

Lark Valley and North Bury Team Ministry

VIRAL BULLETIN

11 July 2021

6th Sunday after Trinity

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



At St John's, Bury St Edmunds

4 July 2021

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Julie Horn becomes Julie Hooton

Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Amos 7.7-15 Ephesians 1.3-14 Mark 6.14-29

St Benedict of Nursia

THIS YEAR ST BENDICT'S DAY falls on a Sunday, so he takes second place for the readings, but his importance in the whole history of the Church since the 6th Century has been immeasurable. He is called the Father of Western Monasticism. Before his time there were monks and monasteries, notably in Ireland, from which came St. Columba first to Iona and then the mainland, founding the Celtic Church. But it was St. Benedict whose 'Rule' became adopted across Europe and beyond, in its ideal principles and human reasonableness.

The Rule of St. Benedict acknowledges the Gospel as the supreme rule and guide, with advised ways of pursuing it. It outlines the structure and organisation of the monastery in detail, with spiritual implications. Thirdly, it prescribes the regular observances of the Divine Office. All the 72 short chapters are united in purpose and practicality. (It has to be said that at times in history laxness and excesses have occurred, however.) The Rule is still followed today, not only in monasteries; it is the fruit of instructive experience.

Benedict in youth went from a well-to-do family home in Nursia, Tuscany, to study in Rome, but the corruption there shocked him. He retired to mountainous country, living for three years as a simple hermit in Subiaco. Provisions were lowered to his cave in a basket daily. Word spread; he taught some shepherds and disciples gathered. He formed his first monastery, St. Clement's, and remained there as abbot for twenty years, refining ways of fulfilling monastic purpose.

Other monasteries were started, thirteen in all, each with twelve monks and a superior in what became renamed 'Holy Valley'. However, achievement breeds jealousy, with poisoning even being tried against Benedict. He left with some loyal disciples to found the famous monastery at the top of Monte Cassino, where he died in 547 AD. In the eighteen years there he finally

produced the Rule that remains pre-eminent in monastic life. When Monte Cassino was sacked in 580 AD, the scattered monks spread the Rule further abroad.

Benedict always had a close bond with his sister, Scholastica, who was a professed religious from an early age. She advised and encouraged him, herself founding a convent near Monte Cassino using his Rule. They met annually; the last time before she died, a providential rainstorm made him stay to the next day. Later he buried her in his own tomb. (One is reminded of other famous men with gifted significant sisters - the bishop-theologian Gregory of Nyssa, Mozart, even the writer Charles Lamb.)

*Subiaco, transept
The miracle of the rain
(Umbrian School 15th cent)*

The fresco depicts the moment in which, in answer to St Scholastica's prayer, it begins to rain heavily and St Benedict is thus compelled to stay with her overnight.



The English Benedictine Confederation is the oldest of nineteen. St. Augustine of Canterbury brought forty monks here in 597 AD, while many of the famous saints we keep in the calendar have been Benedictine. Monks could and still can be missionaries, but while friars are naturally peripatetic, Benedictines maintain their link with the mother house to which they return, having made their vow of 'stabilitas', stability.

Though the monks are vowed to poverty (with chastity and obedience) their houses have usually had fine libraries and other resources for study and craftsmanship. Monasteries have been centres of education and learning,

knowledge of herbal and other medicine, refuge for the desperate, tranquillity, continuity, hospitality and devotion.

There are houses of monks and of nuns, Roman and Anglican. Sadly only a handful now remain in this country of notable abbeys; these are mostly refounded in the last two centuries, well after the wholesale plundering destruction of large numbers of them by Henry VIII, with brutal expulsions and executions. But nine of our old cathedrals, and Westminster Abbey, used to have attached priories of the 'Black Monks'. Bury St. Edmunds of course is an inversion of this; the (ruined) former great abbey, famous throughout Europe, now has a new cathedral attached.

We can be very grateful that, at least in England, the ardent antipathy between Catholic and Reforming Protestant has melted down, so that all similarly acknowledge the regular round of seasons in the Church's year and pattern of worship.

In a Benedictine monastery, with its injunction 'Ora et labora' - prayer and work - the ancient offices are kept at regular times, starting the day very early with matins and ending late with compline. Each monastery being autonomous under its abbot, routines may vary. The Rule provides for different timings in winter and summer (taking account of harvest); it is humane and practical, with safeguards against an over-dominant leadership. The abbot is a spiritual director for his monks, for instance making sure each one's Lenten discipline or personal aim is neither too stringent nor too easy for him. Some monks also become priests, often giving pastoral care and ministry to nearby parishes. The Rule has a timeless quality, almost all of it as fresh and applicable now as in St. Benedict's day. There seems an analogy with the timelessness of the psalms, which are recited daily in the offices.

