

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

29 September & 6 October 2024 Michaelmas & 19th 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



Creationtide: Lackford Lakes ~ Suffolk Wildlife Trust

30 August 2024

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TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

Michael and All Angels & 19th Sunday after Trinity

Michaelmas *Genesis 28.10-17 or Revelation 12.7-12* *Psalm 103.19-end*
Hebrews 1.5-end or Revelation 12.7-12 *John 1.47-end*

19th Sunday after Trinity

Genesis 2.18-24 *Psalm 8*
Hebrews 1.1-4; 2.5-12 *Mark 10.2-16*

Feast of St Michael and All Angels

As some of you may know, I am mildly obsessed with blackberrying. Stay with me, I have not lost the plot. The Feast of St Michael falls on the 29th September - and in English folklore, any decent forager knows to not eat blackberries after this date. Why?

Well, the source of this is to be found in the reading from Revelation 12. Here we learn of a great battle in heaven. When war broke out, Michael and his angels were on one side, the dragon (aka the Devil aka Satan as named a few verses later) and his angels on the other. Michael threw the Devil out of heaven. So far, so biblical. The Devil fell to earth. This is when he decided to spit/vomit/urinate (depending on tradition) on our jewel laden bramble bushes. Erm, unbiblical. And very unscientific to blame the souring of berries on a fallen being's bodily fluids, rather it's the work of the Flesh Fly amongst other winged critters, laying their eggs inside the berries. But let's not let this get in the way of a good tale...anyway, the Devil and his minions ultimately end up in a lake of fire.

Now the reason this feast has a home in September is because of a building. In the fifth century, and on the 30th September, a basilica was built near Rome in honour of, and dedicated to, the Archangel Michael; liturgical partying began the night before and so the feast moved a day early. But it fits very well: there is

something about the changing season what with the nights drawing in and the damp even musty autumn air.

Maybe at such a time we can feel a little claustrophobic and a tad isolated when we are hemmed in by the dark (and worse still, with our own thoughts). So right before autumn fully gets a grip, perhaps we need a day which reminds us of this great angelic warrior and protector, Michael – and all the other angels. Maybe this is just the feast we need.

A feast to remind us of God's angels, that they are on the side of love and light and goodness and on the side of justice and peace: ready for duty and to carry out God's command. A feast to fortify us for the coming months especially when we hit All Saints and All Souls. We need the reassurance that the angels are on our side, dealing at God's behest with things seen and unseen.

It won't surprise you that this is one of my favourite feasts because I like the weird and wonderful and angels certainly fall into this category. And if you want to keep your faith earthed and practical, well the presence of angels is a great reminder that our faith deals with mystery: we frequently teeter on the threshold of the unknown. And the altar is a thin place writ large where heaven and earth meet (and I'll return to this in a bit).

The reality is many of us find angels fascinating even if their existence pulls us out of our comfort zone. True, some of us may not wish to say such aloud in company – one to one is safer. I hear about it a lot. And for all that our churches have angels in stained glass or paintings, or perhaps carved figures placed on pew ends or ceilings, we don't talk about angels very much in church. And yet, and yet, the Bible is littered with them.

St Bernard of Clairvaux, in his homily for this feast, asks 'how can we poor earthworms speak worthily of angelic spirits?' Speak about them we must, knowing our limitations of course. We need to speak about them because those outside of faith are doing so – angels are big business at Mind, Body, and Spirit fairs. Some folk will even claim to get your guardian angel's name for you. After you have parted with a lot of cash. Obviously.

So we need to talk about what angels are really about and with what we know, which is from our bible. St Thomas Aquinas tried to create some semblance of understanding with his angelic hierarchies, and the Collect for this feast has a nod towards such an idea 'you have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order'; but the truth is 'angelology' is complex and no

single idea of it operates across the scriptures. Just look at the readings for the feast: angels on ladders going up and down in Genesis and John, then full on battle mode in Revelation. Angels doing very different things. Look closely at scripture and you will find them acting in all kinds of ways, but always at God's service – worshipping and serving in heaven, helping and defending us on earth. They do this in so many ways.

I suppose the knotty question is: what is an angel? Angels may or may not be recognisable and they may appear (even be) human or not. Angels appear not only to humans, see Balaam's ass! In Hebrews we are told angels are 'ministering spirits sent forth to serve'. Form and shape is not definite! Back to the unknown. The word 'angel' helps. It means 'Messenger of God'. If nothing else, this tells us God wants to communicate with us and these beings are the means by which God will do so!

And particularly when we hear the of the angels who are named, then Gregory the Great's words are helpful: 'their names are known rather to denote their ministry to us.' These named angels all contain 'el' within their name (in Hebrew this means 'God'). So the divine name present in their own name is a reminder of their holy connection.

