



# Bury St Edmunds Methodist Circuit

December 2021-January 2022



“ ...an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people...”

I am immediately drawn to the angel’s proclamation, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people...’

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November marked the festival of ‘Christ the King’, the Sunday before Advent. A feast that, in the words of Methodist Presbyterian and Principal of Wesley House Cambridge, Revd Dr Jane Leach, is ‘a festival that focuses attention not on a tribal God but on a universal God who in becoming human chose solidarity with the whole human race. This feast reminds us that in the Kingdom of God there is no ‘us’ and ‘them’, rather the ethic is one of radical loyalty to the lasting interests of all people in which power is used not for domination but for service...’

In a period when those who hold and exercise power, have seemingly become tribal and polarise the political and religious landscapes to ‘us’ and ‘them’, some of us may feel quite insignificant, helpless or even afraid. A question comes to mind from Jane Leach’s last sentence, ‘*in what way can we use our power, not for domination but for service?*’ I do believe the answer begins within each one of us on a daily basis. Every day we have choice in our thoughts, language, views, faith and actions. We are not insignificant and not helpless - we are called to trust the Angel: “*Do not be afraid...*”

WE ARE part of the global Methodist Church with over 60 million members and, as our doctrine states, 'the Methodist Church claims and cherishes its place in the Holy Catholic Church which is the Body of Christ' (Catholic, meaning universal - universal church). We really can use our personal and combined power for service. Over the past few months and, I hope, continuing into 2022 as a 'New Year's Resolution', I've begun to discern how I can become a better disciple and develop friendships with those who disagree with my broadening liberal theological understanding – one that I would suggest roots from orthodoxy; the early Church. Then grows and branches in Wesleyan – Methodist – theological experiential and reasonable groundedness rooted back to the perennial tradition of seeking justice, offering peace and liberation, fruiting in salvation. Therefore, in how I can listen to their reading and interpretation of Scripture, understand, their views and beliefs - all of which have been shaped by their experiences. The purpose is not to control or dominate or impose my views, but to engage in conversations arising from my experience, my reading of Scriptures and what these have led me to believe. It is to try and find the common ground which unites rather than focus on what divides. It is to try to move forward together - to learn and grow together – and not to simply disagree but try to grapple with an 'ethic...of radical loyalty to the lasting interests of all people in which power is used not for domination but for service...'

It's a start. I don't get it right - very often – it is a work in progress! But, I believe it is about allowing the fullness of 'Christ' to be born in us – in each thought, word, view, faith and action. I believe it is about finding the 'Christ', in 'the other'. I believe it is beyond class, gender, sexuality, nationalism or globalisation. I believe that it is most certainly beyond denomination and most definitely greater than the 'us' and 'them' religious affiliations – for the message is **CLEAR: 'FOR ALL THE PEOPLE.'** I believe it is beyond any kind of labelling. As Jane Leach put it, 'a universal God who in becoming human chose solidarity with the whole human race'.

We watch for the coming: we pray, we think, we act for the welfare of all people, for reconciliation, healing, peace, love, joy and goodwill to all people of the world and in this God is with us: “ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace...” Isaiah 9: 6-7

*And the angel says ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people...’*

Yvette, Jasmine, Ty, and I, wish you all a Good Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. **With thanks for who you are – for you are all beautiful people, hewn in God’s image and likeness. We pray that we may all experience this great joy the angel proclaims – great joy in all we do together.**

With Love and in Faith – the Vinyard Family.

### **Jason’s Questions**

A couple of questions from Rev Jason – as the Zoom Services in December are Contemplative would you like us to hold a Traditional Carol Service, and a Christmas Eve Communion Service on Zoom for The Circuit? You can feedback to Rev Jason at the Contemplative Services or email [circuit.admin@hotmail.com](mailto:circuit.admin@hotmail.com)



## **TIME TO CELEBRATE...** **The Promise**

### **A Journey of Faith and a Dream Fulfilled**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December - Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>  
December - Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

This series of Advent Contemplative Zoom services leads us from the promise made to Abraham to its fulfilment in Mary's Son. Focusing on a selection of Sieger Köder paintings, alongside short written meditations offer some reflections to help open our understanding to the symbolism of each painting. Interlinked within a Northumbrian Compline Prayer – and gentle reflective music - these are prayerful reflective spaces.

For those of you who Zoom – images and reflections will be on the screen. If you know of anyone who would like to join using only a phone line, please do let us know, and we can print the images and prayers so they too can enjoy the experience on the phone.

Rev Jason invites you to join at around 5.40 pm for time to chat and get to know each other, the Advent service of reflection and prayer from 6 pm – each Advent meet-up will be less than an hour - finishing around 6.40 pm.



**Circuit Zoom Services** will move to **6pm** from **December**. Rev Jason will lead a series of Contemplative Advent Services in the lead up to Christmas starting at 540pm. Zoom links for all services are later in the newsletter, there is an option to 'dial in' via your telephone for these services. Please do join us in our circuit worship.



