

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

# VIRAL BULLETIN

5 January 2025

Epiphany

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)



*Carols by Candlelight at St George's*

*22 December 2024*

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# Epiphany

*Isaiah 60.1-6   Psalm 72   Ephesians 3.1-12   Matthew 2.1-12*

Epiphany is a golden time, still full of illumination, though, sadly, many houses have gone dark again, thinking it's all over for another year. Some kept decorations for New Year's Day, or even to Twelfth Night, reaching today. But for the Church as a whole, celebration continues for another four weeks, up to Candlemas. It may seem fitting that the Christmas season should match that of Easter in length, showing a balance of significance.

The word 'epiphany' has a general meaning of something extraordinary, striking, bringing about, or being, some new realisation. In its particular sense, for Western Christians, Epiphany describes the visit of the wise men, the Magi, to find the infant king. For Eastern Christians, however, Epiphany focuses on the baptism of Christ, with the descent of the Spirit and the voice from heaven. Both can be called manifestations.

The acknowledgement by the Magi, who were Gentiles, shows that this Jewish baby's kingship extends to the world outside Israel; he is their and our and everyone's King, requiring deepest homage from the world. The events at the baptism of Christ, that we celebrate next week, give a clear acknowledgement from heaven of who Jesus is.

Epiphany is a making manifest, an incontrovertible showing. 'Manifest' in fact is a very old word that has come back into favour. It happens to be, according to Cambridge, 'the word' of this past year. (The Oxford, Collins and Macquarie choices for 'word of the year' are quite vulgar by comparison, the least offensive being 'brat'.) A manifest for a merchant ship over centuries has been the itemised list of cargo content, so that all is made clear and specific.

People speak of having an epiphany with the sense of 'scales falling from the eyes', showing the inadequacy of a former view. The whole person is moved, changed even. St. Paul's experience on the Damascus Road was an

epiphany, (though in his case he was temporarily blinded by it). Stories of some of the saints contain such a moment of confronting change and new dedication. St. Augustine, St. Francis and the lady Julian are well-known for this, also St. Cuthbert, John Wesley and in the last century Sundar Singh of India. There are more epiphanies in the lives of people drawn to public service, who were not necessarily believers.

It is traditional in Christian celebrations to see the Magi as kings from three different countries, emphasising their importance and diversity. Also their gifts are seen as tokens of royalty, of divinity and of a future death. This makes impressive, colourful presentation, whether in nativity plays or on Christmas cards, usually with the one prominent star.



All this is recognisable, and loved, by all ages, keeping the great significance of the event. The star is featured by the Church of England in themed material (*see above*). More lastingly, on the lid of many old pyxes, used to carry the Blessed Sacrament to the sick, is engraved a star rather than a cross, symbolising the leading to Jesus.

Matthew's text does name the presents, with meaning intended, but just an unspecified number of 'wise men'. For those days, and for centuries before, these were the specialists, the scientists, those with rare and superior knowledge. For thousands of years in Egypt and the Middle-East there was knowledge of the night sky, of astral movements and especially of the planets, the 'wanderers'. Stonehenge was completed by about 2,000 BC, as a sophisticated observatory among other things. The 'seeing of a star' might mean seeing an unusual night sky activity, understood astrologically as portending events on earth. Modern astronomers have failed to identify any

possible 'Star of Bethlehem'. (Interestingly, we are now on the look-out for the nova flare of T Coronae Borealis, expected to be for two days or so visible to us all.)

With more recent knowledge, that anciently perceived link between earth and heaven is finding new endorsement. Some of it is uncomfortable, in respect of causes of climate change. But even the nature of the stars has more connection with us than once thought; their composition, and that of our solar system, show an overall unity and relation that bring us back to the Creator, with a continuous impulse of movement. In words translated from the 6th century:

The God whom earth and sea and sky  
adore and laud and magnify  
whose might they own, whose praise they tell,  
in Mary's body deigned to dwell.

and:

Creator of the starry height,  
thy people's everlasting light,  
Jesu, redeemer of us all,  
hear thou thy servants when they call.

Epiphany is still greater than the compass of our minds.

