

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

4 April 2021

Easter Day

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



Easter Greeting from Year 5 pupils

St Edmundsbury School

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Jesus is laid in the tomb

Here at the centre everything is still
Before the stir and movement of our grief
Which bears its pain with rhythm, ritual,
Beautiful useless gestures of relief.
So they anoint the skin that cannot feel
Soothing his ruined flesh with tender care,
Kissing the wounds they know they cannot heal,
With incense scenting only empty air.
He blesses every love that weeps and grieves
And makes our grief the pangs of a new birth.
The love that's poured in silence at old graves
Renewing flowers, tending the bare earth,
Is never lost. In him all love is found
And sown with him, a seed in the rich ground.

Easter Dawn

He blesses every love which weeps and grieves
And now he blesses hers who stood and wept
And would not be consoled, or leave her love's
Last touching place, but watched as low light crept
Up from the east. A sound behind her stirs
A scatter of bright birdsong through the air.
She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,
Or recognise the Gardener standing there.
She hardly hears his gentle question 'Why,
Why are you weeping?', or sees the play of light
That brightens as she chokes out her reply
'They took my love away, my day is night'
And then she hears her name, she hears Love say
The Word that turns her night, and ours, to Day.

by Malcolm Guite

from *Sounding the Seasons: Seventy Sonnets for the Christian Year*
published by the Canterbury Press, Norwich.



Triptych

Resurrection scene from St John's Gospel

photo by Myke Clifford

Easter Day

Acts 10.34-43 1 Corinthians 14-24 Mark 16.1-8

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

On Easter Day, we celebrate with great joy the day of Resurrection, the most wonderful of festivals, the Day of Days. All through the austere season of Lent, we do not say *Alleluia*, which means *Praise God*. But when Easter comes, *Alleluia* returns.

Alleluias will be said and sung (in our hearts, if not sung out loud during this time of pandemic) with great rejoicing in hymns and prayers over and over again in churches throughout the world, as on this holy day we

give thanks for the rising from the dead of our dear Lord Jesus Christ. We celebrate the glorious risen Jesus who can be with us for all time.

We don't know what happened to Jesus when the resurrection took place in the silence of the tomb. What we do know is that Jesus has overcome the power and destruction and finality of death and now lives for evermore.

It is the resurrection of Jesus that kick-started our faith into being. It is the resurrection of Jesus that transformed a bunch of defeated, terrified disciples into apostles who would change history. They became apostles who were galvanized into telling the world about Jesus overcoming the sharpness of death and opening the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

The first Christians were firmly convinced that something stupendous had happened. In our reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians he urges them to hold firmly on to the faith that he, Paul, has handed on to them. In our readings from Acts and 1 Corinthians both Peter and Paul tell us of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Today, we are the disciples of Jesus. We are his witnesses called to be firm in the faith to which we have been called. We follow in the footsteps of the first disciples to make the message of Jesus known in our own time.

Today we give thanks for the witness of the first Christians. We are told that Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome go to the tomb in order to anoint the dead body of Jesus with spices. But they never get to perform this task.

Instead, they meet a young man who gives them a message that Jesus is risen to pass on to Peter and the disciples. But the women are in such a state of fright and shock that they turn tail and rush out of the tomb and don't say anything to anyone.

We may wonder, why didn't they pass on the message? In those days the testimony of women wasn't worth a lot. Perhaps they were so scared and in such a state of shock that they simply could not speak. Maybe they thought they were seeing things, or that they would not be believed. We don't know.

But the message that Jesus is risen did get out. And we are Christians because that message got out and has been passed on to us. So this Easter, we are called to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with everything we have. Because the promise of new life that Jesus brings is not just something that can be studied in an academic way from a theological textbook. Rather, it is something that can have a bearing on the lives of each one of us.

To live in the light of the resurrection means that our lives will be changed, perhaps in ways that we do not expect. It may be that we have to cope with all kinds of hard things that life throws at us such as sickness, bereavement – or something else specific to each one of us. And this includes living in the midst of a pandemic.

The resurrection gives us a new context to work in, a source of new hope and new strength. In his earthly ministry 2000 years ago, Jesus transformed the lives of those around him. But because Jesus is now risen, he can transform our lives today.

We are the people who can pass on the message that the Lord is risen as we in his church trust in his power to help us to continue to carry out his ministry. He can truly transform our lives and the lives of his churches too, here and now – if we ask him and if we let him.

Let's pray that we may live in the resurrection light all our days.
Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Julia Mann

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES FOR EASTER WEEK

Holy Saturday 3rd April

8.00pm Easter Vigil: Service of Light, Renewal of Baptismal Promises and Blessing of
Paschal Candles *(also live-streamed)* **St John's, Bury St Edmunds**

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**

Wednesday in Easter Week 7th April

9.30am Solemn Eucharist (CW) **St John's, Bury St Edmunds**

Thursday in Easter Week 8th April

9.30am Eucharist (CW) **All Saints', Bury St Edmunds**

Friday in Easter Week 9th April

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

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

The Church of England is supporting the 'VaccinAid' campaign which aims to help fund the biggest vaccination drive in history.



Led by UNICEF UK, with the online fundraising platform Crowdfunder, the campaign offers people a practical way to give thanks for their Covid-19 vaccination, by making a voluntary donation to help pay for jabs for others around the world.

It aims to help fund almost two billion Covid-19 vaccines for health workers and the most high-risk and vulnerable people on our planet. The money raised will also help UNICEF provide tests and treatments to people in 190 countries around the world through the global COVAX initiative.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, encouraged people and congregations to donate and to spread the word in the community, as a practical demonstration of Jesus's command to love our neighbour.

