

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

16 March 2025

2nd Sunday of Lent

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



*Timworth church in the sun, with thanks to Margaret Steavenson
See Caption Competition for a closer view of one of the figures*

In this issue:

2nd Sunday of Lent: Adrian Mann * Walk of Witness 2025 * Worship this week * Wonder Club at Lackford * Lent Lunch at Fornham St Martin * Threads of Lent 2025 * Lent: Dave Walker * Stations of the Cross * Lent Course: Searched Me Out and Known Me * Caption Competition Result * Culford Saturday Café * Eucharist for the Annunciation * "I Will Follow Him": Mead Singers at St George's * Caption Competition * Contacts

2nd Sunday of Lent

Genesis 15:1-12,17-18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:31-35

Some Pharisees - not always the villains of the popular imagination - seek to warn Jesus that he is in imminent danger from Herod the Tetrarch, ruler of Galilee. Herod is yet *another* nasty product of the Herodian dynasty, deeply unpopular, he is known to work as an informer for the Romans.

But Jesus has a message for "that fox". He has set his face towards Jerusalem: there is no way to conclude his mission that is not there. "I must be on my way" he says.

Jesus knows the fate that is in store for him, and it is as a prophet, one who speaks the truth to power, that he goes up to Jerusalem to die there. He must fulfill his prophetic mission at the centre, at the Temple, to the Temple and its authorities, and to the power of Rome. Otherwise it would be incomplete.

Jesus has come to fulfill Judaism, and the heart of Judaism is at Jerusalem. He went to Jerusalem each year for the Passover, according to Luke, who also tells of the incident from his childhood, after such a visit, when he was found at the Temple sitting among the teachers, listening and asking questions.

Now Jesus laments for Jerusalem. He does so now, at the half-way point on the journey. He will do so again on Palm Sunday as he comes in sight of the city, and when the crowds will proclaim: "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." To this day, we still proclaim this at every Eucharist.

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem", he says, "the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!"

With this strikingly motherly expression Luke taps into the frequently undervalued feminine strand of the Old Testament, where, for example, in

Isaiah (66:13) we find God saying: "As a mother comforts a child, so shall I comfort you." Now it tells us about the strong emotional affinity Jesus has with Jerusalem. He loves it - but it will kill him.

There can't be many places in the world with a more chequered history than Jerusalem. Wonderful, yet deadly. Touch point of the divine, yet cruel. Now a holy place for three world religions, and *still* a seat of trouble, a place where the right to settle the land remains devastatingly contested.

Every time, *whenever and wherever*, the Eucharist is celebrated Christians commemorate events that happened there. These are the events Jesus now turns towards.

Jerusalem perhaps gets its first mention early on in the Hebrew scriptures, *just before* the passage from Genesis forming our first reading this Sunday.

Here 'Salem' is Jerusalem in both Jewish and Christian tradition: "And King Mechizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. He blessed (Abram) and said, 'Blessed be Abram by God Most High...'" And again, for Christians, there are Eucharistic overtones.

Following on from that ... in today's reading we are told of God speaking with Abram and saying to him: "Your reward shall be very great". And Abram is not afraid to show that he's disgruntled. He's got no heir. What use is it, he asks, if I have to leave it all to my Syrian slave?

But God reassures him, turns his eyes towards the night sky and tells him his descendants will be as numerous as the stars. And, in a key response of trust, famously quoted by Paul in his letter to the Romans, Abram "believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness."

Now there is a new, deeper relationship between God and Abram, represented by the gift of land and the sharing in symbolic ritual of offerings cut in two and laid one against another. A covenant. A covenant accomplished and completed by God in Abram's deep sleep and experienced in terrifying darkness - but nevertheless binding God to the fulfilment of the promise.

This all sounds very strange stuff to us. Perhaps the point to take away is that these things are initiated by God. God starts the conversation and ends up making the promise, and Abram is the person of faith: struggling with longings, with uncertainties, with God.

Abram is the person of faith. In some way he is representative. He stands for all of us in our struggles, our uncertainties, our longings, whatever they may be.