*Marianne Atkinson*

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## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ~ January 2025

The launch service this year is on **19 January**, hosted by Garland Street Baptist Church, and will include an Agape meal.

During the following week there will be lunchtime meetings at churches around the town:

Monday 20	St Mary's Church
Tuesday 21	Garland Street Baptist Church
Wednesday 22	Trinity Methodist Church
Thursday 23	St Edmund's Roman Catholic Church
Friday 24	United Reformed Church
Saturday 25	St John the Evangelist

Meetings start at 12:30pm.

Please bring your own lunch, the host church will provide hot drinks.

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# Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

## SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 5 JANUARY

### SUNDAY 5 January Epiphany *transferred from 6 January*

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 (CW)	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
3.00pm	Wonder Club	Lackford

### Monday 6 January

### Tuesday 7 January

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

### Wednesday 8 January

8.30am	Morning Prayer (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Solemn Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
5.00pm	Evening Prayer (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds

### Thursday 9 January

9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
6.00pm	Adoration and Benediction	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

### Friday 10 January *William Laud, archbishop*

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

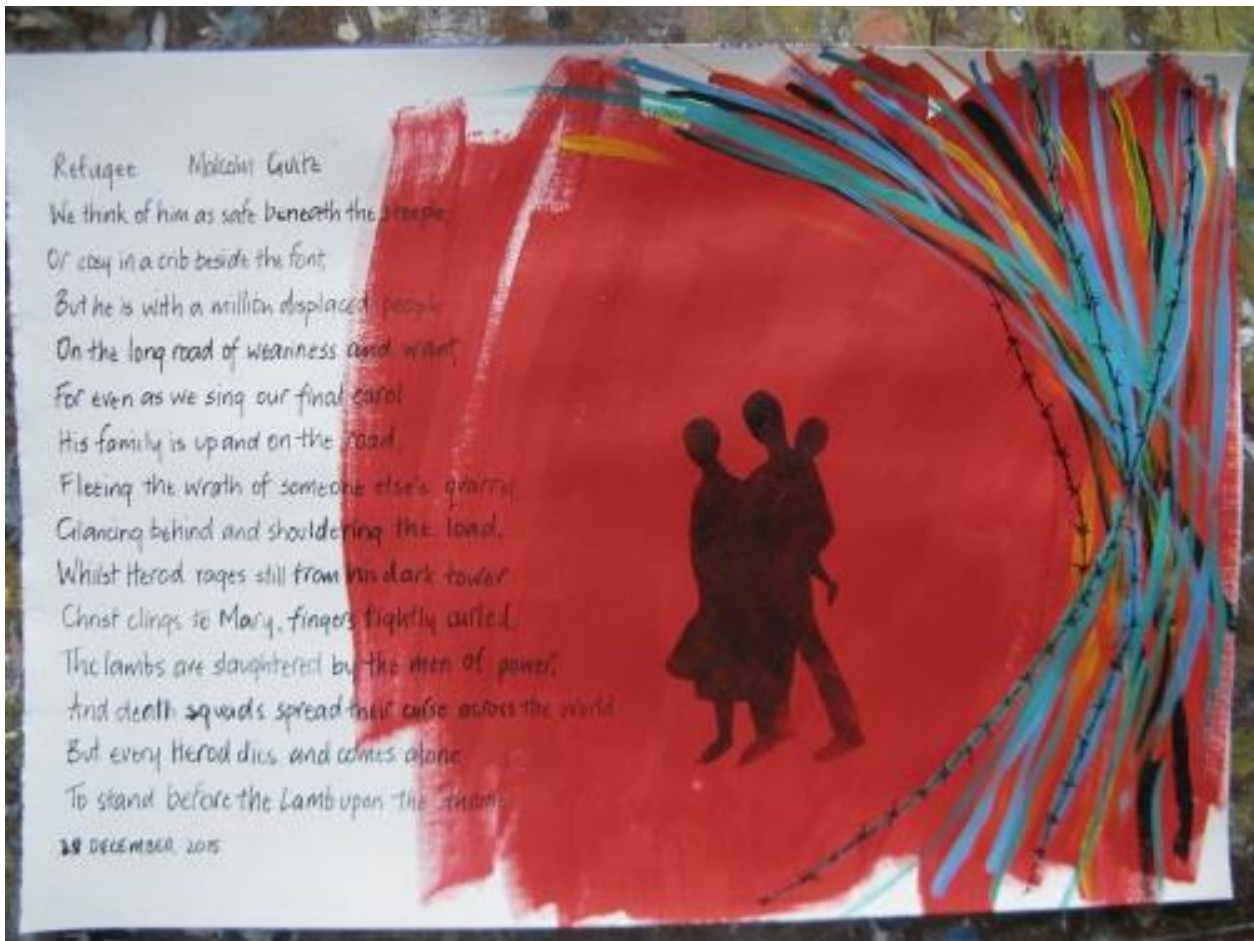
### Saturday 11 January *Mary Slessor, missionary, 1915*

