

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

29 November 2020

Advent Sunday

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



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Advent Sunday

The First Sunday in Advent is the Church's New Year's Day.

Will it be a "Happy New Year"? Don't bet on it.

Will it be time of testing? Definitely.

We may have a bit of comfort and joy at Christmas - "as normal as possible" (Boris). But in Advent we look beyond the Christmas Story, a story so familiar that we often take it for granted, and concentrate on something far from familiar; the coming of Christ in glory to judge the living and the dead.

We sign up to that statement whenever we say the Nicene Creed. But such references as we have are in picture language, like the Gospel for today.

Matthew, Mark and Luke all use the same imagery, in which Our Lord foretells great suffering and tumultuous events in the natural world, with the Son of Man coming in the clouds with glory to judge the world and to take his people to himself.

St Paul paints a similar picture in his first letter to the Thessalonians (chapter 4 verse 16.) Matthew adds two parables; the sheep and the goats who are judged on the basis of works of mercy, done or not done, and the wise and foolish bridesmaids with their different responses to the arrival of the bridegroom.

Whatever teaching we may derive from these stories, the "Day of the Lord" will be unmistakable, universal and inescapable. And the commandment is clear: be prepared.

Prepared for what?

It is one thing to put our trust in what we know: our experience of the Lord in word and sacrament and the life and fellowship of the Church: or to see material resources as signs of God's favour - the American "Prosperity Gospel" comes to mind.

It is a very different thing to commit ourselves to a destiny which we can neither discern nor comprehend.

But that is the challenge of Advent, and Our Lord assures us that his return will be suffused with glory, whatever form it takes. We are to lift up our heads, "for our redemption is at hand".

This is the Advent hope which St Paul sets before us in Romans chapter 8. "Hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what can be seen? But if we hope for what we cannot see, we wait for it with patience."

With regard to judgement, surely it is in the here and now.

We ARE judged by every word we utter and by every action we perform or fail to perform. (Notice that all the sins of the goats in Matthew's parable are sins of omission.) And it is our painful striving towards the Kingdom of God that should concern us now, as we Watch and Wait.

Bob Torrens

ADVENT

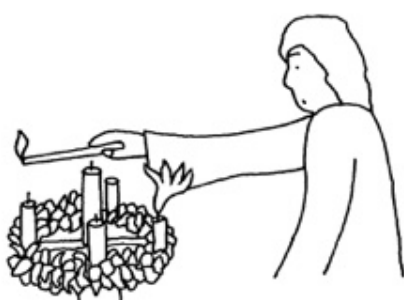
HAZARDS



TABLES BUCKLING UNDER SHEER
WEIGHT OF MINCE PIES



UNREST OVER THE CORRECT WEEK
TO LIGHT THE PINK CANDLE



ADVENT WREATH FIRES



SUPERMARKETS RUNNING OUT
OF ORANGES

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES

Under the terms of the current coronavirus lockdown public worship cannot take place in churches at present. For details of our Zoom Gathering, live-streamed worship, and churches open for private prayer please see below. *If public worship is allowed after the planned end of lockdown on 2 December, the times and places are also below.*

CHURCH ZOOM GATHERING

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

To do so, please email Claire for the link at clairerose1953@gmail.com

LIVE-STREAMED WORSHIP

The Parish Eucharist from St John's is now being live-streamed

every Sunday at 11am on Facebook [@StJohnsBSE](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsBSE)

Worship from St George's is available on Facebook

on Sunday mornings [@RevatSaintGeorges](https://www.facebook.com/RevatSaintGeorges)

The services are also posted onto the Lark Valley and North Bury

Churches website www.northburychurches.org.uk

SERVICES THIS WEEK if allowed from 3rd December

Thursday 3rd December

9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

All Saints', Bury St Edmunds

Friday 4th December

7.30am Eucharist (CW)

St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Sunday 6th December

9.00am Parish Communion (CW)

All Saints', Bury St Edmunds

9.30am Parish Communion (CW)

St George's, Bury St Edmunds

9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

Timworth

10.00am worship@fornham

Fornham All Saints

10.00am Eucharist (CW)

West Stow

11.00am Parish Eucharist (CW)

St John's, Bury St Edmunds

OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

St John the Evangelist, Bury St Edmunds

11am-3pm daily

Collection point available for donations to the Gatehouse foodbank

St Mary, West Stow

9-10.30am on Wednesdays and 10-11am on 1st and 3rd Sundays.

