

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

23 May 2021

Pentecost

Please forward this to anyone you know who might not be in our Google group.

For links to information and worship during the coronavirus restrictions

please visit: www.northburychurches.org.uk



*Early morning light at West Stow
Tuesday 18 May*

Annabelle Reed

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Pentecost Sunday

PENTECOST, from earliest times, has been seen as the second great feast of the Christian Church. It marks climax and initiation, end and beginning. Called the birthday of the Church, it establishes the foundation of a religion distinct from Judaism, though rooted in it.

'Pentecost', Greek for 50th, names the second major festival of the Jewish year, 50 days after Passover. Also known as the 'Feast of Weeks' – still celebrated a few days ago in Jerusalem synagogues amid all the current chaos – it gives thanks for 'first fruits' (the first wheat) of the agricultural year. This is a seasonal new beginning. In Jewish history, a time of reform had brought all major celebrations to the Temple in Jerusalem, so that, with the autumn harvest, three annual pilgrimages had to be made, with great crowds thronging the city. Passover and Pentecost in our scriptures show this. It became the required custom to hear the reading from Exodus of the giving of the Law to Moses, to endorse God's ancient covenant with His people.

For Christians, Passover has become Easter, and the Feast of Weeks the Pentecostal coming of the Holy Spirit. Although we keep Ascension on the 40th day of Easter, following the reference at the beginning of Acts, Ascension and Pentecost were often one combined feast in early calendars, Christ's departure and the Spirit's advent being joined. Today's Gospel passage in Jesus's 'final discourse' has the clear statement that he must go for the Spirit (Advocate) to come.

In connection with the great celebration of Ascension/Pentecost, in keeping with the inspired spreading of the Good News, baptisms and confirmations became held in large numbers from early times, even more than at Easter (which was otherwise very full). In the baptismal rite, white garments are given to signify new purity after sins are washed away. 'Candida', Latin for 'white' has given us 'candidate'. (Also 'albus' is seen in 'alb'.) So in this country, the name 'Whit(e)Sunday' appeared; many of us will remember late-May processions of young people in new, gleaming, white dresses (also given veils). Whit Week was a rare holiday in the North. Now, of course the secular Bank Holiday is unconnected with Pentecost.

The liturgical colour has always been red, both before and after a mediaeval pope's ruling on the use of colours. More usually red signifies martyrs' blood, but for this festival it stands for fire, the tongues of flame described, sign of the Holy Spirit. The tongue is the organ of speech – and another word for language – and the direct result for the apostles was a sudden rush of language with huge impact. We are told they were in a house when the phenomenon came, but appear to have gone out to the Temple court, among the festival crowds. It seems useless to wonder how, with all the noise and background, any distinct words could be understood in any language, but the fired-up energy would be unmistakeable. The point is being strongly made for us that the new Good News, of God's action for His people, is to

be carried out to everyone in any region, uniting them, drawing them together. This is in obvious contrast to the separating division shown in the Genesis story of the Tower of Babel. There, it was over-weening self-promotion that would divide people, and symbolically their speech, while here, Luke is showing us, the new understanding of God's Kingdom is to make all one. Luke speaks of real language with content. The ecstasy of 'speaking in tongues' (glossolalia) can be similarly impressive, but, as Paul later had occasion to write, it doesn't actually convey information. It's nevertheless a recognised part of Pentecostal worship in some churches.

'Word of mouth' remains a meaningful phrase today, even with the multiplied means of communication we now have. Back in the 1st Century there were certainly letters, in scrolls and parchments (that we know Paul used), but these had to be read aloud, so the voice was overwhelmingly the conveyer of news.

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me, to preach the Gospel to the poor'. From the prophet Isaiah Jesus read this in the synagogue at Nazareth, validating the words. When his mortal time on earth was ended, the Spirit was to come, unlimited by time or space, to inspire as many as would listen. The apostles were to be the first witnesses and many would follow them, many consecrated or commissioned for the task, many also giving their lives for declaring their faith.