### SUNDAY 12 January Baptism of Christ *First Sunday of Epiphany*

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
5.00pm	Epiphany Carol Service	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

# The Holy Innocents (Refugee)

Malcolm Guite



We think of him as safe beneath the steeple,  
Or cosy in a crib beside the font,  
But he is with a million displaced people  
On the long road of weariness and want.  
For even as we sing our final carol  
His family is up and on that road,  
Fleeing the wrath of someone else's quarrel,  
Glancing behind and shouldering their load.  
Whilst Herod rages still from his dark tower  
Christ clings to Mary, fingers tightly curled,  
The lambs are slaughtered by the men of power,  
And death squads spread their curse across the world.  
But every Herod dies, and comes alone  
To stand before the Lamb upon the throne.

## Malcolm Guite's sonnet, *Refugee*,

shown above, reflects upon the story of the Holy Innocents, which provides an ominous descant in Matthew's gospel to the account given of the story of the Epiphany. The poem first appeared in Malcolm Guite's collection *Sounding the Seasons: Seventy Sonnets for the Christian Year* published by Canterbury Press, Norwich in 2012. It also appears in his Advent, Christmas and Epiphany anthology of poems *Waiting on the Word*, also published by Canterbury Press, and was the subject of his blog on Holy Innocents' Day, 28 December, this year. The blog can be found at [malcolmguite.wordpress.com](http://malcolmguite.wordpress.com).

The blog's illustration is by the artist Linda Richardson, who writes:

The image is self-explanatory, a nameless and homeless family, and Malcolm reminds us in his sonnet that Jesus was born into just such a situation. There is nothing new in murderous power and bloodshed and we must allow the pain of it to sing in our blood as we pray the psalms on behalf of our refugee brothers and sisters, "*O Lord my God, in You I have taken refuge; Save me from all those who pursue me...deliver me.*"

Within a few hours of the blog appearing last Saturday, this response came in to Malcolm Guite from one recipient:

"I've been pretty discouraged and haven't read in a while, but as I've said before I always star and save your writings in a special folder. This one's title seemed particularly relevant this morning with the word 'refugee'. In all honesty I wanted to see what you and artist Linda Richardson would say about Jesus' family's refugee status and the suffering of the poor and displaced, for here in the US the MAGA\* Christians in my family whom I must suppose are exemplary don't seem to acknowledge this fact or Christ's teachings any more. Thank you again Malcolm Guite for voicing your deep, compassionate insight so eloquently."

\*MAGA: *Make America Great Again*

# CAPTION COMPETITION RESULT



*A select group of entries this week:*

He lurked guiltily behind the Christmas tree, knowing he shouldn't be putting it up so early in Advent.

*Henry Allen*

This is what happens when you play Charades with the Millers and Andy gets the word "Rectory".

*Gina Robertson*

The Team Rector always looked forward to the annual Christmas Tree Wrestling Competition.

*Henry Allen*

**But the winner is Kelly Cornish with**

**"Where's Wally?"**



# Wonder Club

Story  
Wondering  
Craft  
Prayer  
Cake



## *St Lawrence Lackford*

**5<sup>th</sup> January, 3pm**

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## St George's Candlelit Carol Concert

featuring the Norton Salvation Army Band, was held on the afternoon of Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> and was a great success. The church looked beautiful by candlelight, and it was lovely to hear such enthusiastic singing.

