense of touch to confirm what he sees before him. This is that same body that is indeed Jesus himself and yet which is able to come among his people even when doors are locked.

Did Thomas touch the wounds of Jesus? We don't know. Perhaps he didn't need to. Perhaps simply being in the presence of his risen Lord was enough.



Bronze by Andrea del Verrochio
The Incredulity of St Thomas
Orsanmichele, Florence

And all Thomas can say is 'My Lord and my God.' He sees just who Jesus is.

His profound doubts have turned into a profound faith and trust in his risen Lord. He sees that Jesus is indeed the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the one who speaks in our reading from Revelation. If we look at the Easter candle in our church, we see that the Alpha and Omega are marked on it, to remind us, in our own time, just who Jesus is.

This account of Thomas has been said to be the sanctification of doubt. Sometimes we do indeed have times of doubt. If we do, we need to remember that it could be an invitation from Jesus to grow in faith, just as Thomas's difficulties led him to total faith in Jesus. That's why this story of Thomas can be a huge help to us when we have difficulties with our faith for whatever reason. That's why we give thanks for Thomas today.

Because they have seen the Lord, the disciples are able to go out and tell others about Jesus. They are transformed.

Our Acts reading tells us about this. They've stopped being afraid. They've stopped locking themselves in the house for fear of the authorities who have tried to prevent them telling people about Jesus. Today's reading from Acts finds the disciples brought before the high priest. It's a bit like what happens today if a court issues an injunction and someone disobeys it.

What we find here is the disciples taking part in an act of civil disobedience because they have to obey God rather than human authority. This reminds us that sometimes Christians have to follow their calling to proclaim the risen Christ rather than simply meekly obeying what the ruling authorities require. This isn't easy because Christians tend to be fairly law-abiding people. Sometimes challenging the conventions of our own day can be a very uncomfortable process.

We might like to think about what current issues could require us to ask questions or take action. What about climate change? Or immigration? Or the political and economic turmoil that we've had recently? What is our Christian response to these issues? Are our opinions compatible with the faith we profess? Our faith isn't and shouldn't be a purely private matter that we acknowledge on a Sunday and ignore for the rest of the week.

This is why we always need to pray that we are given the humility to obey, the courage to resist authority if we are called to do so, and the wisdom to take the right course of action. To do this, we need discernment under God's guidance.

If we can say, with Mary and Peter and Thomas and the other disciples, 'I have seen the Lord!' then we shall be sent out to be apostles in our own day. And it is only by trusting in the risen Christ that we shall receive the strength to deliver his message to our fragmented society.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Julia Mann

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 27 APRIL

SUNDAY 27 April 2nd Sunday of Easter

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Patronal Festival 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 28 April George, martyr, patron of England, c304 (transferred)

6.00pm	Solemn Eucharist	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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Tuesday 29 April Mark the Evangelist (transferred)

6.00pm	Solemn Eucharist	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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Wednesday 30 April Pandita Mary Ramabai, translator, 1922

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 1 May Philip and James, Apostles

9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
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Friday 2 May Athanasius, bishop, teacher of the faith, 373

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

Saturday 3 May

SUNDAY 4 May 3rd Sunday of Easter

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

EYE-WITNESS

Stories from Israel and the West Bank

Come and hear first-hand from Tanya, recently returned from the West Bank

- *What is daily life under occupation really like?*
- *What is the Israeli peace movement doing?*
- *What can be done to promote a just peace in Israeli-occupied Palestine?*

Sunday April 27th. 2025 at 2 pm

Quaker Meeting House

ALL WELCOME!



Ecumenical
Accompaniment
Programme
in Palestine
and Israel

For more information about the programme please
visit: www.eyewitnessblogs.com

Wonder Club

Story
Wondering
Craft
Prayer
Cake



St Lawrence Lackford

4th May, 3pm



You are warmly invited to attend our
**Spring service to celebrate 10 years
of the ongoing work of Bury Drop In**

on Sunday 11 May 2025 at 6pm
at Garland Street Baptist Church
Refreshments served from 5pm

Those planning to attend are asked to **RSVP** by email to
info@burydropin.org no later than Sunday 27 April 2025
so we can prepare well for this special occasion



CAPTION COMPETITION RESULT



Entries this week include:

In the words of the great Paul Daniels: You will like this ...
not a lot, but you'll like it!

Gina Robertson

Kilroy was *where*?

Henry Allen

'Can someone please tell the Rector that we haven't
arrived at the beach yet?'

Julie Morrison

The Team Rector could not persuade Scarlett and Michael
that the Dance of the Seven Veils would be an exciting addition
to the Passion Sunday liturgy.

