

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

11 October 2026

19th Sunday after Trinity

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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19th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 25.1-9 Psalm 23 Philippians 4.1-9 Matthew 22.1-14

Harvest Thanksgiving

Deuteronomy 8.7-18 Psalm 65 2 Corinthians 9.6-end Luke 12.16-30

Gleaning our Saviour

As some of you may know, I am a fan of the 19th century poet and Jesuit priest Gerard Manley Hopkins. The photograph of him on the front of my copy of his poetry collection makes him look a tad gloomy and wistful, but his seasonal poem *Hurrahing in Harvest* suggests a livelier bent, or at least at the point when he was writing about capturing the joy of the Harvest at Summer's end.

His poem came to mind the other day when I was looking at towering golden bales rising up from a now stubbly field. Hopkins writes of the tall stooks, or rather sheaves of golden corn, pulling the eye heavenward where the wind walks. I encourage you to go and seek out the poem [Hurrahing in Harvest | Gerard Manley Hopkins](#) but I will give you these two lines, for next time you amble by a field:

'I walk, I lift up, I lift up heart, eyes,

Down all that glory in the heavens to glean our Saviour'

The use of this harvesting term 'glean' alongside 'our Saviour', Jesus, really does move me within. Now I'll return to Jesus shortly but first let us take a little look at 'gleaning'. This act of gathering up leftover or dropped grain, for example, has long biblical roots. We can go right back into the book of Leviticus (Lev 19.9) where the people are told not to reap to the very edges of their fields or to gather the gleanings; likewise, not to strip the vineyard bare or gather the fallen grapes.

Similarly, in Deuteronomy (Deut 24.19-21) - if you forget a sheaf in the field, you must leave it. And when beating the olive trees, the instruction is not to strip what remains. Grain or olives, both are to be left for those in need. And those in need are the poor, the alien (or foreigners in the land), the widows and orphans. Indeed, we might recall the story of Ruth, who gleaned during the wheat and barley harvests for herself and her mother-in-law Naomi. They were both widows at the time. And Ruth who gleaned, became the great

grandmother of King David. Anyway, it seems one person's leftovers just may be another person's lifeline. Each grain, each grape, each olive, each morsel of food whatever it is, is precious nourishment to someone, is in fact a blessing.

Now the Deuteronomy reading we hear on Sunday morning (Deut 28.1-14) talks a lot about blessings. And the abundance of God's blessings is poured upon the people if they listen to God (for that's what 'obey' means), if they observe the commandments, if they keep the law. When they do this, the blessings are seen in the fruitfulness of the earth, the livestock, the people even, and the blessings are seen wherever the people happen to be – whether that's city or field, and however they go about their work, be it basket or kneading bowl or really whatever!

You see wherever these people find themselves, their cups will runneth over with blessings.

However, if the people listen to God and keep the law, then we realise there is something implicit within this which relates to what I described earlier: remember there is the understanding of sharing the abundance of God's blessings. These are the blessings found in the fruitfulness of the fields and the bounty of the boughs of the trees and vines, so that no-one goes hungry. Let the gleaning begin! This is a divinely sanctioned duty of care and this is the sort of thing Jesus is concerned with when he speaks of loving one's neighbour – let those who have ears, listen!

Speaking of Jesus, this morning we hear his response to an attempt to drag him into a debate about family inheritance. Keep in the back of your mind that Jesus is from the line of David, yes, the king with the aforementioned gleaning great-grandmother Ruth. Jesus gifts the crowd a comical short parable concerning a rich man stockpiling his abundant grain and goods in a newly built giant storehouse. That he has an abundance of grain suggests there has not been a lot of gleaning happening in his fields, if at all. Anyway, what use is any of it to the man in the story when his number is up that very night? His myriad goods did not secure his soul.

My father has a phrase relating to this, and, in his Lancastrian dialect: 'there's no pockets in shrouds'. You cannot take it with you! Money or grain! Our salvation cannot be bought, rather it is a gift of grace freely given. And a heart simply loving treasures, edible or otherwise, is perhaps a heart with little to no

room for loving God and loving neighbours. This is challenging stuff. And in all honesty, I have loads of things and my cupboards are full, but I guess it is about how lightly or tightly we hold onto such and whether we share our bounty our Harvest (whatever the size of it) with each other.