The four well-known named angels are:

Michael, which means 'Who is like God?' – he protects the people and leads the armies of God. We see him as our protection against the Devil (or 'the snares of the enemy' as we pray at Compline). Michael has our backs. Yes! Gabriel means 'Strength of God' – he announced the birth of Jesus to Mary, perhaps emboldening her to own her 'Yes' to God. Raphael means the 'Healing of God' – we hear of his healing powers in the apocryphal Book of Tobit, where he restores sight. People invoke Raphael for their own healing. Uriel means 'Light – or flame – of God' and he appears to Ezra in a vision in another apocryphal book, 2 Esdras.

We need to remain aware that for these named angels, as with the other angels: their ministry, their angelic vocation is down to God. Their presence, along with all the angels, is another reminder of our dependence on God and the graces of God. Indeed, God provides for us through the angels, and God's own Son, our Lord Jesus Christ was a beneficiary – angels assisting him and offering comfort after the temptation in the wilderness, and strengthening him for the ordeal to come in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus looked to the angels' ministrations and so can we in our own struggles and weaknesses.

But in Genesis and in John's Gospel, we're in the realm of 'ordinary' angels ascending and descending. In Jacob's dream, as he spends his night head resting on an uncomfortable stone, he has the famous vision of a ladder reaching from earth to heaven, a highway for angels. Jesus reframes this image which will have been well known. He fuses the ladder with himself - and the God of Jacob is the God of Jesus and now present in *Him*. Crucially, heaven is now opened and the angel highway rests on Jesus. The angels' movement tells us that the only route between heaven and earth is Jesus, the only 'Way'. The thinnest of places.

Time to return to the altar, as promised. A thin place. Where Mystery holds court. We hear about angels worshipping non-stop in heaven. At the altar, we meet them and they meet us. And we worship together. Remember in the Eucharist we say just before the *sanctus* something like 'together with the angels, archangels, and the whole company of heaven'.

These are not hollow flowery words! The sanctuary is rammed with angelic beings even if we cannot see them; the air is thick. Sure, this may sound unsettling and wonderful and holy all at once. But that's Mystery for you. And the angels are there worshipping with us as we join in the great Mystery of the Eucharist. Stuff your blackberries, this is the only food that matters. *This* is where heaven kisses earth and Christ is present to us in the Sacrament on the altar. Jacob's dream is now our truth and reality in Jesus.

For this holy brief moment, the altar is the gate of heaven, a foretaste of the eternal joys to come. The angels help us to wonder and marvel at this good news. As the hymn goes, 'angels help us to adore him'.

Protectors, connectors, messengers, healers, worshippers – this feast allows us to celebrate Michael and All the Angels in their myriad different ways of being and working: always for the glory of God, joyfully forever in Divine service.

On this Feast of Michaelmas:

Michael, protect us.

Gabriel, encourage and guide us.

Raphael, heal us.

Uriel, enlighten us.

May we join with the heavenly host in worship and praise,
and may St Michael and all God's holy angels pray for us. Amen.

Revd Ali Miller

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 29 SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY 29 September *St Michael and All Angels 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
10.00am	Benefice Eucharist	West Stow
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Monday 30 September *Jerome, translator, teacher of the faith, 420*

Tuesday 1 October *Remigius, bishop, 533*

Anthony Ashley Cooper (Earl of Shaftesbury), social reformer, 1885

6.00pm	A Quiet Space	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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Wednesday 2 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 3 October *George Bell, bishop, ecumenist, peacemaker, 1958*

9.30am	Eucharist (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
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Friday 4 October *Francis of Assisi, friar, deacon, 1226*

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

Season of creation ends

Saturday 5 October

SUNDAY 6 October **19th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Harvest Festival Communion (CW)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Timworth
10.00am	All Age Harvest Festival (CW)	Fornham All Saints
10.00am	Harvest Festival Eucharist (CW)	West Stow
11.00am	St George's and St John's Harvest Festival Eucharist (CW) <i>followed by Harvest Lunch</i>	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
3.00pm	Wonder Club	Lackford

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 6 OCTOBER

SUNDAY 6 October 19th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Harvest Festival Communion (CW)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Timworth
10.00am	All Age Harvest Festival (CW)	Fornham All Saints
10.00am	Harvest Festival Eucharist (CW)	West Stow
11.00am	St George's and St John's Harvest Festival Eucharist (CW) <i>followed by Harvest Lunch</i>	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
3.00pm	Wonder Club	Lackford

