



Newsletter from the Bury St Edmunds Circuit
for Sunday 6th September 2020

Dear Friends,

Each day of the week (except Sunday) a 'thought for the day' is Posted on the circuit website, this is written by different Local Preachers and Ministers. You can find this at <https://www.burystedmundsmethodistcircuit.org.uk/176052272319.htm>
We thought it would be good to share some of them in the newsletter.

This one has been written by Matt Stammers and seems so appropriate at this time. I am hoping that those who do not have internet access will find them helpful and those who have read them on the website would enjoy reading them again.

God bless Debbie, Rita and Ruth

Thought for the Day –1st September 2020

As the new month of September begins, it seems more than ever to mark a time of preparation, change and new beginnings. The new school year brings mixed feelings of joy and anxiety for children, parents, and teachers alike as classes return to as near a normal education as possible. The new Methodist year comes with added challenges of making our church buildings safe for a return to worship 'in body and spirit'.

I wonder what the Apostle Paul would make of all that is going on? No doubt his letters would have taken on a different flavour had he been writing, not from a prison cell guarded by Roman soldiers, but from self-isolation amid a pandemic! Here's my take on that famous passage from Ephesians, trading the military armour imagery that would have been familiar in Paul's world for something more up to date...

The Personal Protective Equipment of God

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on all the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the

spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole PPE of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the facemask of truth, and having put on the gown of righteousness, and, as gloves for your hands, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances use liberally the hand-soap of faith, with which you can extinguish all the infections of the evil one; and take the face-shield of salvation, and the disinfectant-spray of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.
(Adapted from Ephesians 6: 10 –20, English Standard Version)

Welcome to Reverend Julie Minns and her husband Richard who have decided to "sit down" in this circuit from Chesterfield Methodist Circuit. We look forward to getting to know you when you have had time to "breathe" and rest.

Harvest Festival

Since Lockdown began we have shared the same service across the circuit and we will be doing the same for Harvest this year. We will celebrate Harvest on 4th October and will be using material from All We Can. This year instead of collecting goods we would ask you to make donations to All We Can – further details will follow.

Sunday Worship

A Circuit video recording of the Sunday Worship can be found at <http://trinitymethodistchurch.org.uk/summer2020.htm>

Zoom Sunday Worship: You are welcome to join Zoom Worship on a Sunday morning with Rev Debbie Borda or Rev Rita Carr. If you would like to join in worship in this way then please contact either of them and they will give you details of how to join a zoom meeting.