

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

13 September 2026

15th Sunday after Trinity, in Creationtide

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



At Lackford Lakes

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15th Sunday after Trinity

Genesis 50.15-20 Psalm 103.1-13 Romans 14.1-12 Matthew 18.21-35

We are the contemporaries, the associates and the friends of Jesus. He comes alongside us and so we are with him. In particular, this happens when we come together to celebrate the Eucharist. Then the time difference of two thousand years is fused. All time is fused. Then we can come face to face with Jesus. So we become the contemporaries of Jesus.

Holy Cross Day falls this week, on Monday. It is not easy to face the true depths of reality, but that is what the Cross is about. It is not easy to love, because real love means fully facing reality and not avoiding it. In the world we live in that is uncomfortable, painful, even downright dangerous. It isn't the nails that hold Jesus to the Cross, it's the love of God. The nails are the reality that love has to face.

If we are to represent the love of God to the world around us, we have to nail ourselves to the reality of that world and the reality of ourselves, the reality of who we are. We need to start from where we are, who we are.

Our friend Jesus is solid for us, committed to us, and that is our source of hope - the hope we find is there within ourselves as we grapple with the idea of following in his footsteps.

So, like St Paul writing to the church in Rome, we are thinking of the reality of how we relate to God, of how God relates to us, and how we relate to each other. And like Joseph's brothers, the subject of forgiveness is never far away. It isn't easy to face reality. And the reality of Jesus seems insurmountable, as it homes in on our day-by-day living with forgiveness as the cutting edge of love and the gauge of love.

The most welcome thing I could do with this parable of the unforgiving servant from Matthew's gospel, would be to make it easier to cope with. Easier for you to cope with, easier for me to cope with. Explain it, interpret it, talk about it, contextualise it, talk about it a bit more. Talk about it and talk about it until it is explained away.

Unfortunately, however, it doesn't need explaining. The meaning is clear. And it's not just clear here. It's clearly at the centre of our prayer. We are not even allowed to ask for forgiveness if we do not offer it: 'Forgive us our trespasses, *as we forgive* those who trespass against us.' Forgiveness is right at the heart of the teaching of Jesus.

We all know what it means, what forgiveness is. We know that it is a formative part of what Jesus offers to each of us. We know that it is what we need and it is what our neighbour needs. In opening or closing this door to others, we open or close our own door to God. It is simple and stark.

The issue of forgiveness touches every day of our lives: mundane thoughts, mundane decisions, mundane denials, mundane self-deceptions. Things that we experience without even noticing. We can spend hours wanting to be forgiven, without working out just what it is that we are holding back, what it is that deep down we ourselves really find it hard to forgive in another.

It is not easy to face reality, to face the reality of Jesus, to face reality as Jesus's friends should. The reality of my shortcomings seems wholly insurmountable. If it doesn't seem insurmountable, the likelihood is that I'm not facing it at all.

But it is in facing our reality that the resources are made available to us to deal with that reality. Self-examination may be a difficult place to start, but it is the only place. It is common sense to find out where you are and to start from there.

That is the challenge. But there is sustenance. There is daily bread. Jesus is solid for us, committed to us, our source of hope. He gathers us around him at his table. In this fellowship of the Holy Spirit, there is commitment and solidarity and hope. In the words of St Paul: 'whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.' In him we belong to each other, to the community of forgiveness.

Making your confession brings our self-examination into the community of forgiveness and offers that self-examination to God and to each other. We can do this communally as part of the liturgy when we meet to worship, or we can do it within a totally confidential one-to-one conversation with a

priest - sacramental confession. In the Anglican tradition it is often said of sacramental confession: 'All can, some should, none must'.

However we do it, it is perhaps a pity that the language we use about confession and absolution is so legalistic and court-room in flavour.

In fact, it is a *celebration of forgiveness*, a celebration of the forgiveness to be found in the worshipping community, or by the ministry of the priest acting as the person representing that community and the universal Church.

As such, it is also a celebration of the solidarity of the awareness found within the community of the commonality of sinfulness, and therefore of the sheer need for forgiveness which is shared by all. We all share the need to start from where we are and to acknowledge that is what we are doing.