Henry Allen

Purple veil, purple veil.

Artist formerly known as Michael

*But the winner is **Stephanie Gooding** with*

It would seem as much as Michael and Scarlett
have explained the rules of "Hide and Seek" that
Andy remains unclear on the concept.

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry
Praying Together ~ May 2025

For the wider community and church

- 1 T For all badly affected by cost of living difficulties
- 2 F West Suffolk Council
- 3 S Suffolk County Council

- 4 S** Parish Councils
- 5 M Bury St Edmunds Town Council
- 6 T Deanery Synod
- 7 W Our Churchwardens and PCC members
- 8 T Deanery Synod; our Rural Dean, the Revd Dr Andrew Miller
- 9 F Contributors and readers of our magazines and news sheets
- 10 S Those who maintain and use our website and other communications

- 11 S** St Catherine of Alexandria, Flempton
- 12 M *Growing in God* worship, work & witness in Flempton
- 13 T All who live in Flempton
- 14 W All who are unable to attend church
- 15 T Bury Christian Youth
- 16 F Our work with children, families & schools
- 17 S Mustow Street, Cotton Lane & Eastgate Street area

- 18 S** Northgate Street area; Suffolk Deaf Association
- 19 M Crosspenny Court & Redwood Gardens sheltered accommodation
- 20 T Mental health services
- 21 W All who live in Fornham St Martin cum Fornham St Genevieve
- 22 T Fornham St Martin church
- 23 F *Growing in God* worship, work & witness at Fornham St Martin
- 24 S Fornham House Care Home

- 25 S** The Pines assisted living residence
- 26 M Havebury Housing
- 27 T Our organists, choirs and other musicians
- 28 W For all affected by domestic violence, child & vulnerable adult abuse
- 29 T Valerie Axton, Sarah Cooledge & Valerie Wilde:
our Parish Safeguarding Officers
- 30 F Water, energy & telecommunications providers
- 31 S Pubs, cafés & restaurants in our benefice

ALL SAINTS CHURCH
PARK ROAD
IP33 3QW

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

INFORMAL BIBLE STUDY AND DISCUSSION

BRING YOUR OWN PACKED LUNCH



29th May
26th June
24th July

12:00 - 13:00

Tea & Coffee provided



Bury Town Pastors



Is God calling YOU?

Could you join the Prayer Team, praying for the Town Pastors and people in the town?

Could you be a Town Pastor patrolling the streets of Bury, showing the love of Jesus and caring for people on one Saturday night each month?

***Apply now for
Town Pastor
Training 2025***

Town Pastor Training Dates: Saturday 17th May (9.00am - 4.00pm) & 4 evenings: Tues 20th May, Thurs 5th June, Wed 11th June, and Mon 16th June.

Prayer Team applications are welcome anytime

As part of the team we would ask you to be on duty one night a month either as a Town Pastor, praying at our base or praying for one hour a month in your own home. Each month you would have the opportunity to say when you are available.

Not sure about applying?...contact Jo Copsey to arrange to come out with the Town Pastors for an hour or two, or to visit the Prayer Base.



For further information contact: **Jo Copsey**

Tel: 07594 334215

Email: jocopsey@burytownpastors.org.uk

Or download an application form from our website

Website: www.burytownpastors.org.uk

Women's Voices Women's Bodies

**We will meet Bathsheba, Anna, Mary and others, to explore
the Abused Body, the Disabled Body, the Aged Body, the
Nurturing Body and the
Suffering Body**

**A day event led by The Revd Canon Dr Liz Shercliff
and The Revd Dr Kate Bruce**

21st June

10.30am – 4pm

**St John the Evangelist church,
St John's St. Bury St Edmunds
IP33 1SP**

**To let us know you are attending, book here
[Women's Voices, Women's Bodies - Insight CofE Suffolk](#)
or for more information contact
Revd Ali Miller teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com**

Bring your own lunch ~ Drinks provided



CAPTION COMPETITION

Thanks to Steve Robertson for this photo



A choice of fairtrade wine or chocolate awaits the person who can contribute the winning caption. Please send your entries by Easter Monday 28th April to the Viral Bulletin at adrian.mann@btinternet.com

Bingo!

News from St George's

Our bingo session on Saturday 12th went really well. We have fund raised nearly £400 so far this year and need to raise a lot more towards the cost of external painting, which is a requirement of the quinquennial.

We would really welcome support from across the team at our future events. Many thanks.

Maz Callaby

Contacts

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Revd Ali Miller 01284 728714 teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com
Team Office 01284 700400 NBTLVB@outlook.com

*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 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.