And sometimes when we are fuelled by fear or worries, it may inspire such hoarding clutching behaviours. Jesus, again in slightly comical and poetic fashion, addresses this when he talks of considering ravens and lilies: God feeds them, God clothes them ... how much more you? There is something here about trusting God. Therein lies our treasure; after all, we are told 'it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom'. And perhaps the way to find this is through gleaning our Saviour. Back to those lines from Hopkins;

*'I walk, I lift up, I lift up heart, eyes,
Down all that glory in the heavens to glean our Saviour'*

If we look carefully enough, we will glean Christ in the world around us. Glean the information which abounds in the beauty and joys and fruitfulness of autumn, in the abundance and plenty of some Harvests while acknowledging the fragility and vulnerability of other Harvests. It speaks to us in the 'dearest freshness deep down things' (Yep, Hopkins again – God's Grandeur this time, read here: [God's Grandeur | The Poetry Foundation](#)).

Ali Miller



Claire Rose writes: Here is a photo of **All Saints' Macmillan Coffee Morning** on Tuesday. We raised £155.50 in cash plus online donations. A big thank you to all who cooked, helped or came along to support us.

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 11 OCTOBER

SUNDAY 11 October 19th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Culford
8.00am	Harvest Thanksgiving Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Harvest Thanksgiving Eucharist (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Harvest Thanksgiving Eucharist (CW)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham St Martin
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Lackford
11.00am	Harvest Thanksgiving Eucharist (CW) & lunch	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
3.00pm	Harvest Thanksgiving w. Salvation Army Band	St George's, Bury St Edmunds

Monday 12 October Wilfrid, bishop, missionary, 709; Elizabeth Fry, prison reformer, 1845; Edith Cavell, nurse, 1915

Tuesday 13 October Edward the Confessor, king, 1066

6.00pm	Eucharist	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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Wednesday 14 October

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 15 October Teresa of Avila, teacher of the faith, 1582

9.30am	Eucharist (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
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Friday 16 October Nicholas Ridley and Hugh Latimer, bishops, martyrs, 1555

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

Saturday 17 October Ignatius, bishop, martyr, c107

SUNDAY 18 October Luke the Evangelist

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) followed by breakfast	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW) preceded by breakfast	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
10.00am	Said Eucharist (CW) preceded by breakfast from 9.15am	West Stow
10.00am	Eucharist	Fornham All Saints
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
3.00pm	Harvest Thanksgiving Evensong	Timworth



Harvest Thanksgiving at Fornham All Saints

... where Elizabeth Gingell made the
pumpkin people ...

... and Julie Barford made a chocolate
cake field for any tractor that happened
to be passing ...

With thanks to Andy Miller for the photos.

Following Christ in a Consumer Society

Continuing our series of articles on Christian Giving

So far in this series we have thought about the multi-faceted generosity of God and about how Jesus puts a challenge before us. The challenge clearly found in the New Testament, asking us to reflect that generosity in what we do with our money. Is this fair? Does it make us feel defensive? Should it?

Notwithstanding current anxieties as a tricky budget approaches, we live in a very wealthy society, one of the wealthiest there has ever been. We are well off. We have a year-round varied diet, something unknown to previous generations. World-wide travel means we can go all over the place, and similarly foodstuffs come to us from all around the planet.

Our society expects warm, clean homes. We expect to have access to clean water, sanitation and health care. And all those things electricity can bring us, or do for us, at the flick of a switch. Things a medieval monarch could not even have dreamt of are now available in every home. White goods aplenty. Devices to supply our desires, rapid communication, a cornucopia of entertainments, information overload.

We call it a Consumer Society - and if we don't consume the economy is in trouble, it seems, and so are we. Don't get me wrong. We should give thanks to God for much of this. Peace and prosperity is a good thing. Yet we take it all so easily for granted and thankfulness is mislaid. We convince ourselves that we are poor and our needs are not yet met.

Some of us *are* relatively poor. All things are relative. That's partly the point. Short of Elon Musk, we can all feel *relatively* poor - compared with data lords or investment bankers or celebrities or sports personalities. At the least we probably feel that if we had that much money we could spend it a lot more sensibly than they do.