For access at other times please contact Ian Hobley (01284 728745) or Paul Luke (01284 729654)

All Saints, Bury St Edmunds

Sundays 2-4pm on Sundays and 10am-12noon on Wednesdays

Fornham All Saints

open every Sunday

St Andrew, Timworth

contact Alison Pettitt (01284 728379)

St Lawrence, Lackford

contact Harry Lidster (01284 728876)

Fornham St Martin

contact Beryl Dykes (01284 704109) or David Yates (01284 705157)

St George, Bury St Edmunds

contact the Revd Val Gagen (01284 361963)

St Mary, Culford & St Catherine, Flempton

contact numbers are in the porch

A message from Bishop Martin

Independent Faith Engagement Review – call for evidence

The government has recently launched an independent faith engagement review, and I want to encourage everyone to participate in the call for evidence.

Recommendations from this review will shape the future of how the government engages with faith groups during the COVID-19 recovery phase and beyond.

It is vitally important that the government hears what the church has been doing in this time. The survey is very straightforward and takes approximately twenty minutes, depending on how much you wish to comment on your answers.

The survey can be accessed [here](#).

The experience of COVID-19 has brought into sharp focus the vital work that churches do day in day out, often unnoticed, to support the most vulnerable in society. It is often the case that churches support the people who fall between the gaps of different statutory services. This is an opportunity for policymakers and politicians to understand who we are and the contribution we make to building a stronger, more caring society. If we do not take this opportunity, our voice will not be heard at this critical time.

Please share this widely. The survey closes on 11 December.

With every blessing



The Bury Old School Fund

This is a small local charity, which provides modest grants to students in both secondary and tertiary education to assist with costs such as travel and books. Applicants, or their parents, must live within the town boundaries of Bury St Edmunds in order to be considered for a grant. Applicants must also be under the age of 25.

For an application form, please e-mail osfclerk@greene-greene.com. All applications for the 2020/2021 academic year must be received by the clerk by close of business on 18th December 2020.

Booking systems

are in place for some of our services during Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Please note the following:

St Mary's, West Stow, Christingle

Sunday 20th December at 10am

Booking is advised to make sure of a place. Please contact Ian Hobley, either text to 07557107910 or email ianhobley@btinternet.com

St George's, Bury St Edmunds

Christingle & Pop-up Nativity

Sunday 20th December at 3pm

Please contact Rev Val by email rev.valgagen@gmail.com or text 07874 067371 to book a place. *No entry without booking. Thank you.*

St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Midnight Mass

Christmas Eve at 11.30pm

Booking is advised to make sure of a place. Please contact Janet Catton on 01284 615656 or email janet.catton@btinternet.com

St Mary's, West Stow

Midnight Communion

Christmas Eve at 11.30pm

Booking is advised to make sure of a place. Please contact Ian Hobley, either text to 07557107910 or email ianhobley@btinternet.com

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

Praying Together

December 2020

For the wider community and church

- 1 T For all those affected by coronavirus
- 2 W For all keyworkers in the coronavirus pandemic
- 3 T For those who are unemployed, on furlough or made redundant
- 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 Those who find Christmas a difficult time
- 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 Rough sleepers & homeless people
- 30 W Garland Street Baptist Church & Bury Drop In
- 31 T For all celebrating New Year's Eve

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches
Praying Together

December 2020

For the Lark Valley and North Bury family

1 T Andrew & Janet Catton
2 W Andrew Chaplin
3 T David Chaplin; Dawn Chaplin
4 F Margaret Chapman
5 S Tony & Joy Childs

6 S Alan & Maureen Chinery
7 M Emma Chittock
8 T Simon Chrispin
9 W Jenny & Brian Clarke
10 T Geoffrey & Ann Clarke
11 F Lynne & Ray Clarke
12 S Margaret Clarke

13 S Myke Clifford & Sue Szymanski
14 M Elizabeth Cloete
15 T Neville Cobbold; Norman Cole
16 W Gill & Trev Coleman; Joni & Miley Coleman
17 T Judy Conolly
18 F Rod, Sarah, William, Thomas, Hannah & Mary Cooledge
19 S Angela Corrie; John Cotterell

20 S David Crawley
21 M Christina Crick; Lillian Currell
22 T Richard & Angela Cutting
23 W Gordon & Grace Dalrymple
24 T Linda Davey
25 F Jenny Disney
26 S Edna Dray

27 S Genista Dunham
28 M Alison Dunn
29 T Beryl & Jeff Dykes
30 W Kate Eastell
31 T Bec Edgar

To change, add or remove names
please contact the Revd Julia Mann.
Email: jc.mann@btinternet.com



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

The Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry
has a vacancy for a

Communications and Bookings Co-ordinator

to enhance communications and provide administrative support
for the ten parishes that make up the team.

The role is for 15 hours per week
with an annual salary of £7,800.

Previous administration experience with excellent verbal and
written communication skills are essential as well as good IT
knowledge including some web-editing experience.

The position is based at All Saints' Church, Bury St Edmunds, but
some travel to the other churches may be necessary.

Please apply to Astreas013@gmail.com
for a full job description and application form.

!!! Deadline for responses is 30th November !!!

***DO YOU HAVE any photos of your church and people which
you can submit (with permission) 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