Monday 7 October

Tuesday 8 October

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

Wednesday 9 October *Denys, bishop, and companions, martyrs, c250*

Robert Grosseteste, bishop, philosopher, scientist, 1253

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 10 October *Paulinus, bishop, missionary, 644*

Thomas Traherne, poet, spiritual writer, 1674

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

Friday 11 October *Ethelburga, abbess, 675; James the Deacon, companion of Paulinus, C7th*

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

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

SUNDAY 13 October 20th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Culford
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
10.00am	Harvest Festival Eucharist (CW)	Lackford
10.00am	Dedication Festival Eucharist (CW)	Fornham St Martin
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds



*Fornham All Saints
Church*

IP28 6JW

Friday 27th September

*Macmillan
Coffee Morning*

10:00 am - 12:00 noon

All welcome

All Saints', Bury St Edmunds Hope with Creation



Here is a photo from our All Age service.
The children made the gardens thinking of Hope with Creation.

Claire Rose

WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



All Saints Church

Park Road, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 3QW

Tuesday 1st October

Macmillan

Coffee Morning

10.00 to 11.15

All welcome

It's Saturday 14 September, Holy Cross Day, and

Grant and Alan go motoring

as part of Suffolk Churches Pedal and Drive 2024
in aid of the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust.

Behind the wheel: Grant Howlett Photos and text: Alan Cole



Many thanks to all our sponsors, if the sponsor form is up to date it stands at £225 which is great ... so we are both very grateful and humble. We both had great fun and it was a great cause. Ten classic cars met in the courtyard at Euston Hall (1). After leaving the hall we went to our first church, St Mary, Coney Weston (2), a lovely village church with such a gorgeous altar (3) with carvings around. There was also a simple painting on the wall which said it all "I am the Bread of Life".



We left Coney Weston and headed towards St. Andrew's, Barningham (4) nearby, a church set amongst the houses of that village. Up a gravel path and into the church the first thing that we met was the font (5) all ready for harvest festival: so nice to see fresh produce showing the thanks that the farmer has for his produce and a nice link to Creationtide as well. A church that is well loved and hosts things such as an art exhibition as well as worship. What a lovely church, and such history, with the altar again the main attraction with Leonardo's painting of the Last Supper behind it.



7



8

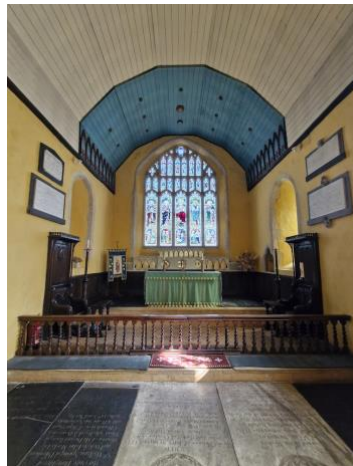


9

We left Barningham heading towards St Peter and St Paul, Bardwell, (7) a church at the end of the village up a little hill. The church had original paintwork on the ceiling (8) and most gorgeous stained glass windows: 15th century glass including a memorial glass for Sir William de Bardwell, showing the wealth existing in these villages in earlier days. The altar is another great example of the love of God (9). It is such a shame more people don't get to see these great places of worship but so important that we keep them going to carry on the love of God.



10



11



12

We made our way towards St Mary, Pakenham, which is cruciform with an octagonal central tower (10). This photo provides a chance to tell you about the car: a MG Magnette saloon made in 1955 and owned by Grant's family for the whole of its life. It was purchased new by Grant's grandfather in June 1955 from Burrell's garage in Cotton Lane, Bury St Edmunds – it's all original and has never been restored. Back to the church: a beautiful altar and surroundings, the ceiling painted blue (11) which I thought was great. In the north part of the church was the organ (12) which sounded very good (we had a member of the rally that when he got to each church would play something on the organ). There was also a rainbow in the window which could be for creation - I also took it as a sign for inclusivity: we are all members of God's creation and we all should have a place to worship.



13



14



15



16

So after finding a place for our picnic (13) we went on next towards St Nicholas at Rushbrook. A little bit of distance between the two churches with a slight detour due to a mistake by the navigator. Looking as if it isn't used much from the outside, I was surprised when we went inside - the font was in a room on its own with curtained doors and lovely in itself (14). The altar was simple but lovely (15) as was the seating, like choir stalls, in the main body of the church (16). It is so sad that it looks like this church isn't used much, if at all, but it did show how important the work of the Suffolk Historic Church's Trust is.



17



18



19

The final church in our journey was St Peter at Cockfield (17), built in the fourteenth century and quite large for a country church. There is lovely stained glass (18) in a church that is loved with a great wooden chancel ceiling (19). A funny fact I remember about this church is that in the eighteenth century one of the Rectors was an astronomer and cut holes into some of the walls to put his telescope through.

