



Newsletter from the Bury St Edmunds Circuit
for Sunday 18th April 2021

Dear Friends,

"I am among you as one who serves." Luke 22:27

During the last week we have been giving thanks for the life of the Duke of Edinburgh, following his death on 9th April aged 99. There have been many tributes made to a man who lived a long and interesting life and whose support and companionship to the Queen was vital through her reign.

If you have listened to any of the tributes, you will have a sense of how much the Duke dedicated to serving others. From a promising career in the navy, which he relinquished in order to better fulfil his role as royal consort, to his tireless support of many charities, notably those supporting youth and the natural world, the Duke gave freely of his time, energy and talents to assist others and to campaign for the issues that he felt passionate about. His faith was also something very dear to him and you may have heard both John Sentamu and Graham James, as a former archbishop and bishop, remark on how his astute theological questioning kept them on their toes.

The Duke of Edinburgh took his position and his call to Christian service seriously and lived it through his words and actions. As we give thanks for his life and remember in our prayers Queen Elizabeth and all his family as they mourn his loss, let us reflect on how we live out our lives of Christian service. How do we put our faith into action and do our neighbourhoods recognise us as people who serve?

Blessings.

Ruth, Debbie and Rita.

Rev Rita Carr

Rita is now on sabbatical for three months and I will be covering for Rita in her absence, so please contact me if you have any pastoral concerns or any queries. We hold Rita and Francis in prayer. *Debbie*

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

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

Zoom Sunday Worship: Each Sunday there are two Zoom services in the circuit. If you would like to join in worship in this way then please contact Debbie and she will give you details of how to join a zoom service. Both will continue whilst Rita is on sabbatical.

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 - [ixworthmethodistchurch2021 & our Christmas Festivals | January 2021 \(ixworthmethodistchurch2020christmas.com\)](http://ixworthmethodistchurch2021&ourchristmasfestivalsjanuary2021)

Email - ixworthmethchapspringfest@btinternet.com

Thought for the Day – 9th April 2021 from Carol Colton

I was running out of time, and inspiration, for today's "thought", consequently a lot of prayer was making its way to the Lord. As so often happens, my prayers were answered in an unusual way. Just before midday on Easter Day this appeared in the sky. Obviously it had been done by a plane because we heard it, but what an amazing Easter message for all to see.



You may have seen it, too, if you live in Bury St Edmunds. I'm sure it was not just for me!

There is so much contained in this simple message. It sums up the message of Easter, if not the whole of the New Testament, in a simple equation. However, we can interpret it in different ways:-

JESUS is love (therefore GOD is love).

JESUS died because he loves us, and to atone for our sin.

JESUS, the risen Christ, still lives, symbolised by the empty cross.

If we read it backwards it becomes Love is JESUS. Jesus' teaching was all about loving each other, so as we care for, pray for, and extend our love for others beyond those we know, to our neighbours all over the planet, the Living Lord is there, taking his love and salvation to all who are willing to receive.

Jesus lives! Our hearts know well
Nought from us his love shall sever;
Life, nor death, nor powers of hell,
Part us now from Christ for ever:
Alleluia!

Thought for the Day Thursday 8th April 2021 from Dr Barbara Chipperfield

Light Perpetual

This is the title of a good new novel by Francis Spufford. In 1944 a V2 rocket fell on a Woolworths store in London. Of the 168 people who were killed, fifteen were aged eleven or under. The author imagines the lives five such children might have had had they lived.

I could not remember where the phrase "light perpetual" came from. The answer came to me the following Saturday in an episode of "Inspector Montalbano" on television. The priest was saying at a funeral "light perpetual shine upon you."

John's gospel starts by describing the coming of Jesus as the coming of life and light. "That life was the light of men. The light continues to shine in the darkness and the darkness has never extinguished it." *John 1:4,5* Jesus himself said "I am the light of the world." When the disciples experienced the trial and crucifixion of Jesus, they must have felt that the light of their lives was gone. They were amazed to find that Jesus was still with them. Every Sunday service celebrates the Easter discovery that the light of Jesus, the Christ, remained in the world in those who followed Jesus. That light is the inner light from the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

The light we find in Jesus, lights our lives and shows us the path we should take. The darkness of difficult circumstances, the pain and suffering of life can never take away that light, and at death we move into the light perpetual of eternal light.

A prayer for all we have loved and lost, especially those who have had strange funerals in this last year:

Father of all, we pray for those whom we love, but see no longer. Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and in your loving wisdom and almighty power work in them the good purpose of your perfect will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Methodist Worship Book.