

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

14 January 2024

2nd Sunday of Epiphany

*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*



Moustachioed Magi carpeted at Lackford

*These artistic depictions of the Magi are
clearly keeping below Herod's radar and are from
the Epiphany session of Wonder Club at St Lawrence's.*

With thanks to Ali Miller for the photograph

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2nd Sunday of Epiphany

I Samuel 3.1-10[11-20] Psalm 139.1-5,12-18

Revelation 5.1-10 John 1.43-end

‘Follow me.’ Jesus says this a number of times in our gospels – and he still calls us today to be his followers.

Our readings are about the call of God - the call of God that persists and does not go away. In our reading from I Samuel we discover how God called Samuel, who was a young lad learning how to serve God in the temple by being with Eli, the priest in charge there. Samuel is a bit like an apprentice or perhaps an altar server. However, we are told it was not common for people to hear the voice of God or to have visions - so when God does call Samuel he draws the obvious conclusion and thinks that it is Eli calling to him.

It takes a while for the penny to drop with Eli that it is in fact God calling Samuel. Then when he does realize what is going on, he gives Samuel advice on what he should do. We may imagine the scene - it's probably very early in the morning before dawn. The temple lamp is still alight. And we are told that the Lord comes very quietly and stands there by Samuel who is lying down in the temple. Again he calls, ‘Samuel, Samuel.’ Samuel responds, and says ‘speak Lord for your servant is listening.’

This is a prayer we can all take to heart, ‘Speak Lord, for your servant is listening’. It is very easy to find that our prayer becomes a kind of wish list of things that we want God to do for us or for other people. Of course, it is quite right and proper that we should pray for others and for ourselves. But we should also try to allow God to get a word in to us, and to do this we need to be quiet and open the ears of our hearts and listen out for him.

It may be that we need to find an Eli to be a soul friend or a spiritual director to guide us and to give us advice about this, because listening, proper listening, isn't always very easy - but God can find a way to do a lot with a very little. This means that sometimes we just have to shut up, pay attention and be silent so that God can call us in the silence – whatever time of day or night it happens to be. ‘Speak Lord, for your servant is listening’.

Then in our gospel reading we find Jesus calling Philip. He says to him 'Follow me,' and the first thing Philip does is to get hold of Nathanael and tell him about Jesus. Nathanael is very dubious about the whole business, especially when he hears that Jesus comes from Nazareth. We may wonder - what's the problem with Nazareth? Some say that Nathanael's comment refers to Nazareth's obscurity - it certainly wasn't a big, important town. Perhaps there's a bit of local rivalry here because later in John's gospel we are told that Nathanael comes from the village of Cana which is just along the road from Nazareth. Maybe Nathanael the village boy is being rather rude about the inhabitants of the next village. Maybe Nathanael has difficulty in imagining that a local carpenter in the next village can be anything special or that God can work in someone so very ordinary.

Philip doesn't waste time or words arguing with Nathanael, he simply says, 'Come and see.' So Nathanael goes along with it, he accompanies Philip to where Jesus is and his dismissive first impressions are swept away. We might like to remember that we may be part of the formation of someone else's calling, just as Philip told Nathanael to 'Come and see' and Eli guides Samuel in how to respond. Do we need to say, 'Come and see' to someone we know and so introduce them to Christ?

So what have our two readings to say to us? When we were baptized, Jesus said to each one of us, 'Follow me.' Each one of us has a particular calling to follow Christ in our own particular way. It may be that our own calling to follow Christ is something that we feel strongly or perhaps we have only gradually come to see. Even if we are not aware of any particular form of calling, the very fact that we turn up in church or perhaps follow a service online demonstrates that we are trying to follow Christ's call.

When Nathanael co-operated with Philip in going along to see Jesus perhaps he thought that it would be a bit of laugh to see this carpenter turned wandering preacher in action. It may be that he had no idea that meeting Jesus would turn his life upside down. We don't know where following Jesus will lead us, yet still Jesus calls to us, 'Follow me'. We simply have to try to be obedient to his call, to try to pay attention so we can say, 'Speak Lord for your servant is listening' and follow him throughout our lives, no matter how easy or difficult this may be.

Julia Mann

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 14 JANUARY

SUNDAY 14 January 2nd SUNDAY of EPIPHANY

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 15 January

Tuesday 16 January

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

Wednesday 17 January Antony of Egypt, hermit, abbot, 356; Charles Gore, bishop, founder of the Community of the Resurrection, 1932

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 18 January Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins *Amy Carmichael, spiritual writer, 1951*

9.30am	Eucharist (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
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Friday 19 January Wulfstan, bishop, 1095

6.00pm	Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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Saturday 20 January Richard Rolle, spiritual writer, 1349

SUNDAY 21 January 3rd SUNDAY of EPIPHANY

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

EPIPHANY

3 The call of the disciples

He calls us all to step aboard his ship,
Take the adventure on this morning's wing,
Raise sail with him, launch out into the deep,
Whatever storms or floods are threatening.
If faith gives way to doubt, or love to fear,
Then, as on Galilee, we'll rouse the Lord,
For he is always with us and will hear
And make our peace with his creative Word,
Who made us, loved us, formed us and has set
All his beloved lovers in an ark;
Borne upwards by his Spirit, we will float
Above the rising waves, the falling dark,
As fellow pilgrims, driven towards that haven,
Where all will be redeemed, fulfilled, forgiven.