And these struggles are earthed in reality, as ours are earthed. Grounded at Jerusalem, placed there. There in the land of promise. Jerusalem - the place of struggle, of conflict, of uncertainty, of longing.

Jerusalem is all of life. Sharp-edged. Real. Your life. My life. And that is Jesus' destination - where he is going to do what he must do.

Adrian Mann



Good Friday 18th April 2025

Walk of Witness

10:30am

Short service in St Edmundsbury Cathedral

11:00am

Follow the cross. Silent procession into town

11:15am

At the stage in Market Square. Speaker Kevin Gladwell

11:45am - Finish



CHURCHES TOGETHER BURY ST EDMUNDS & DISTRICT

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 16 MARCH

SUNDAY 16 March 2nd Sunday of Lent

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Matins (BCP)	Timworth
10.00am	Said Eucharist (CW) <i>preceded by breakfast at 9.15am</i>	West Stow
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham All Saints
10.30am	All Age Worship	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Monday 17 March Patrick, missionary, patron of Ireland, c460

Tuesday 18 March Cyril, bishop, teacher of the faith, 386

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

Wednesday 19 March Joseph of Nazareth

8.30am	Morning Prayer (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
2.00pm	Threads of Lent	West Stow
5.00pm	Evening Prayer (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds

Thursday 20 March Cuthbert, bishop, missionary, 687

9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
--------	----------------------	------------------------------

Friday 21 March Thomas Cranmer, archbishop, Reformation martyr, 1556

5.15pm	Evening Prayer (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
6.00pm	Stations of the Cross	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Saturday 22 March

10.00am	Lent Course: <i>Searched Me Out and Known Me</i>	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
---------	--	----------------------------

SUNDAY 23 March 3rd Sunday of Lent

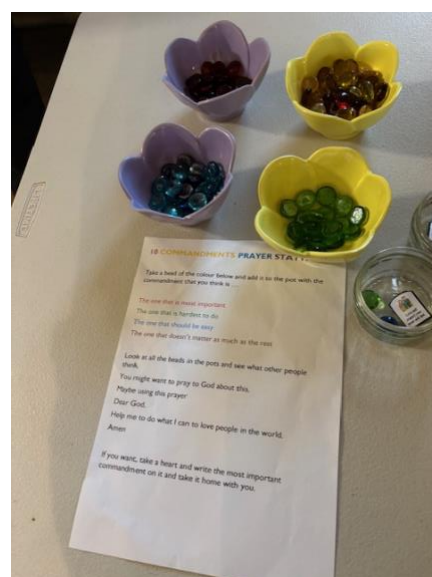
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Culford
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham St Martin
11.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
12 noon	Holy Communion (CW)	Flempton

2nd March ~ Wonder Club at Lackford



We had a good time at Wonder Club hearing the Godly Play story called The 10 Best Ways to Live also known as The 10 Commandments. Plenty of wondering ensued and featured deep ethical discussion on whether it is ever okay to lie and where do we sit with fictional killing?! Then we made willow hearts and other crafts and ended, as usual, with cake. We next meet on Sunday, the 6th of April, at 3 o'clock in Lackford. All ages welcome. We range from toddlers to 80+ years old!

Ali Miller



THE SEASON OF

Lent

JOIN US FOR A LIGHT LUNCH

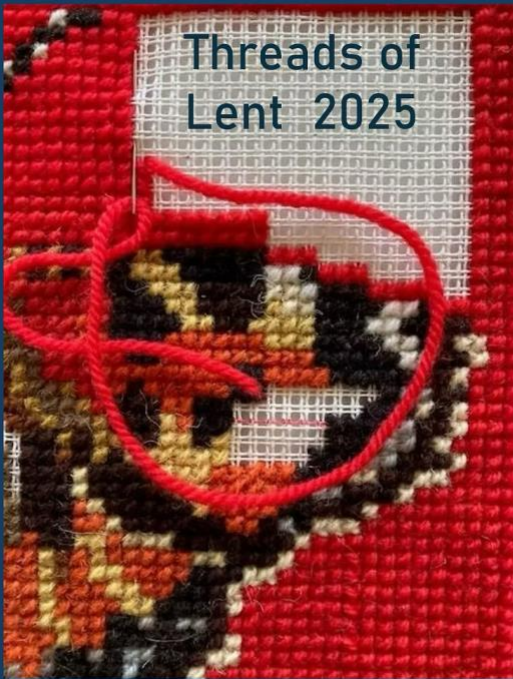
FRIDAY 14TH
MARCH

FORNHAM ST
MARTIN CHURCH

12 - 2 PM

LENT IS A JOURNEY, NOT A DESTINATION.
GROWTH TAKES TIME AND EFFORT.

