



**Newsletter from the Bury St Edmunds Circuit  
for Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

Dear Friends,

This is my first newsletter following my Sabbatical. The Sabbatical has given me time to step back from circuit work and explore some of the things I am not able to do due to usual time and workload restraints. The time I spent on sabbatical has been a real time of blessing. It has enabled me to do some things of a creative nature. I have explored some Theological reflection using photography, had pottery lessons and even made a dress. Although busy, it was busy in a different way. I did manage a short break Covid secure with Francis and as restrictions eased, I have also spent some time with my family. One highlight of my sabbatical was that Francis and I have been blessed with a new grandson Matthew.

A Sabbatical is a gift from the Methodist church and the circuit in which we serve. It is expected to be used wisely so that on our return everyone benefits. As the time drew near for my sabbatical to come to a conclusion, I was reminded of the passage from Ecclesiastes Chapter 3. There is a time for everything. A time to reap and a time to sow. My Sabbatical has I hope given me an opportunity to reap and I shall be sowing that back into circuit life as I reconnect with the work I put down three months ago.

I have included a couple of photos in this newsletter showing you what I have been doing.



*God Bless, Rita, Debbie and Ruth*

**CHANGES to SUNDAY SERVICES**

**Planned services in church buildings**

From the 4<sup>th</sup> July there will be one service in every church on every Sunday and also one circuit zoom service.

We are hopeful that things will change after 19<sup>th</sup> July and as soon as we have further details we will keep you informed, but I would ask you to remain very careful the disease has not gone away and indeed I have heard of a number of cases recently.

**Zoom Sunday Service**

We will now be holding one Zoom service per week which will start at **10.30 a.m.** and there will be different people hosting this so please look at the newsheet for logging in information.

**25<sup>th</sup> July Rev Val Spencer**

Zoom link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8411347306?pwd=bkxNZEp4SmhITG9sZDdHWjFJUjVBZz09>

Meeting ID: 841 134 7306 Passcode: 240250

You can access zoom on your landline by dialling any of the numbers below and inputting the meeting id and passcode when asked

+44 203 481 5240

+44 208 080 6591

+44 203 901 7895

+44 208 080 6592

+44 330 088 5830

+44 203 481 5237

+44 131 460 1196

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

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

**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.

**Newsletter and worship sheet received by Post**

All mailings are sent from the circuit office if you have any amendments to be made to your details or if you no longer wish to receive this then please contact the circuit administrator Caroline Edwards on 01284 731082 or [circuit.admin@hotmail.com](mailto:circuit.admin@hotmail.com)

## Dates for the Diary

**Welcome service for Rev Jason Vinyard** and his family will be at 7pm, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at Northumberland Avenue Church.

### **Garden Party, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2021**

Don and Gill Day are holding an open garden from 2.30pm at 5a, Minden Drive, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3RY  
Donations to Christian Aid

### **A date for your diary**

### **Summer Celebration - Abbey Gardens - Sunday 8th August!!**

Come and SING and enjoy Christian worship songs, as well as promoting Christian unity and witness to our town.  
We still need singers for the Songs of Praise, stewards, 'red badge wearers', anyone who would like to introduce / give reason for a choice of song / hymn.

More details to follow.

### **Bible Month – July**

### **Gospel of St Mark**

In this circuit we will be leading services connected with Bible Month during July and the preachers have agreed that we will mainly be preaching from the same readings and with the same theme so that we are consistent across the circuit.

I hope you have had chance to read the information on St Mark's gospel written by Rev Vaughan Tong as this will give you background information.

To help you with your preparations the readings and themes are

#### **Week 4**

**25<sup>th</sup> July      Mark 11 : 1 – 11      Mark 16 : 8      The Passion**

The final part of the story

- Mark 14 : 1 – 11      The woman anoints Jesus
- Mark 16 : 1 – 8      Resurrection – the hope

**After the 19<sup>th</sup> July: What does the Methodist Church advise to keep us safe when worshipping in our buildings?**

*The Methodist Church, whilst always adhering to government advice, is urging some caution for the sake of others in the church, community and for self-care.*

- *Firstly, from a missional perspective, reflect on and continue with the positive changes that have been made during the pandemic. Perhaps this has been live-streaming services or more outward-looking mission into the community through outdoor services, prayer or house groups or other events. Look to improve on these as a means of giving people within and outside the church continued access to worship, teaching and support during this period of transition and change.*
- *This will help in considering whether it is appropriate to return to a building or whether the mission of God and the work of the church is better done in another way. In some places, the decision might even be not to resume physical worship in the building. This should not be seen as a failure, but as a response to the movement of the Spirit of God as we seek to create new places for new people.*

### ***How can we make our buildings as safe as possible?***

*In returning to buildings, consideration should be given to:*

- *Appropriate use of face coverings. Would it be sensible as a congregation to wear them for a little longer?*
- *Good ventilation to properties or considering meeting outdoors.*
- *Encouraging frequent hand washing and keeping sanitiser out for people to use.*
- *Encouraging people to stay at home if they are unwell.*
- *Considering individual risks: such as clinical vulnerabilities, illness and vaccination status.*
- *Retaining retiring offering or online giving rather than 'passing the offering plate'.*
- *Deter handshaking and hugging and find other ways to share 'the Peace'.*
- *Encourage the continued use of personal, not shared items, such as books.*
- *Sit apart from others that are not in your household.*
- *Those who lead worship should bear in mind that the virus is still highly prevalent. Care should be taken to reduce the risk of spreading the virus, including reviewing the length of service and the number of hymns sung (when permitted), avoiding various people handling the same piece of equipment etc.*

As a Circuit we too should proceed with great care. Let us continue to wear our masks for worship (we can sing with a mask on), leave space between our fellow worshippers, open windows and doors for good ventilation and socialise outside of the building. If we all continue to take these steps, we should all be safer.