Over more than twenty years I have stayed at least annually at Belmont Abbey, Hereford, with its warmth and welcome a stabilising component to my life. They have had sorrows and difficulties, especially during the pandemic, but in an unhurried way the Lord of time and eternity is there.

Marianne Atkinson

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

SERVICES THIS WEEK

6th Sunday after Trinity 11th July

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Culford
9.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	All Saints', 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
3.00pm	Family Service & Holy Baptism	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
6.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Fornham All Saints

Tuesday 13th July

8.30am	Morning Prayer	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
6.00pm	Meditation	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Wednesday 14th July John Keble, priest

8.30am	Morning Prayer	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Eucharist	St John's, Bury St Edmunds

Thursday 15th July Swithun, bishop

9.30am	Eucharist (CW)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
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Friday 16th July

7.30am	Eucharist (CW)	St John's, Bury St Edmunds
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7th Sunday after Trinity 18th July

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Lackford
9.00am	Parish Communion (BCP)	All Saints', Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	St George's, Bury St Edmunds
9.30am	Matins (BCP)	Timworth
10.00am	Eucharist (CW)	Fornham All Saints
10.00am	worship@weststow	West Stow
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 (**NB not 11th July**) 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

Licensing Service Working Group

A WORKING GROUP drawn from parishes across the benefice has been formed to organise Andy and Ali's Induction and Licensing Service, which is due to be held at All Saints', Bury St Edmunds on Thursday 26 August.

Following consultations within the suggested "constituencies", the group representatives will be:

Val Gagen (Staff Team)
David Yates (The Fornhams)
Ian Hobley (Lark Valley North)
Sara Harper (St John's and St George's)
Claire Rose (Bury All Saints)

In addition, Lesley Langley has kindly agreed to help us; she will be able to share her experience and expertise related to Mark Haworth's licensing.

Ian Hobley

From the Registers

Holy Baptism

11 July	Jimmy Parry	St George's
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Funerals and Memorial Services

7 May	Agnes Broadfoot	WSC (St George's)
13 May	Audrey Anne Macauley	WSC (All Saints' Bury)
25 May	Denise Ann Parrott	WSC (All Saints' Bury)
1 June	John Crayston Low	Fornham All Saints
11 June	Alison Hope	WSC (St John's)
28 June	Rosemary Widdick	WSC (St George's)

Interment of Ashes

5 June	Elizabeth (Bet) Payne	Culford
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Coming up ...

JULY

Sunday 11 ST JOHN'S at 11am

Pastoral Link Sunday

Commissioning of Full Measure Visitors at the Parish Eucharist

Sunday 18 ST GEORGE'S at 9.30am

Pastoral Link Sunday

Commissioning of Full Measure Visitors at the Parish Eucharist

Tuesday 20 FORNHAM ALL SAINTS

Cello and Oboe Concert at 7.30pm

Thursday 28 to Saturday 31 LAUNDE ABBEY



Benefice Retreat
with Bishop John Flack

'Travelling with Jonah'
- see website for details

Booking must close
this Friday, 16 July!!

adrian.mann@btinternet.com

AUGUST

Sunday 8 ABBEY GARDENS

Churches Together Summer Celebration

bring a picnic, 1.30pm to 4.15pm

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 at 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

Bibles for School

At **St Edmundsbury CEVA Primary School**, it is hoped that all classes will have a children's Bible ready for the September term. There are 11 classes in the school. The Bibles cost £10 each. Two people have offered a donation so we need 9 more.

If you would like to donate the cost of a Bible for the school, please email **Valerie Wilde** (Chair of Governors) on cormack246@gmail.com



*Communications and
Bookings Coordinator
Julie Horn becomes*

Julie Hooton

and writes: The wedding went well on Saturday, David and I had a fabulous day filled with love and fun surrounded by friends and family and we couldn't have wished for better weather. Thank you so much for the cards we received either in person or in the post from you all. I am now in the process of changing my name all over the place so Julie Horn becomes Julie Hooton. Hopefully I'll also be able to start getting back into some sort of routine regarding my working hours too. Next week should be back to 'normal'.

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