HOW IS LENT MEANINGFUL FOR YOU?



Threads of Lent 2025

Calling all Crafters!

Are you wanting to have a sort-out for Lent ?
Nurture your creativity?
Complete a half-done project?
Try something new?

You are welcome to our "Threads of Lent" Group
at: St Mary's Church in West Stow
On : Wednesday afternoons from 2pm
Starting on: Wednesday 12th March and then each
Wednesday until the 9th April

Easy parking
Tea and coffee
Bring your own materials

Enquiries to Sarah Gull seg30@cam.ac.uk

LENT



LENT IS A TIME FOR QUIET
REFLECTION AND CONTEMPLATION



IT IS A SEASON OF ABSTINENCE
AND FASTING



SOME CHRISTIANS GIVE
SOMETHING UP DURING LENT

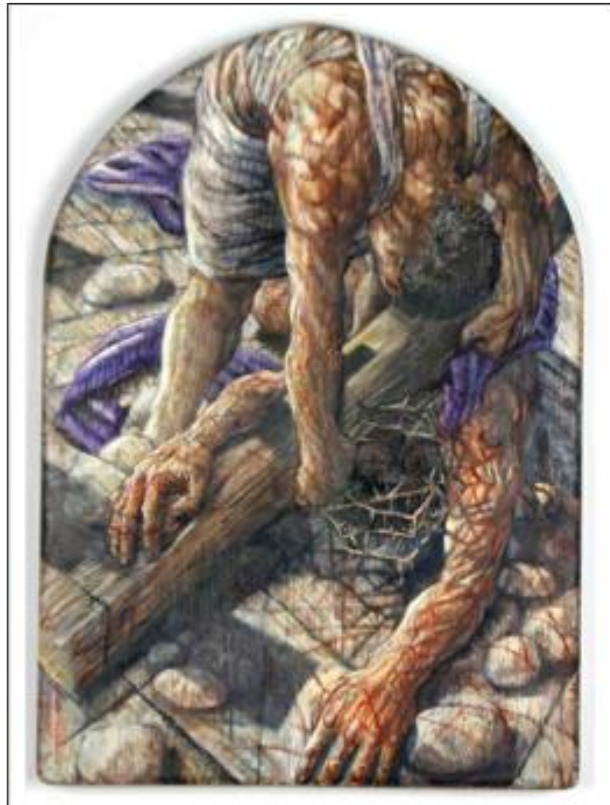


OTHERS CHOOSE TO CARRY
OUT ACTS OF PENANCE

Fridays in Lent
at 6pm

from
7th March
to
11th April

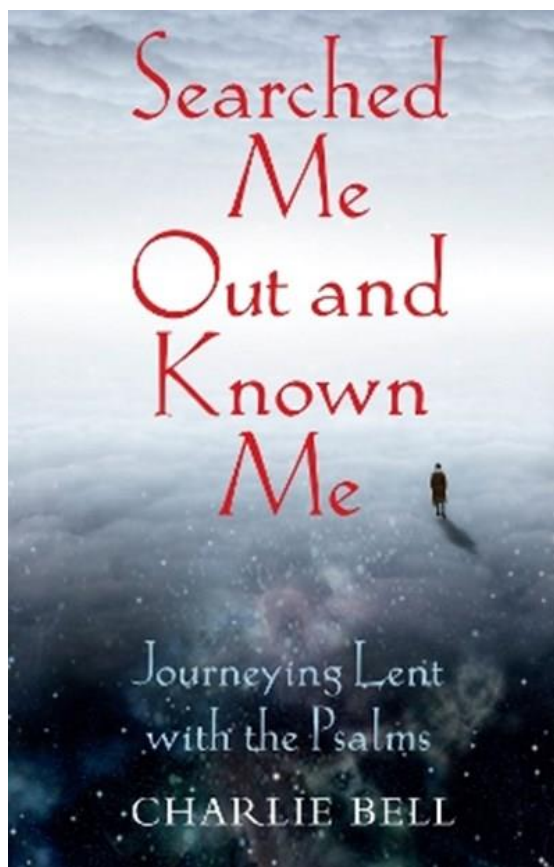
St John's Church
Bury St Edmunds



Stations of the Cross

Reflections following
the narrative
of Christ's passion
using the pictures
created by Iain McKillop

LENT IN THE LARK VALLEY NORTH BURY TEAM



Every year we make our Lenten journey together – but this year we will do so accompanied by the Psalms.

We will be using the wonderful book,
Searched Me Out and Known Me, by Charlie Bell.

You may like to purchase your own copy - not least so you can continue to use it in Holy Week - but it is not essential.

Don't worry if you cannot make every session.
Come to what you can. And bring a friend while you are at it!

When: Saturday, 10-11.30am

Dates: 8th, 15th and 29th March, 5th and 12th April

Where: St John the Evangelist, St John's St, BSE

Further details: Mother Ali teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com 01284 728714

CAPTION COMPETITION RESULT



There were a couple of lengthy entries this week from Henry Allen:

The Revd Sarah Gull hoped that the Team Rector would soon stop putting his thumb in her ear. But did he care? No, he did not.

Jack's wielding of the thurible had pushed the earth's centre of gravity several degrees from the vertical. For some reason, the clergy seemed to think this was amusing.

*But there was nothing to beat the succinct brevity and wit of this week's winner, **Fr Bob Torrens** with:*

"Let go my ear!"

You are warmly invited to the

Culford Saturday Café

Culford Village Hall IP28 6DN

22nd March

10am-12 noon

