

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

22 August 2021

12th Sunday after Trinity

Please forward this to anyone you know who might not be in our Google group.
For links to information about us please visit: www.northburychurches.org.uk



People from All Saints', Bury St Edmunds gather in Jean Lywood's garden

Photo: Claire Rose

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Photographs from All Saints', Bury

12th Sunday after Trinity

Joshua 24.1-2a,14-18 Ephesians 6.10-20 John 6.56-69

A few years ago Philip and I took some holiday and spent a day out at Windsor. Now I'd never been inside the castle before and I was amazed by some of the things I saw, including Queen Mary's dolls house and the armour of Henry the Eighth!

It was interesting, to see how this suit of armour could expand as he increased in size ... it made me wonder if we couldn't have clothes that grow with us ... and then there would be no need to buy quite so many clothes ... but perhaps I shouldn't go there ...

But coming back to the armour; we find that today, in our reading from Ephesians, Paul talks about armour. We, along with the Ephesian Christians, are expected to take up the whole armour of God. We had this reading at our unity service recently with Churches Together in the Abbey Gardens. It was very well portrayed, with the use of puppets by Southgate Church members.

But Paul was clearly aware of the political and social realities of his time. He knew that there was nowhere to run from them. And perhaps the question for him, as it is for us, was how to live in them. Paul exhorts us to be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his power. We need strength of character, and the will to live a balanced, constructive, Christian life.

This requires more strength than we ourselves possess. And so we need a strength beyond ourselves ... the strength of the Lord's power. This is what he means by the phrase - *putting on the whole armour of God*.

We put on protective clothing for dealing with different things. Some of us will have experienced visiting someone recently in either a care home or a hospital and having to put on protective clothing first.

Or you may have used a wet suit for water sports to protect you from the cold water? People also put on protective clothing for dealing with dangerous contaminants, or for diving into ocean trenches or for travelling into space.

Paul tells us that we need to protect ourselves ... and perhaps others, too ... and so we need to recognize that living in modern-day society is like being immersed in a hostile environment ... and that we may need to dress accordingly ... by putting on some spiritual armour.

But before you all rush off to find your armour, we might also need to state that not everything around us should be automatically dismissed as evil. There is much beauty and goodness in our world.

The diver in the underwater vehicle, four miles down below the surface of the ocean, will rejoice at so much beauty gliding past. The astronaut will look with awe at the world seen from so many miles up, turning silently and majestically. Both of these two watchers are also aware, that if they neglect the rules and disciplines, which enable them to enter these awesome realms, their lives could be snuffed out. We may need to develop similar attitudes, so that we are totally aware of the environments we live in.

There is much beauty all around us. There is much goodness and creativity. There is much loveliness of spirit. There are many great thoughts and good actions, and we thank God for them all.

But there are also spiritual forces of evil and it is against these that we need to stand firm and keep alert. As we struggle in seeking to do God's will and resist temptation, we are part of a much bigger conflict with hostile spiritual forces. We need to be ready for the battle, that every Christian must fight in ... and to use the whole armour of God, the protection which God provides, and on which we are to rely in trust and self-discipline.

Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, is very realistic about the challenges we face. But the struggle is not between two equal powers. God's ultimate victory is assured. In the words of an African evangelist: 'The devil he got a right to fight, but he ain't got no right to win.'

So we, as the church of God, here in the Lark Valley and North Bury Benefice, can face the fight with confidence and proclaim the gospel of peace. We must put on the belt of truth and the breast plate of righteousness, take up the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit.

Paul gives us a very vivid picture of all the different bits of armour, and we need it all, because we are all weak and vulnerable, as we face the many temptations and challenges that surround us. The struggle is all part of God's marvellous plan to restore peace and justice to the world, by bringing all things under Christ.

May we be better prepared for the conflict and spiritual battles of life ... as we learn to rely more on God's armour, to be our resource, for living as a Christian in the world today.

Amen

Val Gagen

12th Sunday after Trinity 22nd August

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)
9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)
11.00am	Parish Eucharist (CW)
12noon	Holy Communion (BCP)
3.00pm	Holy Baptism

All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
St George's, Bury St Edmunds
Culford
Fornham St Martin
St John's, Bury St Edmunds
Flempton
Culford

Monday 23rd August

11.30am	Funeral Eucharist: Sally Pettitt RIP
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St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Tuesday 24th August Bartholomew the Apostle

8.30am	Morning Prayer
6.00pm	Meditation

St George's, Bury St Edmunds
St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Wednesday 25th August

8.30am	Morning Prayer
9.30am	Eucharist (CW)

St John's, Bury St Edmunds
St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Thursday 26th August

9.30am	Eucharist (CW)
7.30pm	Induction/Licensing Service

All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
All Saints', Bury St Edmunds

Friday 27th August Monica, mother of Augustine of Hippo

7.30am	Eucharist (CW)
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St John's, Bury St Edmunds

13th Sunday after Trinity 29th August

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)
9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)
11.00am	Parish Eucharist (CW)

All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
St George's, Bury St Edmunds
Lackford
St John's, Bury St Edmunds

CHURCH on ZOOM

Everyone is welcome to join our **Church Zoom Gathering** at 11am on Sundays

Please email Claire for the link at clairerose1953@gmail.com

LIVE-STREAMED WORSHIP

The **Parish Eucharist** is live-streamed from St John's
every Sunday at 11am on Facebook
and is later posted onto our website

[@StJohnsBSE](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsBSE)
www.northburychurches.org.uk

Welcome!

