

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

# VIRAL BULLETIN

2 February 2025

Candlemas

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](http://www.northburychurches.org.uk)



*Model of St Mary's church in Culford, made by Bruce Murdoch in 2015.*

### *In this issue:*

Candlemas: Adrian Mann \* Worship this week  
All Saints' Coffee Morning for the Cardiac Unit at West Suffolk Hospital  
St Mary's, West Stow, Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Care  
Lower than the Angels: Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch at St John's  
The History of Surnames: Charlie Haylock at All Saints'  
Adoration and Benediction at St John's \* Wonder Club at Lackford  
Stagecoach Spring Showcase \* Julie's London Marathon \* Contacts



# Candlemas

*Malachi 3.1-5 Psalm 24.[1-6]7-end Hebrews 2.14-end Luke 2.22-40*

Here we have a feast with at least three titles; the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, popularly known as Candlemas. On this day we come to the end of the Christmas cycle, the whole Advent and Epiphany sequence about Jesus coming to us and being shown to the whole world.

So it is that we have a final emphasis on the light motif of the Christmas feasts – hence the blessing and distribution of candles, perhaps with a procession.

The infant Jesus is brought to the Temple. Three ceremonies are mentioned: the purification of the mother, the redemption of the first born, and the presentation of a child to the service of God. The commentaries tell us that Luke's account of Jewish ritual is a little bit confused, but the important thing is that there is a meeting of the old and new dispensations in Simeon and Jesus.

This is a theme which runs right through Luke's infancy narratives with the Magnificat, the Benedictus and here the Nunc Dimittis. The gospel message is transmitted in poetic style derived from the Jewish scriptures, which has wonderfully enriched Christian worship through many centuries. Jesus is linked with the Temple and with the prophetic tradition of Israel, making it clear that that tradition is fulfilled in him.

Here now, in the Temple, we find true representatives of that tradition. Not the great and the powerful, but the old and the weary. They are the prayerful waiting ones.

And they do three things:

- they recognise him: 'my eyes have seen your salvation.'
- they acknowledge that he will bring division: 'a sign that will be opposed ...'
- they see the universal and inclusive scope of what's happening: 'a light for revelation to the Gentiles ...'

Luke sets all this in the humility of a human story of a child and his parents. But the theme is massive: the divine theme of God working through and loving in Christ. In Christ, God is reaching out, to humanity and to all creation, with an inclusive, gracious and generous wide embrace.

In the final song of his story of Christ's infancy, Luke has Simeon proclaim just how far and wide God is reaching through Jesus – even as far as us. Yes, even as far as me, with all my faults and failings and sins – a long way.

Jesus is for all people: a light to reveal God to all nations. God's salvation comes with this little child Simeon takes in his arms. It is real, but it only comes about as expectations are upturned and re-formed, as our confidence and security are challenged.



Even (and especially) Mary will be pierced by the sword of suffering and judgement as she is pressed to a deeper and deeper understanding of what it means to have Jesus happening in her life.

There is a cost. So now we turn the page and move on beyond Christmas to its inevitable repercussions, towards Lent and the events of the Passion.

And now we too are called, like Simeon and Anna, to recognise him. To acknowledge that he cuts deep into our lives and preconceptions. To try to see just how far and wide and *indiscriminately* his mercy flows. To understand that it flows to those towards whom we struggle, and often fail, to show mercy ourselves.

*Adrian Mann*

# Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

## SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 2 FEBRUARY

### SUNDAY 2 February Candlemas

*Presentation of Christ in the Temple*

*Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

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

### Monday 3 February

#### Tuesday 4 February *Gilbert, founder of the Gilbertine Order, 1189*

10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham St Martin
6.00pm	A Quiet Space	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

### Wednesday 5 February

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 6 February *Martyrs of Japan*

9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
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### Friday 7 February

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

### Saturday 8 February

### SUNDAY 9 February 4th Sunday before Lent

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
3.00pm	Wonder Club	Lackford

