

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

1 September 2024

14th Sunday after Trinity

Season of Creation

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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14th Sunday after Trinity

Deuteronomy 4.1-2,6-9 Psalm 15 James 1.17-end Mark 7.1-8,14-15,21-23



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope

(Rom 8:19-25)

*Bishop Mike Harrison's address to the recent diocesan conference
Care into Action provides us with an introduction to the Season
of Creation, which runs from 1 September to 4 October.*

There is an increasingly widespread conviction that the environmental crisis through which we are living is not just a formidable set of technical problems, but fundamentally is a moral crisis, a spiritual crisis, a crisis of the soul and a wake up call for us in mind, body and spirit. “Recycling, re-using and reducing”, is not enough. It would be a great start BUT...

But, if by some extraordinary feat of scientific ingenuity we could guarantee that we could stave off some of the worst effects of climate change, we could be pretty sure that we should be back with the same problems in a generation's time unless we tackle the mindset that has helped to create the state of emergency in the first place.

And even if the rate of environmental degeneration has already reached a point of no return, a new spiritual perspective would allow us to see that it is worth working to find a style and rhythm of human life more in tune with the reality of which we are a part, breaking free of the tyranny of greed, acquisitiveness and selfishness.

What does Christianity have to offer in all this? A good many environmentalists have castigated religion – or at least the kind of religion they are most familiar with – on the grounds that it teaches us to despise the material world and to regard humanity as essentially separate from it.

Since at least the 1970s, Judaeo-Christian rhetoric of “domination” over nature has been accused of legitimising exploitation of natural resource, encouraging indifference to the fate of non-human creatures and fostering a bland complacency about the assurances of a future life.

However, a deeper analysis of Christianity’s core texts suggests a different reading, just as other religious perspectives, whether Hindu, Buddhist, Daoist, Confucian and Muslim texts can offset some of the distortions identified in the “domination” model:

- to understand ourselves not as apart from but a part of the creation, interdependent with it;
- to understand health not in isolated individualistic terms but as a network of rightly ordered relations;
- to shift from extrinsic values such as possessions to intrinsic values of contentment, gratitude, relationship (which by the way is writ large in Jesus’ teaching);
- to see the promise of sacrifice, in the sense of freeing us from the burden of instant gratification for the sake of more sustainable relations with one another and the natural world;
- and for compassion for a suffering world to liberate us “from the prison of our ego”, where we’re obsessively and exhaustingly forever calculating the returns on our investments and the privileges that are due to us.

You can see how by framing things in this way our crisis can be seen as a spiritual challenge. Christianity is about liberation from all that oppresses us and growth into the full stature of Jesus Christ. That means recognising the slaveries we have sweltered under, whether the false promises of materialism, the reduction of ourselves to consumers or the idol of infinite growth.

And it means recognising the sociality, the relationships, we are called to, relationships centred on Jesus, relationships focused on honouring our brothers and sisters in Christ, whether near or far, whether in this generation or the next, whether relationships with one another or with our created world. And it means exercising freedom not as self-contained beings just avoiding “hurting others”, as if our choices allow us such a luxury; rather it means exercising freedom as self-surrender and self-giving, that Christ may be formed in us, among us.

We should also understand how creation is not merely a passive gift but how creation ministers to us: it is the very otherness of nature, in being that which is not within our control, that can be such a source of refreshment

and renewal for us. Indeed nature can thus be a sacrament of encounter with the greater otherness of God. And indeed conversely, the loss of a sense of God in much of modern western society may not be unconnected with the fact that we are mostly so separated from most of nature.

Ken Shigematsu quotes some research from Stanford University where research participants were divided into two groups: one group went on a 90-minute walk in one of busiest streets in Silicon Valley and the other on a beautiful wooded trail near Stanford.

Both groups then had echo MRI scans of their brains; those who had been on the busy street had brains where the areas associated with ruminating about regrets of past or present mistakes or worrying about the future were lit up. The other group who had been on the beautiful wooded trail had scans where that part of brain feeling anxiety and self-criticism and depression had gone quiet.