On Thursday this week the churchwardens and PCCs of the Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry ...



... are hosting the Institution of the Revd Andy Miller as Team Rector ...

... and the Licensing of the Revd Ali Miller as Team Vicar ...

... by the Rt Revd Graeme Knowles at All Saints' church, Bury St Edmunds.

We welcome Andy and Ali and their daughters Lucy and Beatrix to Suffolk. We pray for them and hope they will be very happy here.



Let not your heart be troubled

Malcolm Guite

Always there comes this parting of the ways
The best is wrested from us, borne away,
No one is with us always, nothing stays,
Night swallows even the most perfect day.
Time makes a tragedy of human love,
We cleave forever to the one we choose
Only to find 'forever' in the grave.
We have just time enough to love and lose.

You know too well this trouble in our hearts
Your heart is troubled for us, feels it too,
You share with us in time that shears and parts
To draw us out of time and into you.
I go that you might come to where I am
Your word comes home to us and brings us home.

This is a reflection on John 14.1-3, where Jesus says:

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

Malcolm Guite writes:

This saying was not uttered on some sunny morning when all is going well, but on the night Jesus was betrayed, the night before he died, and in that poignant scene he shared their pain, and shares with all us the sheer tragedy of our mortality. But even as he prepared them for the sorrow of parting he also instilled in them the hope of resurrection, the hope of Heaven and homecoming which they could not yet see.

This passage in John is very often chosen, and rightly so, as a reading at funerals, because it expresses both empathy and hope, and when I came to compose this sonnet I was gathering together the thoughts and prayers of the many funerals I have taken and hoping to write something that might be helpful, in opening these verses for people who choose to have them read at a funeral.



*As COP26 approaches, our course
for the Season of Creation
September 2021 is*

Caring for Creation

“an informative course... **Caring for Creation** digs deeper into issues, and is particularly good at calling out misplaced Christian attitudes”
(*Church Times* review)

Written by Brian Davis

The human race is facing its greatest challenge:
the threat to the environment and climate change.
Faith in our Creator God should enable us to see what is actually happening.

At Fornham St Martin on Tuesdays at 11am (NB correction)

At St John's, Bury St Edmunds on Wednesdays at 7pm

At All Saints', Bury St Edmunds on Thursdays at 2.30pm

At St George's, Bury St Edmunds on Saturdays at 10am

Photographs from All Saints', Bury St Edmunds



Coffee morning at church

Photo: Claire Rose



In the Abbey Gardens with Churches Together

Photo: Claire Rose

Coming up ...

AUGUST

Monday 23 ST JOHN'S, BURY ST EDMUNDS
Funeral Eucharist for Sally Pettitt
11.30am

Thursday 26 ALL SAINTS', BURY ST EDMUNDS
Induction of the Revd Andy Miller as Team Rector and
Licensing of the Revd Ali Miller as Team Vicar
7.30pm
~ with Bishop Graeme and Archdeacon David

SEPTEMBER

Monday 20 ST EDMUND'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH CRYPT
Churches Together in Bury St Edmunds and District
Annual General Meeting, 7.30pm

OCTOBER

Saturday 30 ST MARY'S, WEST STOW
Tea, Talk and Tunes
4.30pm onwards
Late afternoon entertainment in aid of St Mary's church funds ~
beginning with tea and featuring Clive Paine on the history of the church
and a performance by the Suffolk Church Singers.

NOVEMBER

Saturday 13 ST GEORGE'S, BURY ST EDMUNDS
Grand Christmas Fayre
11.30am - 2.30pm
refreshments *including* hot food and drink ~ a grand raffle ~ terrific
tombola ~ win a bottle of wine game ~ 'new and unwanted' gift stall ~
homemade cakes and preserves and much more ...

*Don't forget to let the 'Viral Bulletin' have
details of forthcoming events at your church in
the Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry.*

Bury Drop In Newsflash



We are excited to announce that we are recruiting for a new role as general manager in time for the re-opening our face-to-face sessions, in line with government guidelines, in October.

If you have experience in developing people and want to make a difference, the Bury Drop In has an exciting new role available and is now accepting applications.

Bury Drop In is a registered charity that was started by several local churches in September 2015. Its aim is to provide effective access to a wide range of services to homeless or vulnerably housed individuals and families in Bury St. Edmunds so they may experience a brighter future. Since its inception nearly six years ago, the charity has cared for hundreds of men and women who have been street homeless, rough sleepers, 'sofa-surfing,' or in temporary accommodation. The charity currently hosts three sessions weekly, including a self-help group.

Bury Drop In is looking to appoint someone with strong leadership and people management skills to run the charity's activities.

This is a part-time (24 hours per week) position based in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, working alongside the Communications and Volunteer Manager.

For more information about the position and to apply, please contact Ally Gill at info@burydropin.org.

Closing date: Friday 27th August 2021, 5pm.

DO YOU HAVE ANY PHOTOS ... ?

*... of your church and people which you can submit
(with permission from anyone depicted)
as an email attachment?*

Items for the VIRAL BULLETIN are very welcome
and can include photographs and illustrations.

Please send them to Adrian Mann:

adrian.mann@btinternet.com