# Coffee Morning

Donations to

my **WISH**  
Cardiac Unit charity  
West Suffolk Hospital

Tuesday 4th February

10:00 - 11:15 am

All Saints Church

Coffee or tea, cake and chat

All Welcome

Lark Valley & North Bury Team Ministry

[www.northburychurches.org.uk](http://www.northburychurches.org.uk)

at All Saints' Church, Park Road, Bury St Edmunds

**WEST STOW  
CHURCH**

**FEBRUARY 5TH**

**CHAT, COFFEE, TEA,  
BISCUITS**

**9.30 – 11.30**

**Donations in aid of  
MACMILLAN  
CANCER CARE  
this month**

St John the Evangelist

St John's Street Bury St Edmunds IP33 1SN

Professor

Diarmaid  
MacCulloch

Kt FSA FRHistS FBA



will speak about his recent book

# Lower than the Angels

Thursday 6 February 2025 at 7.30pm

Admission £12 + 10% booking fee

Advance tickets from We Got Tickets <https://wegottickets.com/event/642413>

or contact Adrian Mann on 01284 753984 or at [adrian.mann@btinternet.com](mailto:adrian.mann@btinternet.com)

Magisterial ... Diarmaid MacCulloch offers a history of sex and Christianity that is both confronting and reassuring in its detail and complexity, taking biblical scholarship and theological development seriously at the same time as insisting on the historian's independence. A thrilling read.

*Lucy Winkett, Financial Times*

All Saints' Church  
Bury St Edmunds  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February  
**Scones and Speaker**

**Doors open 3pm for a prompt 3.30pm start**



Photo courtesy of Two Sisters Arts Centre, Trimley



The brilliant speaker **Charlie Haylock** and his talk

**‘The history of surnames’**

An entertaining look at  
the different types of surnames  
- their origins and meanings

Please note: This is not a talk on family history backgrounds

Tea and scones

**All welcome**

**Tickets £10**

Book with Sheila on  
01284 762774 (answerphone)  
07815 504991



St. John the Evangelist  
Bury St Edmunds IP33 1SN

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches



**Adoration**  
of the  
**Blessed Sacrament**  
and  
**Benediction**

*Thursday 13 February*

**6pm**

*for half an hour*

# Wonder Club

Story  
Wondering  
Craft  
Prayer  
Cake



*St Lawrence, Lackford*  
**9<sup>th</sup> February, 3pm**

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**STAGE COACH**

Bury St Edmunds & Stowmarket

**SPRING SHOWCASE**

A medley of songs, dances and cabaret acts  
performed by the students of Stagecoach  
Bury St Edmunds

**SATURDAY 1ST MARCH**  
**2PM & 5.30PM**

St Johns Church, St Johns Street, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1SP  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/stagecoach-bury-st-edmunds](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/stagecoach-bury-st-edmunds)

# London Marathon

*Julie Hooton*

Some of you are aware that I have got a place in the London Marathon in April. The training has begun and it's definitely a challenge. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and because of this, I have decided to raise money for charity. The charity I have chosen is the East Anglian Air Ambulance. Such an amazing charity - you never know when you might need them.

If you would like to donate and motivate and push me around the 26.2 miles of London please scan the QR code, or there is a sponsor form in the office. Feel free to email me on [nbtlyb@outlook.com](mailto:nbtlyb@outlook.com)

Huge thanks for your support. Julie



## Julie's fundraiser for East Anglian Air Ambulance

*I am very lucky and got a place in this year's London Marathon public ballot. As this is going to be a huge challenge for me and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, I have decided to raise money for charity at this same time. I think the extra motivation will push me through those 26.2 miles around London in April. The training has begun... Let's do it!! a...*



Help us reach our £250 target!

Make a donation with **JustGiving**

# Contacts

Revd Dr Andy Miller ....	01284 728714	<a href="mailto:teamrectorlvnb@btinternet.com">teamrectorlvnb@btinternet.com</a>
Revd Ali Miller .....	01284 728714	<a href="mailto:teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com">teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com</a>
Team Office .....	01284 700400	<a href="mailto:NBTLVB@outlook.com">NBTLVB@outlook.com</a>

*We also have assistance from priests within  
the benefice with permission to officiate.*

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## Please don't forget ...

to let Julie Hooton [NBTLVB@outlook.com](mailto:NBTLVB@outlook.com)  
and the 'Viral Bulletin' [adrian.mann@btinternet.com](mailto: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.

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