But is that really the standard we should be measuring ourselves by? As Christians we should not need to go around feeling envious of others, neither should we go around passing judgement on them. Although it may be very difficult to resist the temptation to do that.

But we should resist it. We need to seek out and live by another standard. What might that be? How can we show that we are part of the Body of Christ and shed some light around us which would not otherwise be there? Why not start by letting the Five Marks of Mission ask some questions of us?

And just what, I hear you asking, are the Five Marks of Mission? I don't blame you. I always have to go away and look up what they are.

They are guidelines developed by the Anglican Communion in the 1980s and built upon since. They can be valuable to us as they make up a sort of check list. It's a good list. We can ask: How am I doing? How's our Church doing? Against these markers?

Numbers one and two are about proclaiming the Gospel and nurturing new believers. Do I work within my Church, within the Body of Christ, to do these things? Do we apply both what we are and what we have to these imperatives? Does my giving enable the Church to do this imaginatively and noticeably? Or do I do just enough to keep the show, more-or-less, almost, sort-of, on the road?

Number three is about the loving service of humanity. Do we respond to the many needs around us, both near and far? And do we build that response into our lives day-by-day, in both our actions and in our giving?

That's where the fourth mark comes in: seeking justice. Do we take the side of the outcast, the poor, the oppressed, the persecuted? Jesus did. In Luke's Gospel he announces himself, quoting Isaiah, in no uncertain terms: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

And for us, now, we are beginning to understand that the planet needs justice, too. Hence the fifth mark of mission: caring for the environment. Do we understand that the delicate balance of God's creation is endangered by the weight of the demands now made by human consumption? Do we seek out ways to walk more lightly on God's earth?

In all these things our handling of money is part of our Christian discipline and way of life. "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." This is so, whether we like it or not. It's simple day-to-day Christian ethics.

In that one simple statement - "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" - Jesus tells us that what we do with our money is sacramental (the outward sign) of the whole of our lives, of our relationships with God, with all creation and with one another.

When we buy bananas from the supermarket or the market stall we are part of a whole network of relationships wending its way back to the farmer who grew them and the person who picked them. And back to how they have been grown and how they have been transported across the world.

And our Christian giving is also sacramental. An outward sign of what's going on inside. A symbolic segment representing the whole. An offering of the whole of our lives, the whole of our worth, back to God.

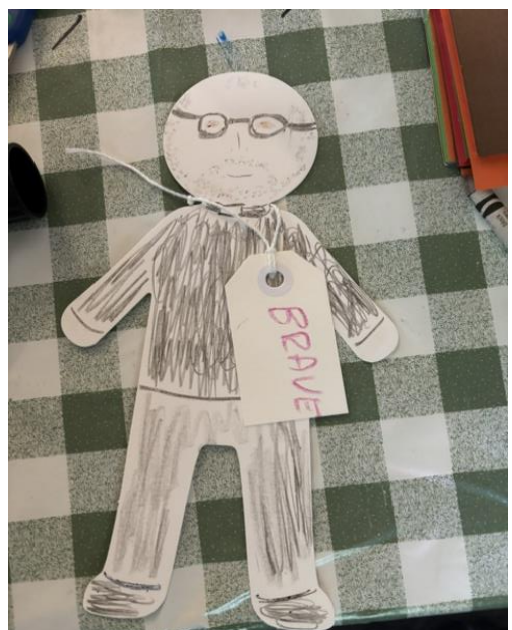
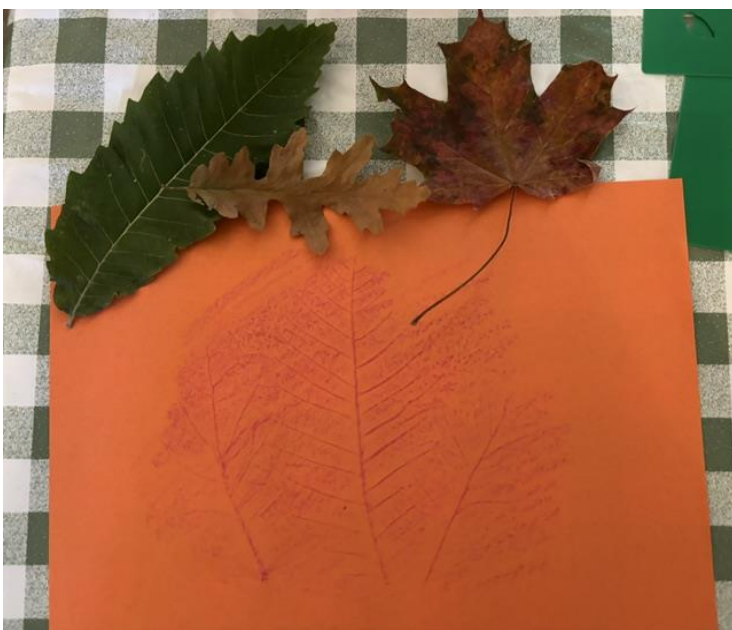
Adrian Mann



