



Newsletter from the Bury St Edmunds Circuit Sunday 31st May 2020

Dear Friends,

“Come to us creative Spirit, in our Father’s house”

This line from the hymn by David Mowbray that we often sing at Pentecost reminds us that one of the gifts of the Spirit is creativity. In our usual worship this is embodied in the hymns we sing and the music we make, the artwork and banners that hang in our buildings and the poems, prayers and liturgy that we share. The creative Spirit is, however still very much with us as we worship together, but in our own homes and I’ve been encouraged to see how much creativity is being used to find ways of coping with and cheering our lockdown existence.

In Acton, where we live, the village has become very colourful since lockdown began; firstly with rainbows of every size and hue in chalk on walls and hung in windows, then with animals for a village zoo and latterly with colourful painted stones put around the streets for children to find on their walks. These stones provide huge delight and are multiplying as children who find them start making their own. The latest idea is a street art gallery as people peg their own artwork on strings outside their houses. All of these ideas certainly make going for a walk even more of a pleasure than usual.

God’s Spirit calls us to be creative and to share our creativity in ways that give glory to God and encourage others and we can all do something. It might be sharing a word or image that has encouraged us online, it might be writing a thought for the day for the circuit website or it might be sharing a skill to benefit others. One of our congregation at St John’s has been sharing photos from his daily walk for the benefit of those who are unable to leave home, so that they can enjoy the outside world from their armchairs. Others are using skills in sewing to make face-masks or scrubs for key-workers. Some are sending little cards or packages to friends or those on their pastoral list to remind them that they are loved. Even

seemingly small gestures can have a great impact on those whom they reach.

This Pentecost may the Spirit challenge us to unleash our creativity to glorify God and serve others as we are able to in these strange times and may we see the glory of God and recognise His Spirit at work in the creativity of others.

God bless Ruth, Rita and Debbie.

(Photo taken by Mark Lewis, St John’s)



STOWMARKET CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Members at Stowmarket Methodist Church celebrate the 184th birthday of the Church building during May. We all know how important our Church Anniversaries are in our church calendar. We had planned our anniversary service for May 31st, followed by a fellowship meal and with Francis Carr as our preacher. It is a shame that we are not able to meet on our premises on that day, but many of us will meet together on Zoom and Francis will be there with us to share some thoughts.

Although the church building may be old, we are doing our best to make improvements to the inside to make it fit for purpose in the 21st century. This is due mainly to the generosity and work of many people who are trying to modernise it so that “All are welcome here” in this place. We may not be together as a congregation in our building this year but we remain together spiritually through prayer and worship at this time. So please help us to celebrate this anniversary from wherever and however you worship this Sunday, as we remain committed to Wesley’s pledge to “Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, as long as ever you can.”

THY KINGDOM COME ON 31ST MAY

As a closing event to ‘Thy kingdom come’ we are encouraged to pray for our communities at our doorsteps or windows or in our gardens between 9pm and 9.15pm on Sunday 31st May, holding up a phone or torch for the last 5 minutes to symbolise the light of Christ. Please do join in if you can.

The order of service for this time is attached/enclosed.

THANKS

Ruth, Rita and I would like to say a big thank you to the so many who have sent us letters, cards, emails, gifts etc. during the last few months it is what helps to sustain us. We are delighted to see how the church is growing with people following the worship sheet, following the online service or joining a Zoom church – the witness is growing and travelling around the globe, the Wesley’s would be delighted. If you know of anyone who would like to receive the worship sheet either let your minister know or feel free to forward it on.