However, the power of the tongue is not always for good. The epistle of James refers to the blaze of destruction, almost like a forest fire, that can be caused by the tongue, which can be used to curse as well as to bless. In our day, 'hate speech' has had to be made a crime, following centuries of suffering from verbal abuse. There are current cases. In the war a saying was 'careless talk costs lives' and still we know that thoughtless remarks can give injury lasting for years. Speech needs guarding, as politicians know, but this is everyday speech of the world. Pentecost brought an impelled, irresistible inspiration, that gave not only purpose but astonishing strength to the apostles, whose lives were changed again as they became filled with the Spirit and a new boldness.

We look for this same strength in the Church today; this year, building up to the great feast, there have been many fervent initiatives of prayer, with an increased longing for a unity to link all our diversities. But in it all we must, with the psalmist, 'Wait for the Lord, wait patiently for Him, and He will give you your heart's desire'.

'Grant, O merciful Father, that your divine Spirit may enlighten, inflame and cleanse our hearts; that we may be penetrated with your heavenly dew, and made fruitful in all things. We ask this, for you live and reign, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.'

(from the Golden Manual)

Veni, Creator Spiritus.

Marianne Atkinson

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES THIS WEEK

PENTECOST 23rd May

9.00am	Parish Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham St Martin
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Culford
11.00am	Parish Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
12 noon	Eucharist (CW)	Flempton

Tuesday 25th May The Venerable Bede

8.30am	Morning Prayer	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
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Wednesday 26th May St Augustine of Canterbury

9.30am	Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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Thursday 27th May

9.30am	Eucharist (CW)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
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Friday 28th May

7.30am	Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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TRINITY SUNDAY 30th May

9.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
10.00am	Benefice Eucharist (CW)	Timworth
Please note the time of this morning's service at Timworth		
11.00am	Parish Eucharist (CW)	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

!!!!!! PLEASE NOTE !!!!!

!! There is NO CHURCH ZOOM GATHERING on Sunday 30th May !!

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



#CandleOfJustice: a moment of action on 25 May

Join Churches Together in England on 25 May 2021 for [Candle of Justice: a moment of action](#) – commemorating the first anniversary of George Floyd's murder. The Candle of Justice will be a moment to light a candle, pray for racial justice and commit to taking personal and institutional action to tackle racial injustice in our society and our churches.

Join in

Follow these **five simple steps** for how you and your church can get involved in the national #CandleOfJustice campaign on 25 May:

1. At noon, **pause for one minute** to remember George Floyd and all those who experience racism
2. **Light your candle*** (or alternatively shine a light from your phone)
3. **Pray** using the Candle of Justice prayer (at the end of this Viral Bulletin)
4. Pause, reflect and **make a personal commitment** to tackling racial injustice
5. **Share on social media** – upload your candle photo or share the Candle of Justice prayer graphic. Remember to use the hashtag #CandleOfJustice and tag in @ChurchesEngland

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches Praying Together ~ June 2021

For the wider community and church

- 1 T For all those affected by coronavirus
- 2 W Rough sleepers & homeless people
- 3 T Marham Park
- 4 F The West Suffolk Crematorium
- 5 S Housing & businesses in Mildenhall Road area

- 6 S Industrial and retail estates in the north east of the town
- 7 M Doctors' & dentists' surgeries and health centres
- 8 T Bury Town Pastors
- 9 W Vineyard Church
- 10 T Kingsgate Church
- 11 F West Suffolk College and its chaplaincy team
- 12 S All who live in Culford

- 13 S St Mary's Church, Culford
- 14 M *Growing in God* worship, work & witness at Culford
- 15 T Culford School
- 16 W Culford Village Hall
- 17 T Cedar Lodge Residential Home
- 18 F Food Banks - organisers and users
- 19 S Trinity Methodist church

- 20 S North Court Care Home & Manson House Residential Home
- 21 M For those affected by addictions of all kinds
- 22 T St Andrew's Street housing area
- 23 W Northgate Street Business Park and other local businesses
- 24 T The Abbey Gardens - those who visit and those who work there
- 25 F Garland Street Baptist Church & Bury Drop In
- 26 S St Nicholas Hospice and its chaplaincy team

- 27 S West Suffolk Hospital and its chaplaincy team
- 28 M For industrial chaplains
- 29 T For those who are unemployed, on furlough or made redundant
- 30 W For all keyworkers in the coronavirus pandemic

Coming up ...