VaccinAid is being supported by other faith groups, businesses, celebrities and the NHS. Using the Crowdfunder platform, individual donations can be given, or communities - including parishes - can sign-up to fundraise together.

Local churches are being encouraged to join the campaign, with resources available to download for free on the AChurchNearYou.com Resource Hub to share on social media, newsletters or notice boards.

The campaign launched today has been developed in just a few weeks following a meeting convened by Archbishop Justin with faith leaders, Government and NGOs to discuss how people in the UK could do something practical in response to the real sense of gratitude they have felt as they and their loved-ones receive their vaccines.

Archbishop Justin said:

"The Covid-19 crisis has had a profound impact on people here and around the world,

but vaccines offer the hope of a brighter future. I'm delighted that churches and other faith groups in the UK are supporting the VaccinAid campaign. There is no better way to show our deep gratitude for the gifts of science and medicine than making sure vulnerable people around the world are also given a shot.

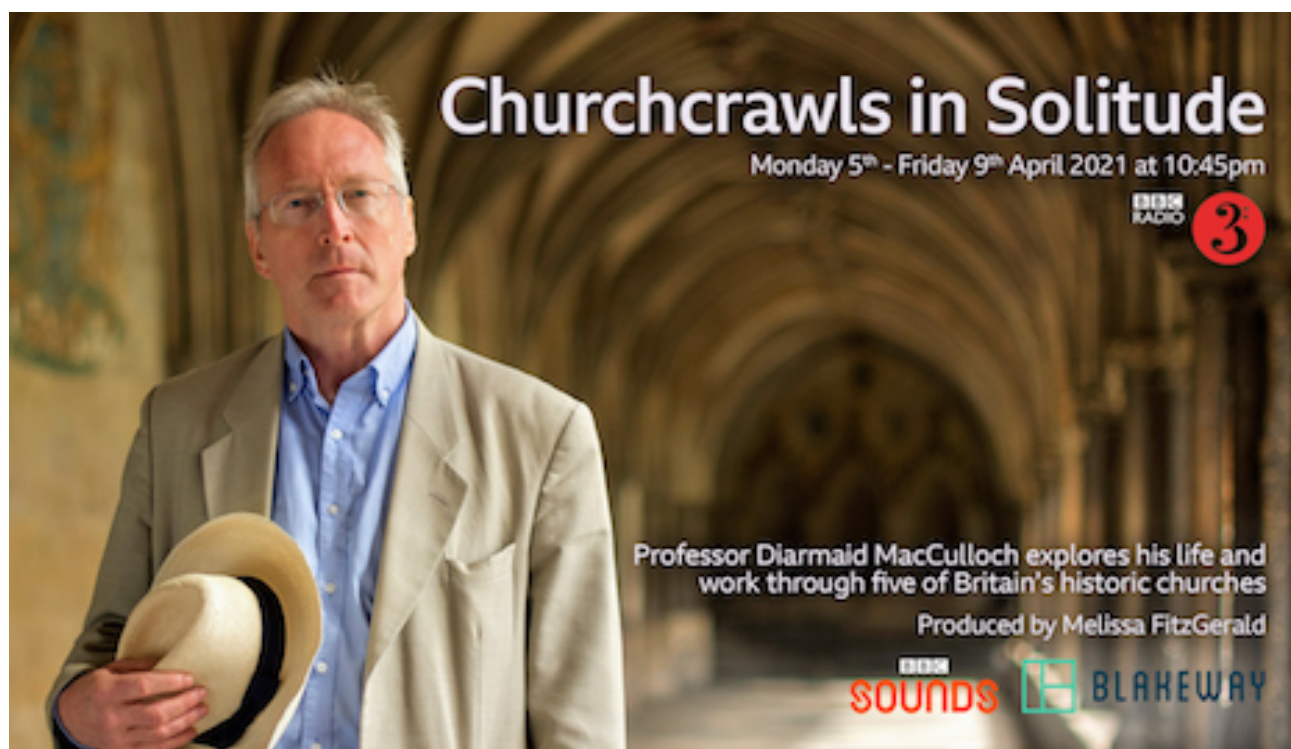
"At the heart of the Christian faith is Christ's call to love our neighbour: keeping one another safe from this terrible disease is part of living that out. I encourage people to donate whatever they can, so we can build a better world together."

Bishop Michael Beasley, the Bishop of Hertford and an epidemiologist, who played a key role in helping set up the campaign, said:

"Covid-19 has affected us all - every home, family, school, business and community all around the world. And because of the way this virus works we know that it won't be over for anyone until it's over for everyone. That's why I've been delighted to throw my support behind VaccinAid. It offers each of us the opportunity to play our individual part in bringing this world wide epidemic to an end. If, like me, you've had your jab, you'll know the feeling of relief, gratitude and thankfulness that happens when you've been protected from COVID.

"I'd love the whole world to experience that feeling and protection too. So let's give the world a shot!"

*For more information on the campaign go to
www.vaccinaid.org
to donate or begin fundraising.*



HAPPY EASTER

Hallelujah Christ is risen!
Hear the congregations sing
Hear the triumph sound the bells
When they toll their gladsome ring
People come with thanks and praise
As we sing our Easter hymns
For we know that Jesus saves
And forgives us for our sins
So, with happy hearts we pray
On this wonderous Easter Day
Beryl Dykes

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*

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