

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

9 February 2025

4th Sunday before 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



Frosty morning at Timworth church

2 February 2025

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4th Sunday before Lent

Isaiah 6.1-8 [9-end] Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15.1-11 Luke 5.1-11

Our readings for this Sunday all contain something of the call of God to human beings. It is a pretty extraordinary thought that God wants us to respond to him. So whether we are aware of it or not, the fact that we come together to worship is a sign that each one of us is called to follow Jesus, to worship and adore him.

Some of us may have had a distinct sense of this call during our lives, while for others it may not be quite so clear cut. Whichever category we come into, we should not think one better than the other because once we are baptised we are all equal, part of the family of Christ, and we are all recipients of the call of Jesus.

Our reading from Isaiah tells us exactly when the prophet's own call took place. It was in the year that King Uzziah died – in other words in the year 740 BC, and the prophet is quite clear about what he sees and hears as all his senses are engaged.

He sees the Lord holding court sitting on his throne rather like a great ruler of the time. The seraphs that he sees are important angels with six wings in attendance upon God rather like a ruler's bodyguards.

The prophet smells the smoke of burning coals. Perhaps he feels the burning sensation as the coal is touched on to his lips as an act of purification. Then he hears the call of God asking for someone to be God's messenger. And his response is immediate – 'Here I am,' he says, 'send me.'

This is a truly powerful piece of our scriptures with its vivid imagery. It's no accident that this passage is often read at ordinations. It makes you tremble in your shoes, especially when we realize that the message that the prophet is commissioned to take to the people is not the sort of communication that they will welcome. It's hard and dangerous work giving people unpalatable truths about themselves.

And then in our gospel reading we have the story of the astonishingly large catch of fish. In John's gospel, this story is part of the sequence of resurrection appearances of Jesus, but Luke makes it a part of the calling of the apostles. Up until this point in Luke's gospel, Jesus seems to have worked alone, but here he calls the disciples so they can help him.

They are to become fishers of people. So here is this preacher with a background in carpentry giving instructions to a bunch of very tired fishermen who probably just want to get done with mending their nets and then go home to bed.

Yet there is something about Jesus that makes Simon follow his advice. And they end up with such a huge catch that they can't manage it alone, they have to get help from their partners to cope with it.

This extraordinary episode seriously unnerves Simon. He suddenly becomes aware of his sins and shortcomings (just like the prophet Isaiah) and all he wants is for Jesus to go away from him because it's all too much for him to bear.



Snowdrops in Timworth churchyard

Perhaps we may be aware of times when we've wanted to run away from God, or wanted him to leave us alone. It may be that there is something that we know we are being asked to do, but we do not want to face up to it. Then we see how Jesus doesn't tell Simon off, he simply tells him not to be afraid and that from now on he will be fishing for people.

In our second reading we find Paul telling the members of the church in Corinth that he too was called to be an apostle – but he puts himself last because of the persecutions of the infant church that he organised.

He reminds them of the death and resurrection of Jesus and tells of resurrection appearances of their Lord – one of which we only know about because of Paul's mentioning it in this letter. The members of the church in Corinth are to remain faithful to their calling.

But whenever, wherever and however we are called, it is only by God's goodness and kindness to us that we are able to respond or indeed to do anything at all. It is only by God's grace that we are enabled to seek his will and then to carry it out.

God is not a bully, we can choose not to respond. God invites us, he does not force us to accept the call and sometimes he has to call us more than once if we are slow in realising what is happening.

We can all give thanks for our own call to follow Jesus. We might like to reflect on how this call has changed our lives. May each one of us always be faithful in responding to him and following the path he has set before us.

Julia Mann

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 9 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

Monday 10 February *Scholastica, abbess, c543*

Tuesday 11 February

6.00pm	A Quiet Space	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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Wednesday 12 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 13 February

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

Friday 14 February *Cyril and Methodius, missionaries, 869 and 885*

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

Saturday 15 February *Sigfrid, bishop, 1045;*

Thomas Bray, priest, founder of SPCK & SPG, 1730

SUNDAY 16 February 3rd Sunday before 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) gathering at 9.15am	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

All Saints' Church
Bury St Edmunds
Saturday 8th 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

Wonder Club

Story
Wondering
Craft
Prayer
Cake



St Lawrence, Lackford
9th February, 3pm

Thingoe Deanery Evensong



The Rural Dean, Revd Andy Miller, and Deanery Lay Chair, Dr Sarah Cooledge, are planning a service of Evensong in one of our churches later in the year, possibly late spring/early summer. This will be for all Churches in our Deanery and will be accompanied by a voluntary choir from among our different congregations and friends.