Malcolm Guite

*From Sounding the Seasons:
Seventy Sonnets for the Christian Year
Canterbury Press*

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Churches Together in Bury St Edmunds and District

Launch service
Sunday 21st January 2024
at 6.30 pm

St Mary's Church, Honey Hill, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RT

Lunchtime Prayer, 12.30-1.30pm,
during the following week at various venues:

Monday 22 nd	('Day 1')	at the Cathedral
Tuesday 23 rd	('Day 2')	at Garland Street Baptist Church
Wednesday 24 th	('Day 3')	at Trinity Methodist Church
Thursday 25 th	('Day 4')	at St Edmund's RC Church
Friday 26 th	('Day 5')	at the United Reformed Church
Saturday 27 th	('Day 6')	at St John's Church

Churches will provide hot drinks, please bring your own lunch.

From the Registers

Holy Baptism

17th December	River Samhain Perry	Fornham All Saints
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Funerals

13th December	Sonia Grace Sore	Fornham St Martin
19th December	Molly Edith Dove, St Mary's Culford, followed by West Suffolk Crematorium	

Burial of Ashes

22nd December	Molly Edith Dove	St Mary's Culford
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CAPTION COMPETITION RESULTS

A choice of fairtrade wine or chocolate awaits the person who has contributed the winning caption for this photograph, kindly provided by Alan Cole.

Here is the cream of this week's crop of entries.

Sara was pleased to offer a free cleaning service to all ten parishes in the benefice.

Disqualified

Sara was confident she had aced the audition to play Jonah. *Gina Robertson*

The churchwarden was surprised that the Team Rector had rejected the toupee that she had got him for Christmas. *Mr Edwin L Lear*

Sara very much regretted opening her umbrella underneath the overhead fan. *Mr Edwin L Lear*

Finally Sara managed to get a WiFi signal. *Steve Robertson*

*But the winner is **Alan Cole** with:*

Sara getting her props ready for her rehearsal of Mary Poppins.



A VARIED CONCERT BY



Elm Tree Music

Elm Tree Music are local people who are passionate about give informal and refreshingly different concerts.

2 pm

Sunday 14th January

United Reformed Church

Whiting Street

Bury St Edmunds

IP33 1NR



The programme will include classical, traditional and light music played on a variety of instruments



Pay at the door

Tickets are £10 and include refreshments

There will also be a raffle



Concerned about the changing climate?

Come to a Climate Café!

Over two years ago we started holding a monthly silent witness on Angel Hill to draw attention to changes in the world's climate and the need for justice for those most affected. Today the evidence of climate change around the world is generally acknowledged but many people feel insufficient action is being taken. What can we do?

Our climate café is a place where, over a cup of tea or coffee you can talk through your concerns, exchange ideas and see some positive ways forward. We will meet at the Old School Café, towards the bottom of St Johns Street, next to the church. The café will last from 11.00 to 12.30 and you are welcome to come for all or part of the session.

First 3 sessions:

Friday 12 January,

Friday 9 February,

Friday, March 8th.

Climate Café organised by a collective of Quakers and Non Quakers

Burystedmundsquakers.org

Please, join the action [#standwithUkraine](https://twitter.com/standwithUkraine)
Saturday 20th January 2024

Angel Hill 11:00-12:00

Please, stand with us to show your support for Ukraine and to let people know that the struggle continues.

*We dream we'll hear -
"Wake up, we've won!"*



Beetle Drive Supper

at

West Stow Hall

27th January 7.00pm



IN AID OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, WEST STOW

Tickets £12 for adults, £5 for children; Available from

Dianne Luke Dianneluke@hotmail.com Tel: 01284 729654

Eileen Gilbert eileengilbert54@aol.com Tel: 01284 728127

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BOTTLE!

EPIPHANY

4 Nathanael

A fugitive and exile, Jacob slept,
A man of clay, his head upon a stone
And even in his sleep his spirit wept
He lay down lonely and would wake alone.
But in the night he dreamt the Heavens parted
And glimpsed, in glory, as from Heaven's core,
A ladder set for all the broken-hearted
And earth herself becoming Heaven's door.

And when the nameless Angel named him Israel
He kept this gift, whose depth he never knew;
The promise of an end to all our exile,
For now a child of Israel finds it true,
And sees the One who heals the deep heart's aching
As Jacob's dream becomes Nathanael's waking.

Malcolm Guite

*From Sounding the Seasons:
Seventy Sonnets for the Christian Year
Canterbury Press*

Contacts

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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.
