

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

10 May 2026

6th 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



The Great Churchyard

24th April

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6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 17.22-3 Psalm 66.7-end 1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14.15-21

How are we, as Christians, to view the world in which we live? This is a big question for us and today's readings show us it has been a big question since the earliest days of Christianity.

There have been those who have wanted to oppose and take on the world, to reject it, to confront it, to be set apart from it. We might call this the prophetic stance - *Shouting at the world for God.*

And there have been those who take a gentler line and seek to care for the world, to be pastoral towards it, to reach out and heal its wounds. We might call this the priestly stance - *Pleading with God for the world.*

And we can find justification for both in the New Testament. We might think of the sterner line as coming from Christ's teaching, which often seems to set the highest possible, seemingly unattainable, standards. And of the gentler one as coming from his actions, which were unfailingly sympathetic and compassionate in the face of all sorts of human failings and shortcomings.

In John's gospel we are told that 'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son...' And we are also told, as in this reading also from John, that we are over and against the world, which 'cannot receive ... the Spirit of truth because it neither sees him nor knows him.'

In Jesus we are shown what God is like.

He is *both* perfectly loving towards humanity and all of creation. *And he is also* realistic (having granted freedom to creation in general and humanity in particular) about the pain and suffering, cruelty and greed his creatures can inflict upon the world and upon each other.

Jesus lived and lives within that conflict, succumbing to it and yet, and then, rising above it. Holding the priestly and prophetic stances in perfect creative tension.

If we follow in his way we will want to show love and care for our fellow human beings and for everything in God's creation. And we will also want to struggle against injustice wherever it is to be found.

Like Jesus, we will want to find a special place in our hearts for the poor, the weak and the vulnerable. Those on the wrong side of injustice. We will want to find a way of putting into practice those key words from the Lord's Prayer: 'Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven'.

What is the use of that prayer, and all its frequent repetitions, if we make no attempt to enact it?

As you can imagine, scholars have argued plentifully about what the Kingdom of God is, what the term really means. Is it to do with the here and now, or is it about the end of time, the culmination of all things?

Whatever view you take of that, we can I think say that it is something about the values of God - the values demonstrated by Jesus as God-with-us. Values that surprise us, that turn our preconceptions upside down.

Values which make the first last and the last first. Which place generosity and self-sacrifice above market priorities. Which asks us to love our neighbour as much as we love ourselves. Which place a premium on forgiveness, justice and peace.

If we pray 'Thy kingdom come' that is the sort of thing we are praying for. And there is something about judgement in the mix, too. The way we might be judged by God, or by others, or by ourselves. The way we might make judgements in our own lives.

There is quite a lot of courtroom language in Christianity, if you think about it, and that may colour the way we think about God and ourselves. Note that the term 'Satan' can be translated as 'the Accuser'.

God is our judge. Looking again at the Lord's Prayer, when we say 'deliver us from evil', that can be translated as 'save us from the time of trial'.

Perhaps this speaks to our own sense of guilt, of uneasiness, of not wanting to be found out. Perhaps we don't even want to be found out by ourselves, or want to know ourselves well enough to do so.

So it is more than interesting to find another courtroom word in today's gospel, where we find Jesus referring to the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, as the Advocate. So here now is a new judgement, a new courtroom drama, one where God himself will speak up for us and be at one with us.

This is a judgement drenched in forgiveness, and it is no less terrifying for that. For to be forgiven by God is inevitably to herald a time which casts us all in the role of judge: the judge of ourselves.

In that sense, we all have a truth to recognise and a judgement to make: the judgement of ourselves in the light of truths from which we have long hidden but which are now in our own plain sight.

The judgement we make, and how we go about making it, will in some way judge us. But if we can accept that we have an Advocate who loves us, and that we are forgiven, that can liberate us and enable us to make our own judgements in a spirit of thanksgiving and generosity.

We can then be free to align ourselves with the upside-down values of the Kingdom of God. Values which give a priority to the poor, the stranger, the vulnerable, the weak, the outcast. Values which reflect the great love of the Advocate.

Adrian Mann



Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 10 MAY

SUNDAY 10 May 6th Sunday of Easter

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)	Lackford
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham St Martin
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Monday 11 May Rogation Day

Tuesday 12 May Rogation Day *Gregory Dix, priest, monk, scholar, 1952*

6.00pm	A Quiet Space	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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Wednesday 13 May Rogation Day

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 14 May Ascension Day

9.30am	Eucharist (CW)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
7.00pm	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham All Saints

Friday 15 May *Matthias the Apostle (transferred from 14 May)*

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

Saturday 16 May *Caroline Chisholm, social reformer, 1877*

SUNDAY 17 May 7th Sunday of Easter ~ after Ascension Day

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	Said Eucharist (CW) <i>gathering for breakfast at 9.15am</i>	West Stow
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham All Saints
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Wonder Club at Lackford

Ali Miller writes: At Wonder Club we heard the Parable of the Good Shepherd and spent some time wondering about the story. We called the 5 sheep Goldie, Baaartholomew, Chocolate, Raisins, and Silly.