Thank you to all who supported us and those who helped with all the hard work.

*Maz Callaby*





## Crib Service at Fornham St Martin

Here is David Yates admiring the Christmas tree supplied as usual by Rougham Hall Nurseries and admired too by all the young families at our Crib Service on Christmas Eve, filling the church to capacity. A very enjoyable service, thanks to Revd Ali and Scarlet, with the young children bringing up the figures to place on the straw in the crib, and everyone else bringing up a star to place on the stable roof. The collection was donated to EACH children's hospice.

# All Saints', Bury

## First Tuesday coffee morning 7th January

Next Tuesday, 7th January, will be our first Tuesday coffee morning, 10 to 11.15am in All Saints Church, Bury.

This month our donations will be for The Children's Society who are a national charity working to transform the hopes and happiness of young people facing abuse, exploitation and neglect.

Do come along to enjoy coffee or tea, cake and chat.

All are welcome, please bring your friends.

### CORRECT PROCEDURES

WHAT TO DO IF THERE IS AN...

#### ACCIDENT



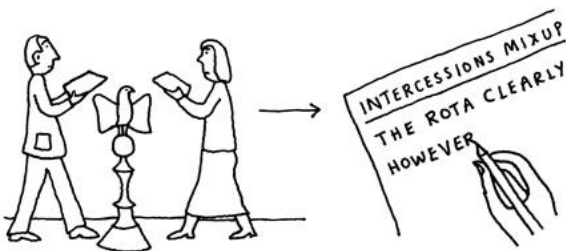
WRITE IT IN THE 'ACCIDENTS' BOOK

#### INCIDENT



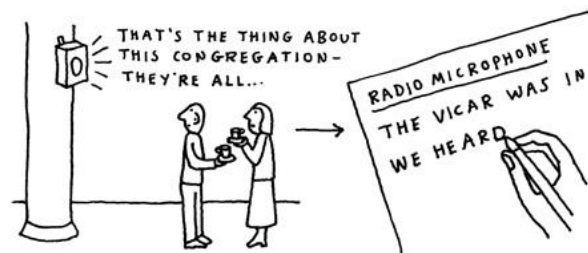
WRITE IT IN THE 'INCIDENTS' BOOK

#### AWKWARD SCENARIO



WRITE IT IN THE 'AWKWARD SCENARIOS' BOOK

#### EMBARRASSING MOMENT



WRITE IT IN THE 'EMBARRASSING MOMENTS' BOOK

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches  
St John the Evangelist, Bury St Edmunds



# Epiphany Carol Service

Candlelit people's procession

Epiphany carols

Readings and reflections

Seasonal refreshments

Sunday 12 January 2025 at 5pm



# **Big Garden Churchyard Birdwatch**

**Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2025**

**2pm at St Lawrence, Lackford**

Come and join us counting birds, making wildlife crafts and drinking hot chocolate. Please wear outdoor appropriate clothes.

# Beetle Drive Supper

at

## West Stow Hall

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January - 6.00pm



**IN AID OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, WEST STOW**

**FABRIC FUND**

Tickets £13 for adults, £5 for children, to include baked potatoes with meat or  
vegetarian chilli

Tickets available from

Eileen Gilbert [eileengilbert54@aol.com](mailto:eileengilbert54@aol.com) Tel: 01284 728127

**PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BOTTLE!**

St John the Evangelist

St John's Street Bury St Edmunds IP33 ISN

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>

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*

# Names for Charlie Haylock

At All Saints', Bury we are planning for a talk by **Charlie Haylock** on Saturday 8 February, 2025 in the afternoon, more details later. However, Charlie is going to be talking about the origins of surnames and would like some surnames to work on. If you are definitely coming to the talk, please send Sheila any names that you would like investigated at: [shegreen60@googlemail.com](mailto:shegreen60@googlemail.com)

These can be your family name, Maiden name etc. Sheila will give them to Charlie on a first come first served basis for him to choose the ones to research. So please contact Sheila promptly!

We hope you will come along and find out more about our names, including maybe yours!

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## 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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