



Newsletter from the Bury St Edmunds Circuit
for Sunday 10th January 2021

Dear Friends,

This is my first newsletter of the new year, so may I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy new year. This year comes to us full of hope and expectation like no other.

Although 2020 was different and we had to learn new ways of doing the familiar many folk did just that. The annual Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride went ahead. Although many of the 500 churches weren't open and no refreshments could be offered a huge amount of money was raised. As of the beginning of the year a wonderful £150,000 had been raised in sponsorship. This exceeded the previous year's total. We thank everyone who took part and I know there were several from our District and Circuit that both walked and rode their bikes across the country side, and thank you to those of you sponsored the event. Make sure you get the date for this year's event in your diary which will be Saturday 11th September 2021.

As a circuit we can feel proud of ourselves as many of the charities we support have continued to be supported. Our efforts for All we Can, Macmillan socially distanced coffee mornings, Whitechapel mission and Suffolk Historic churches to name a few have still received our money, love and prayers.

As we journey through this new year we have the hope of a vaccine and the expectation that we will all receive it. We will then know what the 'New Normal' means for us.

God Bless Rita, Ruth and Debbie

We thank Rita this week for preparing the Worship sheet and Newsletter.

Vaccination Scam

Please be very careful. I have heard that people are being unscrupulous and taking advantage of people who are awaiting the Coronavirus vaccination. **The vaccination is free and you must not give your bank details to anyone in order to have the vaccination.**

Sunday Worship A Circuit video recording of the Sunday Worship Sheet can be found at:

<http://www.trinitymethodistchurch.org.uk/worshipthisweek.htm>

There is also a pre-recorded carol service on this link

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.

Keep following government advice to stay safe.



and open windows to let fresh air in.

Thought for the Day

Friday 1 January 2021- Nigel Scarff

Happy New Year! Are you content with your Christian or first name? Is it a name that suits you? 'Oh yes she is definitely a Susan, or Carol or Jenny' or 'He is really an Ian, Peter or Richard'.

Johnny Cash is known particularly for the song 'A boy named Sue'. A father leaves his family; because he would not be able to look after his son, he names him 'Sue', to ensure he would learn to look after himself in a harsh and unforgiving world.

I have some sympathy with a boy named Sue. My Mum wanted to name me Steven, but my Grandma intervened and I was named 'Nigel Bruce' after the actor who played Dr Watson with Basil Rathbone's Sherlock Holmes; because Nigel Bruce 'had a nice voice'. I was the only 'Nigel' in my school. The name was associated with 'posh people'. I was taunted and teased accordingly. Even now when introducing myself I am not completely comfortable with my name – a bit late now you may think!

Why was Jesus named Jesus? Angel Gabriel told Mary (Luke 1:31) *'And now you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus' and later*. (Luke 2:21) *'After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb'*.

I Googled 'Why was Jesus called Jesus?' and immediately wished I hadn't. The process of transferring a word from the alphabet of one language to another, in the case of the name 'Jesus', from Hebrew to Greek, from Greek to Latin and from Latin to English, is complicated. What I noted was that Jesus would have been known by family and friends as 'Yeshua' which was quite a common name at the time. The name Yeshua means 'to deliver; to rescue'. Matthew 1:21 'She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins'. Jesus is the Saviour; his name has been chosen, selected, with a purpose and by God's command.

We all long for 2021 to be a year when we will feel the power of the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour to deliver us from the pandemic, to rescue us from the challenging times we all experienced in 2020. Let us pray that God will give us the strength through his Son our Saviour

Jesus Christ to continue to love and support one another, our families, friends, neighbours and strangers. Amen.

P.S. The name Nigel means 'champion' and is ultimately derived from the Gaelic 'Niall'. Unfortunately in Australia the name Nigel is associated with a male social misfit or friendless person –thus the phrase 'No friends Nigel'

29thDecember 2020 from Bill Humm

It is, finished! Christmas 2020 that is! whether for you, you are glad or sad. Maybe because of your circumstances and Covid-19 related issues, lack of seeing family and friends last minute plans altered. Know this that Jesus is with us still, Emmanuel, Christmas happened at the birth of Jesus, God's own Son and has happened when-ever it was celebrated in the years since, this year being no different. Yes, of course it was different, but we could still celebrate the occasion with worship, praise, carols and singing in our own homes via Zoom, as we heard again the 'Good News' Christ is born, our Saviour is here and because of that we celebrate his birth. Let us journey towards the new year and Epiphany by following the Star of the Magi, Bethlehem, David or as it happens this year the conjunction of two major planets, Jupiter and Saturn aligning together to make a bright light in the sky after 400yrs.

To those Magi it must have been something extraordinary for them to follow it across many countries to where it stopped over the stable. It is highly unlikely they were still living in the stable, NRSV Matthew 2 v 11, says a house. That is 'Good news' to us also for it does not matter where we find ourselves in life, we too can find Jesus.

Emmanuel, God is with us, does not that give you comfort as we head towards a New Year what-ever that might bring, God, through Jesus the Son, will go with us too, to lead us and show us the way that leads to Heaven. A JOYOUS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!