Curt Thompson points out that shame involves self-analysis and self-critique of self, condemnation activity which is the domain of the left brain whereas the right brain is lit up by beauty (whether in nature, beauty, painting, whatever) leaving less room for anxiety ... “when exposed to beauty the right hand brain becomes active and the left side of brain which is the analysing inner critic grows quiet”. And we know why as Christians don’t we? Because as Paul says this is relating to God – “whatever is true, honourable, just ...”

As Christians our relationship with creation also needs to be understood with the end in mind – indeed shaped by the end in mind, the eternal. Tom Wright points out that popular Christianity has tended to substitute a non-biblical vision of heaven and hell for the revolutionary kingdom of God so that, confusingly, we imagine life beyond death as playing harps on fluffy clouds in some soft-focus ethereal realm.

That’s not the scriptural view which holds that the future is actually a new heavens and earth – these heavens and this earth brought together by God’s grace and in which we are called to reign with God. The big show is not a heaven somewhere else but finally the marriage of this earth, this cosmos and heaven, as exemplified by celebrating the descent of the New Jerusalem to earth (Revelation 21 and 22)... a new heavens and a new earth.

And you will notice from Matthew 6 that, as Wendell Berry notes, “the first principle of the Kingdom of God is that it includes everything; in it, the fall of the sparrow is a significant event”.

Our vocation as God's image bearers, is to reflect the praises of creation back to the Creator and to reflect the Creator's wise and loving stewardship into the world, in partnership with our God, a vocation to be embraced now.

And interestingly this sense of vocation, in and with God building for the Kingdom which is the new heavens and earth, fits with the scriptural picture of human sinfulness doing the opposite, destroying our world. In the Hebrew Bible there is regularly talk of creation mourning, the land lamenting, and it is related to the effect human wrongdoing has had on all its non-human inhabitants, flora and fauna.

In the biblical understanding of the world the physical, moral and spiritual orders fully interpenetrate one another, in contrast to the modern superstition that these are separable categories.

Starting with the end in mind – but of course for Christians there is a sense in which the end is in the middle, the life death and resurrection of Jesus lying at the centre of history and yet its defining moment.

Paul is clear, as are the prophets before him, that the degradation of our world is to be reversed through divine regeneration, a regeneration beginning with the cross and resurrection, with the new creation of Jesus Christ. It is this that gives us the momentum, the hope, the chutzpah to engage relentlessly with the issues before us.

The whole story of creation is wrapped up with the story of Jesus Christ, by whose cross all things are reconciled and through whose resurrection all things are renewed.

Because the crucified and risen Jesus Christ is the creator of all things, the destiny of all things is bound up in his destiny. The healings, the nature miracles, the pacifying of the forces of creation by Jesus all point in different ways to that transformation into a new heavens and earth which Jesus inaugurates, or put technically, to an ecological eschatology.

Our vocation is to participate in this new creation, to be citizens of this future kingdom here and now, to reflect the praises of creation back to the Creator and to reflect the Creator's wise and loving stewardship into the world, in partnership with our God.

All of which is to say, this topic is not a sideshow, it is central to our faith, our future and our formation in Christ.

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 1 SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY 1 September 14th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY *in the season of Creation*

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
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Timworth
10.00am	All Age Worship	Fornham All Saints
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	West Stow
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
3.00pm	The Wonder Club	Lackford

Monday 2 September *Martyrs of Papua New Guinea, 1901, 1942*

Tuesday 3 September *Gregory the Great, bishop, teacher of the faith, 604*

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

Wednesday 4 September *Birinius, bishop, 650*

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 5 September

9.30am	Eucharist (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
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Friday 6 September *Allen Gardiner, missionary, founder of the South American Missionary Society, 1851*

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

Saturday 7 September

SUNDAY 8 September 15th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY *in the Season of Creation*

8.00am	Holy Communion (CW)	Culford
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	St George's, 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

Fornham St Martin Church

*Book Sale,
Coffee & Cakes*

Saturday 31st August

10:00am - 3:00pm

Over 2000 books and lots of
cakes, scones and pastries.

All Welcome



*SALE OF
(FIRE)WOOD*



AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

WEST STOW, IP28 6ET

SATURDAY

AUGUST 31st

10.00am - 3.30pm

Cash sales only, please.

Larger sizes may suit carpenters.

Proceeds in aid of church funds.