MAY

Tuesday 18	FORNHAM ST MARTIN	Annual Meeting at 11am in church
Wednesday 19	CULFORD	Annual Meeting at 11am in church
Sunday 23	ST GEORGE, BURY	Annual Meeting in church after 9.30am service
	FLEMPTON	Annual Meeting in church after 12 noon service
Tuesday 25	FORNHAM ALL SAINTS	Annual Meeting at 5.30pm in church
	WEST STOW	Annual Meeting at 7.30pm in church
Wednesday 26	ST JOHN, BURY	Annual Meeting at 7pm in church
Saturday 29	WORDWELL	<i>This is my Theatre</i> perform ' Treasure Island ' at 2pm in the field next to the church in aid of the Churches Conservation Trust
Sunday 30	ALL SAINTS, BURY	Annual Meeting in church after 9am service

JUNE

Thursday 3	ST JOHN, BURY	Corpus Christi Solemn Eucharist at 7pm with Dean Joe Hawes presiding and preaching
Sunday 13	WEST STOW	Open Village Gardens between 1–5pm in aid of St Mary's West Stow
	ST GEORGE'S	Father's Day Fun Family Celebration at 3pm. Please book with Val Gagen by 8 June.
Sunday 27	ABBAY GARDENS	Churches Together Summer Celebration, bring a picnic, 1.30pm to 4.15pm
Monday 28	ON ZOOM	Archdeacon's Visitation Service at 7.15 for 7.30pm

JULY

Thursday 28 to Saturday 31		Benefice Retreat at LAUNDE ABBEY Travelling with Jonah - Bishop John Flack
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AUGUST

Thursday 26	VENUE TO BE ANNOUNCED	Induction of the Revd Andy Miller and Licensing of the Revd Ali Miller at 7.30pm as Team Rector & Team Vicar of the benefice ~ with Bishop Martin and Archdeacon David
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SEPTEMBER

Sunday 5	WEST STOW	Church Improvements Celebration Eucharist with Archdeacon David at 10am
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CandleOfJustice



O Lord, you are a God of justice –
may we share your passion for justice,
which can be seen throughout the Bible.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
enable us to stand up for justice
and stand against intolerance.

Thank you that you love each person,
made in the image of God.
Change our hearts to see others as you do.
Allow our hearts to break over the sin of
racism, and our lament to turn into
righteous action.
Amen.

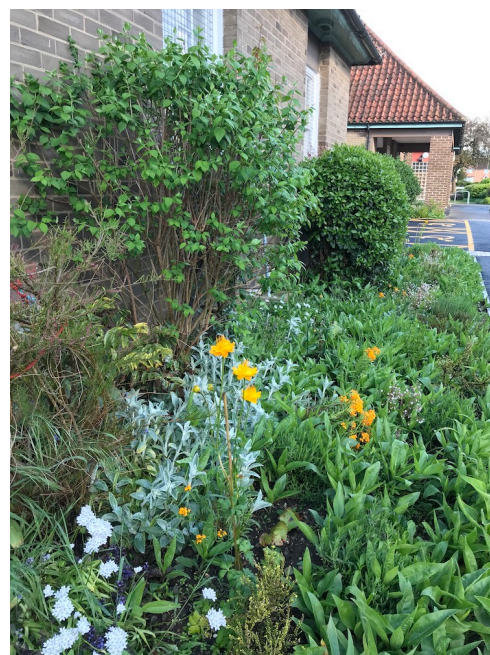
cte.org.uk/justice



Environmentally friendly planting in churchyards at St John's (left) and St George's (right)



Caroline Ranson



Val Gagen

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