



Newsletter from the Bury St Edmunds Circuit
for Sunday 22nd November 2020

Dear Friends,

Reading the Methodist Recorder this week I see there is a letter that starts “Boris has saved Christmas” – taken of course from the newspapers referring to the new Lockdown measures. The letter ends - theologically the slogan should have been the other way around “Christmas, Christians believe, has saved us!”

As I walk with my dog in the early evening, whilst the lights are on but the curtains not drawn, I see many homes with Christmas Trees and decorations up. Prezzo has the countdown to Christmas in the windows and advertising for Christmas is all around us. So maybe we need to think how are we going to witness the true meaning of Christmas this year. We are in that time of preparation. This Sunday is the Sunday before Advent and is known as “Christ the King”. A time to reflect on the true meaning of kingship. Not a king who lords over people, is remote from them and rules over them, but a king who lives amongst us and came to serve. And our best way to show our loyalty to him is by serving others.

Mother Teresa said “ the worst disease in the world today is the feeling of being unwanted, and the greatest evil is lack of love. What the poor need even more than food, clothes and shelter, is to be wanted” .

These words are so true today, especially in these times when life is difficult for many, and many are feeling isolated. As we think about Christmas and the love given to us, what action can we do to help people so that they do not feel unwanted.

The words and actions of Christ are as relevant today as ever. Christmas is approaching, how are you going to show your loyalty to Christ?

God bless
Debbie, Rita and Ruth.

Stationing

Dear friends, the Circuit Invitations Committee were excited to hear that we had been matched in the first round of stationing. On Saturday (14th) Reverend Jason Vinyard and his family came to visit – virtually via Zoom! I am delighted to say that the Circuit Invitations Committee have invited Jason to come as the superintendent minister of the Bury St Edmunds circuit from 1st September 2021, as I sit down, and that Jason has accepted the invitation. Of course this is all subject to Methodist Conference agreeing the appointment. I ask for your prayers for Jason and the family as they finish their current appointment and prepare to move to our circuit.

God bless, *Debbie*

Rev Jeffrey Bloomfield RIP

Jeff's service will be held Wednesday 18th November 12.30pm at West Suffolk Crematorium and is by invitation. This is being live webcast and the details for access are

The link for the website is: <https://www.obitus.com/>

The username is: Dixu7509

The password is: 322542

This can be accessed 5 minutes before the service.

The order of service will be posted on the circuit website on Wednesday morning and can be accessed at <https://www.burystedmundsmethodistcircuit.org.uk/622829616069.htm>

Jean Wagner RIP

Jean's service will be held on Friday 20th November at 1.30pm at Abbey Chapel, West Suffolk crematorium. This is being live webcast and the access code is

The web link is - <http://www.obitus.com/>

Username- Neta9539

Password- 288687

The order of service will be posted on the circuit website on Friday morning and can be accessed here

<https://www.burystedmundsmethodistcircuit.org.uk/622829616069.htm>

Sunday Worship A Circuit video recording of the Sunday Worship Sheet 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.

Live stream service Ruth Ridge is leading a weekly service on the St John's Facebook page live at 6pm every Thursday. The service lasts about 30 mins and is available to watch live and on the page at any time after it has been broadcast. The service is available at:

<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsmethodistchurchsudbury> and you do not have to have a Facebook account to access it.

Suffolk Power of Prayer Week

This runs from 15th November and there are daily events – details can be found on the circuit website

<https://www.burystedmundsmethodistcircuit.org.uk/639293849468.htm>

Also daily there are reflections on the Lord's Prayer and can be found here <https://www.facebook.com/groups/360976731898621> You do not have to be on Facebook to access this.

Trinity friends

You will all have received a letter about the roof. I omitted to mention you can Gift Aid any donation if you are a taxpayer. If you have already signed Gift Aid forms Clare will claim on the donation unless she hears differently from you. However, if you have not already signed a form and would like to Gift Aid this donation as a one off and without the use of the Gift Aid envelopes then please contact Clare De'Ath.

Thought for the Day from Barbara Chipperfield

Remembrance and Reconciliation

Remembrance is in some ways very personal and in others communal. In my family we remember my father's older brother, who was buried on the Greek island of Lemnos in 1916. He should have been the first person in the family to go to university. His name is on the war memorial in Emmanuel College, Cambridge as he had been offered a place but never became a student there.

In the second war my parents produced newsletters for the members of our Church who were away in the Forces. I remember the shock of reading that a young man who looked so handsome in his uniform at Church had gone down with his ship.

Matthew has written about visiting Coventry Cathedral. In a few days it will be 80years since the night of the first big raid which destroyed the old Cathedral. The day after the raid workmen collected some of the old mediaeval nails and made a cross of nails and put it on the remains of the altar.

The community of Coventry Cathedral felt that it had a special ministry of peace and reconciliation. It formed the Community of the Cross of Nails, a world-wide community of churches and groups who share a commitment to the ministry of reconciliation and a genuine intention to live a disciplined Christian life. Reconciliation is at the heart of God's mission to the world –with God, with ourselves, within our families and local communities, with peoples and nations, and with the Earth.

Members of the Community of the Cross of Nails use at midday each day a prayer of confession which I have used in services. It ends with this prayer which is good for this time or any time:
Be kind to one another, tender-hearted,
Forgiving one another,
As God in Christ forgave you.