And it is a celebration of the hope that we can move on from where we are, of the hope that we will find spiritual direction within the community, the Body of Christ.

The Eucharist is the daily bread of that hope, the daily bread of that journey, intensifying for us the timeless reality of an encounter with Jesus, revealing in sharp relief the tension between what we are and what we could be. Making us hunger for what we should be, making us long to satisfy that hunger in Christ. The Christian life is reality in dialogue with hope.

Adrian Mann

Commissioning Service

There is a Commissioning Service for Ordinands at the Cathedral on Sunday 13 September at 3.30pm.

The Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry's

Gina Robertson

is amongst those to be commissioned.

All are welcome!

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 13 SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY 13 September 15th Sunday after Trinity *Creationtide*

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Culford
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)	Fornham St Martin
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Lackford
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Monday 14 September Holy Cross Day

6.00pm	Solemn Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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Tuesday 15 September Cyprian, bishop, martyr, 258

6.00pm	A Quiet Space	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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Wednesday 16 September Ninian, bishop, apostle of the Picts, c432

Edward Bouverie Pusey, priest, 1882

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 17 September Hildegard, abbess, visionary, 1179

9.30am	Eucharist (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
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Friday 18 September

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

Saturday 19 September Theodore, archbishop, 690

SUNDAY 20 September 16th Sunday after Trinity *Creationtide*

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) <i>followed by breakfast</i>	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW) <i>preceded by breakfast</i>	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Matins (BCP)	Timworth
10.00am	Eucharist (CW) <i>preceded by breakfast from 9.15am</i>	West Stow
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham All Saints
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

At Wonder Club

we entered into the spirit of the Season of Creation and heard the Godly Play telling of Creation. We had plenty of wondering: some really liked the day of rest, others less so, and we pondered which day the frogs would appear!



Afterwards there was a gentle atmosphere as young and old settled to creating planets and collages, and making wreaths and pipe cleaner creations.



Finally, we enjoyed a feast of Alex's lemon and poppyseed cakes.

Wonder Club next meets on 4th October at 3pm.

But before that

on Saturday 12th September, 2-4pm, we will be

Building and Blessing Habitats

in the churchyard at Lackford.

All welcome - but wear outdoor clothing
and suitable footwear (Rector, pay attention!)

ANNUAL 'REMEMBERING TOGETHER' SERVICE ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL

On Saturday 19 September, a special annual service will take place at the cathedral, called 'Remembering Together'. The service, which starts at the new time of 3.30 pm, is for all who have experienced the death of a child, whatever their age and whatever the cause.

This is an annual service of readings, music and prayer. It offers a space to remember, to grieve, and to find solace in the company of others who know loss. All are welcome, whatever your faith or if you have none.

The Reverend Canon Matthew Vernon, Canon Pastor, says, "This service is for anyone who has lost a child. We work together with our pastoral team to offer this service, and it aims to bring together people at any stage of their grief, recent or past, and offer support through community. We believe grief is a lifelong journey, and you shouldn't walk it alone."

For further information about the service, please email canon.pastor@stedscathedral.org.

If you have experienced the death of a child, help and support is available via organisations such as: West Suffolk Sands: <https://www.sands.org.uk> and Cruse Bereavement Support: <https://www.cruse.org.uk>

St Edmund's Roman Catholic church held a flower festival over the first weekend of September to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Diocese of East Anglia.



Many thanks to Gina Robertson for these photos of the flower arrangement made for the occasion by Valerie Wilde, churchwarden at St John's.



CAPTION COMPETITION RESULT!!!

The judges have doggedly
undertaken their difficult task
- choosing this week's winner.

"Why is he grinning? Doesn't he realise I'm a Methodist?"

Henry Allen

At Timworth's dog look-alike contest, the wee dog was very disappointed with their choice of his look alike.

Stephanie Gooding

Andy made a list of things to do to make him more like his dog.
More facial hair, blackened nose, and look grumpier.

Hugh Belsey

In the words of the great Donny Osmond:
they call it puppy love.

