



Newsletter from the Bury St Edmunds Circuit
for Sunday 11th April 2021

Dear Friends

A few weeks ago, I watched with interest the local and national news. It was coming up to the first anniversary of living with Coronavirus. The general public were being encouraged to send in photos of what represented the last 'normal' thing they did. That set me thinking. What photo have I got that represents the last normal thing. I scrolled back on my phone through the 100s of photos stored there and found this photo.



It is the last family photo I have, taken on the day of our granddaughter Lois' baptism at Stowmarket Methodist Church. it was a beautiful day surrounded by family and friends.

Since this photo was taken and like many of you, I have only seen my grandchildren a couple of times 'for real' as my granddaughter used to say. During those times we have not been able to cuddle or kiss as we normally would do. Since the vaccine though and the gentle easing of lockdown restrictions in time that will begin to change and we will once again be able to get close to our family and friends. I am sure you have your own photos and stories to tell of your last 'normal' event and photo of the days just before

the first Lockdown. If you haven't already found that memory why not take a look today. It really brought a smile to my face and gave me the hope for the future I needed.

God bless Rita, Debbie and Ruth

The Reflection on our worship sheet this week is by Rev Rita Carr and we thank her for her message.

Rev Rita Carr

We wish Rita a time of spiritual refreshment as she commences her sabbatical on 12th April for three months. I will be covering for Rita's work in her absence so please contact me if you have any pastoral concerns or any queries. *Debbie*

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. The Stowmarket group Zoom service will continue during the period of Rita's sabbatical hosted by Francis.

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.

Accessing Zoom using your telephone

You can join Zoom worship and meetings using your telephone. You will be able to hear what is going on and also join in the conversation, it is just that you cannot see what is going on.

Dial any of these numbers you will then be asked for the meeting ID and meeting Password.

0203 481 5240 United Kingdom

0203 901 7895 United Kingdom

0131 460 1196 United Kingdom

0203 051 2874 United Kingdom

0203 481 5237 United Kingdom

Further details from Debbie

IXWORTH METHODIST CHURCH SPRING FESTIVAL

Thank you to all who have sent in photos for the spring festival and I do hope you will have a look at the website – super photos (details below). We would still like to receive more – so please send them in to the email address below.

Happy Easter from the friends at Ixworth Chapel

Website - [Ixworth Methodist Church 2021 & our Christmas Festivals | January 2021 \(ixworthmethodistchurch2020christmas.com\)](http://ixworthmethodistchurch2020christmas.com)

Email - ixworthmethchapspringfest@btinternet.com

Thought for the Day – 5th April 2021 from Matt Stammers

Easter Monday. The morning after. The disciples awaking, wondering – was it all a dream?

The day before had been a flurry of excitement. First the women of the group who had ventured out to properly dress Jesus' body for burial had rushed back to report that it was gone! The tomb was empty, and Jesus is said to have been risen from the dead! At first this was dismissed as, 'an idle tale' (Luke 24:11) but then Peter went down to the burial site and seemed to confirm it. Later that day Jesus appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and to the assembled group in Jerusalem as well. "Peace be with you" (Luke 24:36) he said. I can hardly think that any of them got a peaceful night's sleep afterwards...

The morning after. The disciples were still in Jerusalem, in hiding for fear of arrest – their own version of Lockdown. After all, it was only 4 days since

their leader had been executed on charges of insurrection; betrayed by the chiefs of his own nation to be condemned by the authorities of the Roman imperialist rulers. Now Jesus was back, God had raised him from death. What a mix of thoughts and emotions must have been in the disciples' minds; fear and confusion still preying heavily on them, but a growing feeling of hope. If Jesus is resurrected, that changes everything; death is no longer to be feared, God *is* working his promises out. On Saturday, they might have asked, 'What next?' in tones of despair. Today, they might ask, 'What next?' with genuine wonder.

This Easter, we have our own mix of thoughts and emotions to deal with as we begin to emerge from Lockdown. Yesterday was the first Sunday that many of our church buildings in the Circuit have opened this year. But it is a slightly muted celebration; with no singing, no hugging allowed. Many smiles, no doubt, but they are obscured by facemasks. But still, there is a real sense of hope and we begin to ask, 'What next?' with tones of expectation rather than despair.

The world has changed and must change because of the pandemic. It has highlighted the inequalities in our societies whilst also showing how interconnected we are as a global community. It has brought into focus the damage humans are doing to the planet in terms of climate change, the biodiversity crisis and habitat destruction, as well as showing the risks these pose to ourselves not least in the potential emergence of new disease.

Still, we find hope in the message of Easter. In the Resurrection, we see that God can take the very worst of circumstances and turn them around. Jesus' new life is the beginnings of new life for the whole of creation. Our prayer should be that we will genuinely build back better. Perhaps we should begin, not by asking ourselves, 'What next?' but by asking God – and be prepared to listen for the answer.

Amen