

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

28 March 2021

Palm 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



Genista Dunham

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Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, the applause and rejoicing of the crowds as they wave their palm branches and shout out:

"Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

And of course Jesus *had* come to announce the Kingdom. The Kingdom of God, its proclamation, its exposition, was what Jesus was about. With the triumphal entry it seemed that this kingdom would now be established.

Christ's victory seems near, *and then* the ensuing events are a shattering reversal. But Jesus' very action does carry the implication of that reversal. He fulfils the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9:

'Lo, your King comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

Jesus has quite deliberately chosen to identify himself with this passage. He is not an assertive ruler, riding on a charger as a demonstration of power, but a humble one, sitting on the foal of a donkey.

All the same, nothing could be more striking than this huge lurch, as the Holy Week events unfold, from triumph to apparent disaster.

And yet, in those events - that reversal, that disaster, in which Jesus is betrayed, denied, abandoned, in every conceivable way, and comes to be judicially murdered in a grotesque parody of justice - we have come to see some sort of answer to all the questions we have about what it means to be human. As Jesus goes to his cruel execution, and his followers' hopes are destroyed, somehow we find in his defeat a victory.

So it is that the passion narrative is a dominating part of all four gospels. This is a sign of the Church's awareness from the earliest times that these events are crucial (from the Latin *crux/crucifix*: cross).

The cross is for us, quite literally, crucial: the crux of the matter. The message is built into our very language.

The gospel accounts are similar, but they have marked differences, too. There is an authentic note in them of eyewitness accounts, which can be notoriously inconsistent. It is important that this is not just the greatest of stories, but that it is real, rooted in the human experience that we know.

These events can only be crucial if Jesus is *both* fully human and fully divine. This is a mystery that the Church has spent the best part of two thousand years trying to comprehend. In the end it is a mystery, and our efforts (essential though they are) to get our heads around it are bound to fail. They even *need* to fail. God is not to be contained within our understanding.

This most holy of weeks can instead help us to enter into the passion with our emotions, with our experience, reaching towards understanding with our hearts, when our heads buzz with mental wheelspin and our brains just fuse.

Yes, this is a cosmic drama. Yes, these are divine actions. And yes, too, these are human events constrained by time and place.

Here is the shocking rejection and death of God. And here, too, is the victory which saves us - in the human experience of the man Jesus, whose calling leads him somehow to take the pain and suffering of creation upon himself. This action can be divine for us *only* if it is fully human, fully vulnerable.

This is what we commemorate in the Eucharist: the sacrament of glorified humility, a blood sacrifice in benign everyday elements.

The victory of the cross lies in the fact that the man Jesus perfectly shows us this divine humility, as we gaze upon him in horrified fascination from whatever distance we can cope with, as he follows his call to take the way of the cross.

This is a week to enter into these events imaginatively, to push ourselves closer to Jesus in his humility. To be alongside his passive acceptance of the betrayals and the brutality, so as to come nearer to the victory of salvation he brings us.

If we seek to experience Holy Week deeply, we shall experience Easter deeply too, and a fuller sense of the love and forgiveness of God.

Adrian Mann

PALM SUNDAY *by Malcolm Guite*

Now to the gate of my Jerusalem,
The seething holy city of my heart,
The saviour comes. But will I welcome him?
Oh crowds of easy feelings make a start;
They raise their hands, get caught up in the singing,
And think the battle won. Too soon they'll find
The challenge, the reversal he is bringing
Changes their tune. I know what lies behind
The surface flourish that so quickly fades;
Self-interest, and fearful guardedness,
The hardness of the heart, its barricades,
And at the core, the dreadful emptiness
Of a perverted temple. Jesus come
Break my resistance and make me your home.

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Palm Sunday 28th March

9.00am	Parish Communion (BCP)	All Saints', 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
3.00pm	Easter Story Service	St George's, Bury St Edmunds

Monday in Holy Week 29th March

9.30am	Eucharist (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
8.00pm	Compline via Zoom	<i>Link from Adrian at adrian.mann@btinternet.com</i>

Tuesday in Holy Week 30th March

8.30am	Morning Prayer (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
7.00pm	Compline	Fornham All Saints

Wednesday in Holy Week 31st March

9.30am	Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
7.00pm	Compline	Fornham St Martin

Maundy Thursday 1st April

7.00pm	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham All Saints
7.00pm	Eucharist and Altar-stripping	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
8.00pm	Mass of the Last Supper, Altar-stripping and Watch for one hour	
	<i>(also live-streamed)</i>	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Good Friday 2nd April

9.30am	Morning Prayer and reading of the Passion	Timworth
10.00am	Easter Garden Service	West Stow
2.00pm	The Last Hour	Fornham St Martin
2.00pm	Liturgy of Good Friday <i>(also live-streamed)</i>	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Holy Saturday 3rd April

8.00pm	Easter Vigil: Service of Light, Renewal of Baptismal Promises and Blessing of Paschal Candles <i>(also live-streamed)</i>	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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Easter Sunday 4th April

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Lackford
9.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Timworth
9.30pm	Parish Communion (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	West Stow
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham All Saints
11.00am	Parish Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Tuesday in Easter Week 6th April

8.30am	Morning Prayer	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
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Wednesday in Easter Week 7th April

9.30am	Solemn Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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Thursday in Easter Week 8th April

9.30am	Eucharist (CW)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
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Friday in Easter Week 9th April

7.30am	Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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Second Sunday of Easter 11th April

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Culford
9.00am	Parish Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30pm	Parish Communion (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Lackford
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham St Martin
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

LIVE-STREAMED WORSHIP

The **Parish Eucharist** (and other services as indicated) 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

Dedications in Fornham

Beryl Dykes

On Mothering Sunday, at St Martin's church, a statuette of St Mary was dedicated to the memory of Father Geoffrey. It was donated by Matthew Kemsley.