And so after around 71 miles and lots of fun, seeing some great churches and meeting great people we go on towards Lavenham to meet up with the other people and classic cars that have done the same thing, but from different starting points and different churches across the county.



20



21



22

Lavenham cricket ground: Amazing to see such a display of cars and people, and so many classic cars in the church community. Here is the winner of the best car in show (20) and a few other cars that were on the rally (21). I don't know a lot about cars but these look very nice and are kept so well. The weather was perfect, the churches were lovely, the people we met were perfect, and in it all I spent the day with a true friend. I'd like to thank Grant (22 left) for putting up with my navigation skills, and my leaning across pointing and saying "look at that isn't that nice" (22 right).





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

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry
Praying Together ~ October 2024

For the wider community and church

- 1 T All with financial difficulties
- 2 W Homeless people; Tayfen House & Britannia House
- 3 T All who work in and visit the King's Forest
- 4 F For our initiatives in dealing with the climate change emergency
- 5 S Lark Valley farms and all who walk on the Lark Valley Path
and St Edmunds Way

- 6 S** All Saints' Church, Wordwell (Churches Conservation Trust)
- 7 M All who live in Wordwell
- 8 T Moseley's Farm Business Centre
- 9 W All who live in Fornham St Genevieve
- 10 T Hall Farm Business Park
- 11 F Park Farm Business Centre
- 12 S All who take care of the fabric of our churches

- 13 S** All who visit our churches as tourists
- 14 M All those preparing for baptism, marriage or confirmation
- 15 T All whose funerals have taken place recently
- 16 W All who mourn
- 17 T West Stow Country Park & Kings Forest Caravan Park
- 18 F West Stow Club
- 19 S St Mary's Church, West Stow

- 20 S** *Growing in God* worship, work & witness at West Stow
- 21 M All who live in West Stow
- 22 T Sports clubs & golf courses
- 23 W Fullers Mill Garden; Chimney Mills Gallery
- 24 T *The Suffolk Wildlife Trust* at Lackford Lakes
- 25 F St Lawrence's Church, Lackford
- 26 S *Growing in God* worship, work & witness at Lackford

- 27 S** All who live in Lackford
- 28 M All our Clergy, our Reader & Lay Elders
- 29 T For vocations to the ordained and other ministries
- 30 W That our congregations may grow in faith and numbers
- 31 T For our ministry of healing and reconciliation

Wonder Club and Harvest Tea at St Lawrence's Church, Lackford on 6th October



3pm: Wonder Club! Storytelling, wondering and crafts. Please collect and bring dry sticks, leaves, pinecones, stones, etc. for some wild art.

4pm: Harvest Tea! Bring any cakes, pies, savouries to share. Coffee, tea and squash provided. Bring your own plate and mug.

Friends, family, newcomers, old hands... All welcome! We'd love to see you!



St George's Forthcoming Events 2024

Date and time	Event
Harvest Festival 6 th October	11.00am Amalgamated with St John's service`
19 th October	Bingo 6.30 for 7.00pm start In the Anselm Centre
23rd November from 11.30- 2.30pm	Christmas Fayre – don't forget to please keep collecting unwanted gifts, donations, raffle prizes etc
22 nd December	Christmas Candlelit Concert with the Salvation Army Band 3pm

St George's

BINGO NIGHT

at The Anselm Centre, Anselm Avenue,
Bury St Edmunds, IP32 6JY

Saturday 19th October
doors open at 6.30pm
for 7pm start

£8.00 per person which includes
entry fee and bingo cards,
(extra cards can be purchased on the night)

Hot drinks and snacks and raffle tickets will
be on sale in the interval

(You may bring your own choice of
drink/snacks)

Everybody welcome

Please book in advance by ringing

Wendy on 01284 768714 or

Maz on 01284 767758

CAPTION COMPETITION



A choice of fairtrade wine or chocolate awaits the person who can provide the winning caption for this photograph, showing Michael Wilde and Hugh Belsey diligently adding cleanliness to godliness.

Please send your entries by Monday 7 October to the Viral Bulletin at adrian.mann@btinternet.com

AUTUMN EQUINOX

Dark interchange of winds at twilight:

uneasy airs check, then abort the still night's birth -
no hope of peace.

Sleep's fitful at the faltering anticyclone's heart.

Winter is not yet:

soon may St Luke revive his last pale stem of Summer.

Patient St Andrew waits:

two moons more, and a brighter Advent will upstage
the entrance of the cold's kingdom.

Bob Torrens

Contacts

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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, but not essential.