Please let me know if you can offer your voice as soprano, alto, tenor or bass. Music reading skills are not essential. Kevin Slingsby, organist at Horringer church, will be our conductor. Please email me with your name and add S, A, T or B – or telephone me.

We will circulate the venue and date as soon as possible. This is a provisional request to ascertain how many people would be interested.

Michael Wilde
cormack246@gmail.com 01284 767415

Fornham St Martin Church

*Book Sale,
Coffee & Cakes*

Saturday 15th February

10:00am - 3:00pm

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

All Welcome



CAFÉ

Saturday February 22nd

10am -12 noon

Culford Village Hall

**(The village hall for West Stow, Wordwell, Culford Heath,
Culford and Ingham)**

**Come and enjoy a freshly
brewed cup of Fair Trade
coffee (or tea) and some yummy
cakes or savouries**

Table tennis available

**DONATIONS ARE INVITED FOR
St Mary's Church, Culford**

EVERYONE WELCOME

Signs of Spring are appearing ...

... however, the days are still cold. The Salvation Army shop in town (opposite Iceland) is in need of men's coats and jumpers in particular and ladies' clothing of all sizes including coats and cardigans / jumpers.

Bury Drop In sends its guests with a voucher to the Salvation Army shop where they may get warm clothing.

The lady in the shop sends her thanks to everyone who responded last time. She said it helped them so much.

Can we help again?

Valerie Wilde

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

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

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!

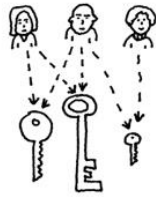
Make a donation with **JustGiving**

THE TEN WEEK COURSE

FOR NEW CHURCHGOERS



WEEK 1: BASICS OF CHURCH KITCHEN ETIQUETTE



WEEK 2: KEYS. WHO HAS WHICH ONE?



WEEK 3: STANDING/ SITTING/ KNEELING MASTERCLASS



WEEK 4: A GUIDE TO HOLDING MULTIPLE BOOKS AND SHEETS OF PAPER



WEEK 5: WASHING UP FOR CHURCH FUNCTIONS (LEVEL 1)



WEEK 6: HOW TO USE THE DEVICE THAT FOLDS THE TABLE LEGS



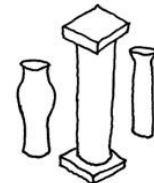
WEEK 7: STAYING WARM - HINTS AND TIPS



WEEK 8: THE PHOTOCOPIER



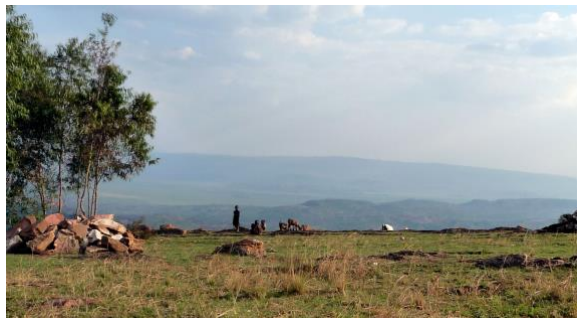
WEEK 9: STACKING THE CHAIRS- AN INTRODUCTION TO THE '5 HIGH' RULE



WEEK 10: VASES AND PEDESTALS ORIENTATION

Cartoonchurch.com

Bishop's Lent Appeal



Inspired by his trip to Tanzania last year, Bishop Martin saw the importance of our continuing relationship with Kagera, all that it offers and how important it is for us to strengthen the link. Bishop Graeme has therefore agreed that the 2025 Lent Appeal will be for Kagera. Taken from the hymn 'Great is thy faithfulness' this year the theme of the appeal is **'Bright Hope for Tomorrow'**.

We can support this appeal in various ways, of which praying for Kagera is the most important. We are asked to think of ways in our parishes of making a collection or holding a Lent fundraising event, as many of us have done before. By popular demand the Challenge booklet is back to its original format with daily thoughts and challenges.

Our aim is to support farming initiatives and good practice in agriculture, training at Kagera Christian Theological College (KCTC), and resourcing of pastors. We will also continue our support for healthcare in the region through the Diocesan hospital.

[For all the resources, to order the printed booklets and to donate please visit our website here.](#)

Contacts

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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.