Afterwards we made sheep out of various materials including clay, painted stained glass butterflies, had a contemplative time sticking tissue onto heart shaped wreaths, and most importantly ate homemade cake and biscuits.



Wonder Club

is for all ages.

Our youngest attendee is 3 and the oldest, well, that would be telling (but 80+)!

Thingoe Deanery
Choral Evensong
Sunday 10 May at 3pm



St Peter's Church
Thurston

Followed by refreshments
All welcome!



Christian Aid Week, 10th - 16th May, is our shared moment to come together – across churches, communities and households – to stand alongside people living in poverty.

For one focused week, thousands of people across Britain and Ireland give, fundraise, pray and act together. This year, what will you do?

Why take part in Christian Aid Week?

This Christian Aid Week, your support could help mothers in Nairobi, Kenya, facing the devastating reality of urban poverty and the daily struggle to feed their children.

Most parents wake every single day knowing that they must go and earn money, otherwise their children won't eat that evening. Fridah knows this reality well. But she's determined to protect her grandchildren from hunger.

Through our partner, Beacon of Hope, she's received tools, seeds and training to grow fresh vegetables in a small city space – food she can cook for her family or sell to earn income.

***'Now I can plan.
I can buy this; I can buy that.
I can help my family.'***



St George's Church are holding

a

Coffee Morning

in support of Christian Aid

at

Anselm Avenue IP32 6JZ

on Wednesday 13th May 2026

from 10.00am to 12.00pm

**Hot drinks and
homemade cakes and a
friendly natter**

***Please come
and join us***

NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE

to the

Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

Bank Holiday Monday, 25th May 2026

Leaving St John's at 8.45am

following Morning Prayer at 8am



12 noon Solemn Mass *in the* Abbey Grounds
followed by a picnic lunch

2.45pm Sermon
followed by Procession and Benediction

5pm Depart

Book to join us on our minibus ~ fare £30
payable to Michael Wilde in advance.

Come with £5 to buy an entry programme, bring a picnic
and something to sit on, and be prepared for all weathers.

*Please contact Mother Ali on 01284 728714
or teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com*

Support pollinators. Nothing says Spring like the buzz of a bee! But these precious pollinators are declining due to habitat loss, climate change and agricultural intensification. Wednesday 20 May is World Bee Day, so look around to see how you can improve habitats for bees and other pollinators.

Read more about bees, butterflies and habitats that support them in A Rocha's Target 25 resources at arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/target-25.

Sow a pollinator-friendly seed mix, make or buy a bee hotel, let some wild flowers grow in your garden, and don't use pesticides. Pray that our pollinator populations will increase.

Julie's Epic Swim *Julie Hooton*

What a night I had on Saturday 25th April. I began my 12-hour swim as the sun was setting at 8:30pm at Beccles Lido. My aim was to swim at least 1km every half an hour. My average was over this and in the end, after the sun had risen, by 8:30am on the Sunday I totalled an amazing 15km (9.375 miles).

The hardest parts were the half hour breaks between swims and for the final 4 swims I was completely on my own in the pool as unfortunately the other participants dropped out.



I enjoyed the challenge and really appreciated everyone's support through sponsorship, and I've raised over £750 for the East Anglian Air Ambulance. Thank you so much for everything.

WONDER CLUB

Wonder Club is our monthly All Age afternoon benefice service, using Godly Play

We meet at St Lawrence, Lackford, 3pm

Expect stories, wondering, craft, cake



2026 dates

7th June

5th July

August - Break

6th September

4th October

1st November

December - tbc

What does Godly Play offer?

Ways to be community - Building trust and exploring together

Ways to create sacred space - Making a place to wonder, and taking time to reflect

Ways to get inside stories - Discovering the languages of word, gesture, symbol and silence

Ways to search for meaning - Supported by community, story and space, deepening spiritual meaning in our lives

CREAM TEA
on Saturday 4th July
from 3-5pm

in the Anselm Centre garden
IP32 6JZ

In aid of the
Bury Drop-In Centre and St George's Church



Everyone welcome
£6.00 per Adult £3.00 per child
To include scones, cream and jam
unlimited tea, coffee or cold drinks

To book your place contact either:

Wendy on 01284 768714 or

Maz on 01284 767758 or

Email: maz.callaby@btinternet.com

Caption Competition



A choice of fairtrade wine or chocolate awaits the person who can contribute the winning caption for this photograph, kindly provided by Gina Robertson. According to Gina, it is a photo of Valerie Wilde with her home-made weights for use with the coffee morning A-board at St John's. Please send your entries by Tuesday 12th May to the Viral Bulletin at: adrian.mann@btinternet.com

Timworth Tractor Boys



For some reason Rod Allard came to church at Timworth on Sunday in an Ipswich Town shirt and with a big smile on his face. Here he is flanked by Roly and Sally Nice. *With thanks to Carol Allard for the photo.*

Contacts

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We also have assistance from 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.