**Lots of cake, coffee and tea
provided!**

***Donations in aid of St. Mary's Church,
West Stow***





Monday 24 March 2025 at 7.30pm
St John the Evangelist Bury St Edmunds IP33 1SN

The eve of the **Annunciation**
of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary



Solemn Eucharist

President: The Revd Ali Miller

Preacher: The Revd Julia Mann

followed by a party ~ **ALL ARE WELCOME**

*Members of the Society of Catholic Priests are
warmly invited to join us for this celebration.*

*The Eucharist will be preceded at 6.30pm
by the Annual Meeting of Affirming
Catholicism, St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.*

Affirming Catholicism ~ St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

We are a movement of inspiration and hope in the Anglican Communion, bringing together and strengthening lay and ordained people who recognize the positive, inclusive and joyful currents in the catholic tradition of Christianity. We value models of love, friendship and community for all seeking to follow the gospel, irrespective of ethnicity, gender, disability or sexual orientation.

All are welcome to join us at our meetings

Convenor: Michael Wilde 01284 767415 07342 100252
Secretary: The Revd Sarah Jenkins
Treasurer: Adrian Mann 01284 753984 07771 593403

cormack246@gmail.com
revdsarahjenkins@gmail.com
adrian.mann@btinternet.com

THE MEAD SINGERS

Conducted by Michael Phillips



I WILL FOLLOW HIM

Music and Readings for Choir and
Congregation for Passiontide

Sunday 6th April

3PM

**St George's Church, Anselm Avenue,
Bury St Edmunds, IP33 6JZ**

Organist and Meditations by David Honeyball

Retiring Collection



CAPTION COMPETITION

A choice of fairtrade wine or chocolate awaits the person who can contribute the winning caption for this photograph, kindly provided by Margaret Steavenson, who wonders if this figure shown in the environs of Timworth church is an escapee from the congregation.

Please send your entries by Monday 18th March to the Viral Bulletin at adrian.mann@btinternet.com

Contacts

Revd Dr Andy Miller	01284 728714	teamrectorlvnb@btinternet.com
Revd Ali Miller	01284 728714	teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com
Team Office	01284 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 photographs are always welcome.