Gina Robertson

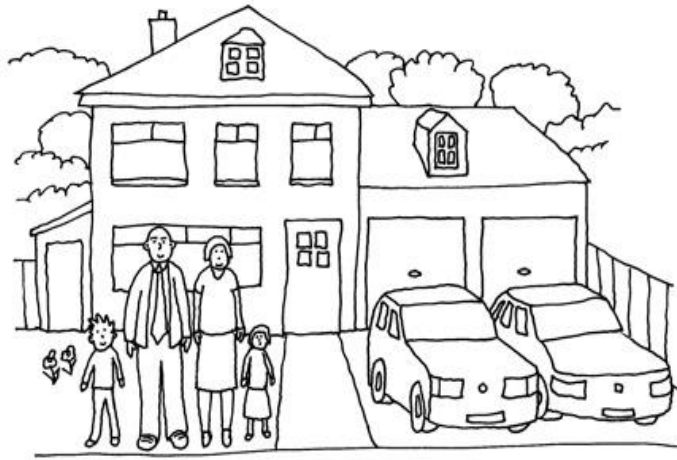
"I'm sure this awful man is going to steal some of the hair
from my fur coat. Still, he does need it more than I do."

J C Higginbotham

But the winner is **Julie Morrison** with:

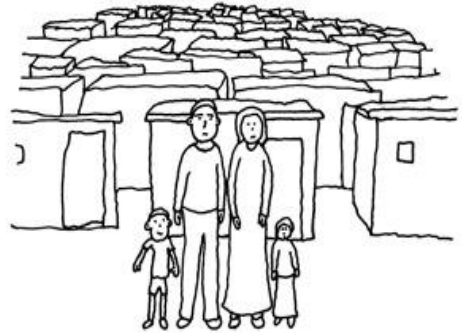
We will now sing hymn number 342
- Breathe on me Breath of Dog

CLIMATE CHANGE



MOST RESPONSIBLE

LEAST VULNERABLE



LEAST RESPONSIBLE

MOST VULNERABLE

CartoonChurch.com

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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.

Read on for events coming up

BAND NIGHT



**£10
ENTRY**

ARTIST LINE UP



**LOCAL BAND
SHOP AND DROP**

LACKFORD CHURCH

19th September 6:30 for 7pm till 9pm

Entry £10 include Ploughmans supper

**Bring your own drinks, plates and
cutlery**

<https://www.sumupbookings.com/lackford-community-council>

CAFÉ

**Saturday September
26th**

10am -12 noon

Culford Village Hall

Savouries and cakes.

Tea and coffee

Jigsaw puzzle swap

**Donations gratefully
received for Lackford St
Lawrence church**

EVERYONE WELCOME



Lark Valley and North Bury Team
St George's Church

Please join us as we...

KEEP CALM



AND



EAT CAKE

for Macmillan Cancer Support

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

**COFFEE
MORNING**



**10:00 - 12:00
Tuesday 29th
September
2026**

As part of Hospice Care Week, join us 8 October 2026



We invite members of faith communities to a welcoming space drop in session

Do come along and find out more about how we serve our community.

We would love to meet you on the 8 October in The Garden Room, St Nicholas Hospice Care from 2pm – 4:30pm.
Refreshments provided on the day



*because
you matter*

**St Nicholas
Hospice Care**

A Registered Charity No. 287773

Please e-mail education@stnh.org.uk or call 01284 766133 if you would like to book in to attend this session, alternatively do drop in on the day.



St Nicholas Hospice Care, Hardwick Lane,
Bury St Edmunds, IP33 2QY.



ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

Anselm Avenue, IP32 6JZ

**issues a warm welcome to you all
to join us on**

**SUNDAY 11th OCTOBER at 3.00pm
at our**

HARVEST FESTIVAL

featuring the



**NORTON
SALVATION ARMY
BAND**

~

tea and cakes to follow

**There will be a collection of non-perishable tinned food,
packets of cereal, rice, pasta etc. and essential toiletries
like soap or toothpaste and so on.**

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Your welcome gifts will go to local food banks