On Passion Sunday, at All Saints' church in Fornham All Saints, a Poppy Frontal was dedicated to the memory of Teresa Goodenough, who had commissioned it.



Stations of the Cross at St John's

In a normal year, following the Stations of Cross is part of our devotional life during Lent and Passiontide. That's not been possible this year, but Iain McKillop's powerful *Stations of the Cross* remain available in the church for private prayer, 11am to 3pm, each day.



A **Meditation** led by Julia Mann with music by David Honeyball (organ), edited by Caroline Ranson, is now available on Facebook [@StJohnsBSE](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsBSE) and the website www.northburychurches.org.uk

Praying Together April 2021

*We pray for our churches and the communities we serve.
Please use this leaflet in your prayers.*

For the wider community and church

- 1 T For all affected by coronavirus
- 2 F Homeless people; Tayfen House & Britannia House
- 3 S All who work in and visit the King's Forest

- 4 S Easter Day – give thanks for the resurrection
- 5 M Lark Valley farms and all who walk on the Lark Valley Path
and St Edmunds Way
- 6 T All Saints' Church, Wordwell (Churches Conservation Trust)
- 7 W All who live in Wordwell
- 8 T Moseley's Farm Business Centre
- 9 F All who live in Fornham St Genevieve
- 10 S Hall Farm Business Park

- 11 S Park Farm Business Centre
- 12 M All who take care of the fabric of our churches
- 13 T All who visit our churches as tourists
- 14 W All those whose baptisms or marriages have been postponed
- 15 T All whose funerals have taken place recently
- 16 F All who mourn
- 17 S West Stow Country Park & Kings Forest Caravan Park

- 18 S West Stow Club
- 19 M St Mary's Church, West Stow
- 20 T *Growing in God* worship, work & witness at West Stow
- 21 W All who live in West Stow
- 22 T Sports clubs & golf courses
- 23 F Fullers Mill Garden; Chimney Mills Gallery
- 24 S *The Suffolk Wildlife Trust* at Lackford Lakes

- 25 S St Lawrence's Church, Lackford
- 26 M *Growing in God* worship, work & witness at Lackford
- 27 T All who live in Lackford
- 28 W All our Clergy, our Reader & Lay Elders
- 29 T That our congregations may grow in faith and numbers
- 30 F For our ministry of healing and reconciliation

Cross for Angel Hill

Churches Together are, this year, putting up a large wooden cross on Angel Hill in Bury St Edmunds as a witness for Holy Week and Easter. This is for this pandemic year, instead of the usual 'Walk of Witness' Good Friday event. There will not be any gathering - it is simply there for the general public to see.

**The cross is being placed on Friday 26th March
and will be removed on Tuesday 6th April.**



The Right Revd Martin Seeley,

the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, is delighted to announce that

The Revd Dr Andrew Miller has been appointed as Team Rector and

The Revd Alison Miller has been appointed as Team Vicar

of the Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry. This is subject to the completion of legal formalities. Andy is currently Vicar and Ali is currently Assistant Curate of the Benefice of Tanfield (St Margaret of Antioch) with Burnopfield and Dipton (St James) in the Diocese of Durham.

The Bishop gives his thanks to the parish representatives and all those involved in the process of Andy's and Ali's appointment, and he assures you of his prayers. Please pray for Andy and Ali and their daughters as they prepare for their move.

MAUNDY THURSDAY *by Malcolm Guite*

Here is the source of every sacrament,
The all-transforming presence of the Lord,
Replenishing our every element
Remaking us in his creative Word.
For here the earth herself gives bread and wine,
The air delights to bear his Spirit's speech,
The fire dances where the candles shine,
The waters cleanse us with His gentle touch.
And here He shows the full extent of love
To us whose love is always incomplete,
In vain we search the heavens high above,
The God of love is kneeling at our feet.
Though we betray Him, though it is the night.
He meets us here and loves us into light.

The sonnets PALM SUNDAY and MAUNDY THURSDAY in this edition of the Viral Bulletin are from *Sounding the Seasons: Seventy Sonnets for the Christian Year* by Malcolm Guite, published by the Canterbury Press, Norwich.

Stefanie Inger

Communications and Bookings Co-ordinator

*is in the Team Office at All Saints' Bury - 01284 700400 - from 9am to 2pm
on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Email: nbtlvb@outlook.com*

*(Please note Stefanie is self-isolating from now until 5th April,
email as above or phone 01359 760303 / 07951 286521)*

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