More details from Paul Luke

01284 729654

The Wonder Club

Story
Wondering
Craft
Prayer
Cake



**St Lawrence,
Lackford
1st September,
3pm**

All Saints', Bury

are looking for **someone to handle the payroll** as the person who currently does so is standing down.

If anybody is interested, or knows someone who may be, please can they contact the Treasurer of All Saints' Bury, Stephen Bye, on

allsaintstreasurer2024@outlook.com for more details.

Coffee Morning

Donations to



EMBRACE
the Middle East

Tuesday 3rd September

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

FARMING COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

For all who work the land
(whether arable or livestock)

Saturday, 7th September 2024 | From 9:00am – 10:30am
Barrow Village Hall, IP29 5AN

Enjoy a complimentary freshly cooked
full English Breakfast to say
'thank you' for all your hard work
on the land and to give thanks for
God's wonderful creation.

We will be joined by David, the
Archdeacon of Sudbury; Sally the
Archdeacon for Rural Mission;
Graham Miles, Lightwave and
Rural & Agricultural Chaplain for
Suffolk and various members of
clergy from across the region.

We hope you can join us!

R.S.V.P. no later than 30th August to
Revd Lynda Sebbage, Rector of the Benefice of Barrow.
01284 811280 or email: revlyndasebbage@gmail.com



THE BARROW BENEFICE
Churches of Barrow, Denham, Risby, Great & Little Saxham

HOSTED BY BARROW BENEFICE WITH
SUPPORT FROM LIGHTWAVE RURAL CHAPLAINCY





STAGE
COACH

Bury St Edmunds



MINI STAGES

Stagecoach Mini Stages (for 2 -4 year olds) is a fun and exciting way for you and your child to actively experience the performing arts in a comfortable, relaxed and safe environment.

Our themed classes last 45 minutes each week and are the perfect way for you and your child to explore a world of imagination through songs, stories and much, much more.

Wednesdays 10.30-11.15am

**All Saints Church, Park Road, Bury St
Edmunds, IP33 3QW**

FROM 11TH SEPTEMBER

Register Now

[www.stagecoach.co.uk/
burystedmunds](http://www.stagecoach.co.uk/burystedmunds)

 @burystedmundsandstow





Thursday 12 September 2024 beginning with Mass at 11am
St Edmundsbury Cathedral



On Voice

Speech, Song, Silence:
Human and Divine

*with Revd Dr Victoria Johnson
Dean of St John's College, Cambridge*

ALL ARE WELCOME to this joint meeting of the Society of Catholic Priests and Affirming Catholicism in the diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich, beginning in the Cathedral with Mass at 11am.

Mass will be followed by a talk in the Edmund Room, given by Victoria Johnson, on her recent book **On Voice**, published by Darton, Longman and Todd. Copies will be available for sale.

Lunch will be served in the Edmund Room at 12.30pm, provided by the Pilgrim's Kitchen, followed by departure.

Price: £10 for two courses, wine and coffee - a good deal!

*Attendees need to register as soon as possible with ...
Michael Wilde 01284 767415 cormack246@gmail.com
... then closer to the time they will receive instructions on how to pay.*



Fornham St Martin
Church

QUIZ NIGHT

WITH FISH AND CHIP
SUPPER

FRIDAY 4TH
OCTOBER

6:45pm for 7pm start .

Tickets £13 each

Call Heather 01284 767372

David 01284 705157

Closing date for ticket sales Friday 27th September

Soft drinks will be provided or please feel free to bring your own wine etc

St George's Christmas Fayre on 23rd November 2024

I know it seems a bit early to think of Christmas, but it will be here sooner than we think, therefore St George's is asking for your kind help and support once again.

We would appreciate donations of:

new items	books
good stuff for the bric a brac stall (things you would buy yourselves please)	suggestions for game stalls
prizes for games	games and puzzles
toys	
raffle prizes	

I know you will come up trumps as you always do.

Many thanks, Maz Callaby

for collection or donations please contact either Maz on 07746 058179
or Wendy on 01284 768714

Contacts

Revd Dr Andy Miller 01284 728714	teamrectorlvnb@btinternet.com
Revd Ali Miller 01284 728714	teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com
Team Office01284 700400	NBTLVB@outlook.com

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 news and details of events which have happened
as well as events which are coming up at your church.

And your photos are always welcome,
jpeg or png format preferred.