Wonder Club at Lackford

Ali Miller

We enjoyed Harvest through hearing and wondering about the Story of Ruth. This was followed by various activities including making paper people, crowns, leaf rubbing, writing alternative name tags (based on what our names mean) and decorating tractor biscuits. We sang Happy Birthday to Matt (never too old for a birthday song!) and we had four cakes for tea (Biscotti, Pumpkin, Chocolate, and a Smartie decorated Victoria Sponge)!





Wonder Club next meets at St Lawrence, Lackford,
on All Saints' Day, 1st November, at 3pm.

There will be pumpkins ...

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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 ...

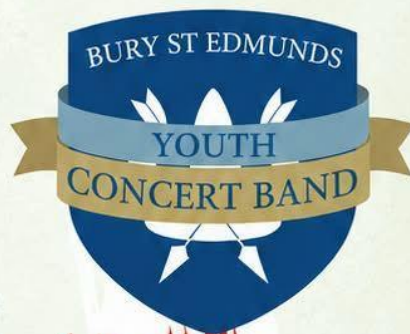
to let Julie Hooton NBTLVB@outlook.com

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 in the online edition for events coming up



Proms

at All Saints

Saturday 10th October 2026

All Saints Church, Park Road,
Bury St Edmunds

Concert starts at 6:30pm

Tickets available on the door
£5 Adults | £2.50 Under 16's

Refreshments available
Including Apple Pie, Cakes and drinks

*Come along and enjoy an evening of
wonderful entertainment!*

*St John's Church invites you
to join us for our*

HARVEST FESTIVAL LUNCH

from 12.15pm this Sunday 11 October

Our 11am Sung Eucharist with harvest hymns is followed by a parish lunch featuring a chance to sample local produce sourced from the shops of St John's Street and other local outlets.



*Any gifts should be non-perishable,
please, for Lucy Adams House*

- * Dried foods - pasta, rice or noodles
- * Tinned goods - beans, tuna, fruit, tinned meats
- * Hot beverages - coffee, hot chocolate, sugar (*few tea drinkers*)

All are welcome



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.**

~

Your welcome gifts will go to local food banks

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH
ANSELM CENTRE
IP32 6JZ

KNIT AND NATTER

FORTNIGHTLY
TUESDAYS

2:00PM -
3:30PM



We knit squares to make blankets
to help support the work of
Hamlin Fistula UK.

<https://hamlinfistulauk.org>

This registered charity is
dedicated to the prevention and
treatment of childbirth injuries in
Ethiopia.

For information about knitting
squares contact

jc.mann@btinternet.com



Multicultural Women's Group
Bury St Edmunds

**You are warmly invited to come
and enjoy food from around the world**

Suggested minimum donation on the door of **£10** per adult
in aid of a local charity

✉ mwgburystedmunds1@gmail.com

 Multicultural Women's Group Bury St Edmunds

St John the Evangelist

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

Monday 2 November



All Souls

SOLEMN

REQUIEM MASS

7pm

Followed by refreshments



Lark Valley and North Bury Team

St George's Church

HOMEMADE
CAKES



CHILDREN'S
GAMES

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

GRAND
RAFFLE REFRESHMENTS
TOMBOLA & STALLS
GALORE!

Saturday 14th November 2026

11:30 till 2pm

St George's Church + Anselm Community Centre
Anselm Avenue, Bury St Edmunds, IP32 6JZ