**News from Glemsford** – We have a Nativity Crib Festival on Sat 11th December and Sunday 12th December. The Church will be open for viewing of the **Cribs on Sat 11th December from 10am to 3pm**, and on **Sunday 12th December from 2pm** until our **Carol Service starts at 6pm**. Tea's will be served.



**News from Old Newton:** Old Newton Methodist church have re-started their monthly coffee mornings. It was good to see so many people back in our chapel for a social occasion after so long. Everyone who came enjoyed the fellowship, coffee and chocolate biscuits. The next **coffee mornings** are **Tuesday 21 December and Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 10:45am**. Everyone is welcome to attend.



### News from Northumberland Avenue

**Congratulations to Rachel and Sam Pennell on the birth of their son, Robin.** 'Robin James Pennell was born on Friday 22nd October. We've received so many lovely cards, gifts and well wishes - thank you to everyone for being so kind.'



### News from St Johns - Sudbury Advent Angel Trail

During Advent, Churches Together in Sudbury and District are holding an Angel Trail around the town. 35 angels, all made by different schools, churches and groups are displayed in local shops and there is a map available for those who want to follow the trail and find them all. The hope is to share a bit of Christmas joy and to encourage people to reflect on the Christmas story. If you are in Sudbury, why not take a look?



Our Christingle Service at St John's on Christmas Eve has been changed from 3pm to 4pm.



### News from Ixworth

On **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 10am – 12pm** we will be holding our Christmas Coffee Morning with Christmas Stall and Tombola, this will be in the Chapel (for social distancing). **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>**

**December at 3pm** will be our Carol Service led by Rev Jason C Vinyard. For both events please wear a cheerful mask!



### **News from Trinity, Bury St Edmunds:**

**TRINITY** would like to send **CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to you all. We have had lots of interesting Services since re-opening over the last few months, and we are hoping and praying that we will soon be able to Worship again in the Sanctuary.

The Bury Town Christmas Fayre will not be held this year and as a result the traditional end of Fayre Service will not take place on Angel Hill. There will

however be a **Churches Together Advent Service on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at the Cathedral at 6.30pm**....sorry if this gets to you too late!

**Our Carol Service is on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm.**

We would like to mention the **Operation Christmas Child** shoebox appeal run by Samaritan's Purse. Usually we would collect and pack shoeboxes but this wasn't viable this year so please if you feel able to donate online the website is: **[Samaritans-purse.org.uk](http://Samaritans-purse.org.uk)** and then click on **Operation Christmas Child Home Page** and then choose **Pack a shoebox on line.**

For £20 you can choose a box for a boy or girl and the age range as well as what goes in it.

Thank you. Hope all your celebrations go well. Jesus is with us.

### **News from the Circuit**

Are you able to spend a couple of hours every 3 months attending and recording minutes to the Circuit Meeting? This is an important role within the circuit and we would love you to join the team!



### **Circuit Zoom Services**

Sunday Zoom Services will be continuing throughout December & January at 6pm. Please see zoom links and passcodes below.

**December 5<sup>th</sup> , 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>**

### **Topic: Rev J C Vinyard's Contemplative Zoom Meet**

Time: This is a recurring meeting for all sessions

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81643294747?pwd=cnJ2NmJGMm4wNmpHU0JOMVNwQVVJUT09>

Meeting ID: 816 4329 4747

Passcode: 540493

One tap mobile

+441314601196,,81643294747#,,,,\*540493# United Kingdom

+442034815237,,81643294747#,,,,\*540493# United Kingdom

Dial by your location

+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

+44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom

+44 208 080 6591 United Kingdom

+44 208 080 6592 United Kingdom

+44 330 088 5830 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 816 4329 4747

Passcode: 540493

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kFJVWdR1h>



**January 2<sup>nd</sup> – Covenant Service**

**Rev Rita Carr is inviting you to Zoom Sunday Worship Time: 6pm**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/85852814435?pwd=MFINMG1oMGhNWTViUmMzZkNScCtQQT09>

Meeting ID: 858 5281 4435

Passcode: 004216

Dial by your location 0208 080 6591 0208 080 6592 0330 088 5830 0131 460 1196 0203 481 5237

0203 481 5240 0203 901 7895

Meeting ID: 858 5281 4435

Passcode: 004216

**January 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Topic: Rev J C Vinyard**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81643294747?pwd=cnJ2NmJGMm4wNmpHU0JOMVNwQVVJUT09>

Meeting ID: 816 4329 4747

Passcode: 540493

One tap mobile

+441314601196,,81643294747#,,,,\*540493# United Kingdom

+442034815237,,81643294747#,,,,\*540493# United Kingdom

Dial by your location

+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

+44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom

+44 208 080 6591 United Kingdom

+44 208 080 6592 United Kingdom

+44 330 088 5830 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 816 4329 4747

Passcode: 540493

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81643294747?pwd=cnJ2NmJGMm4wNmpHU0JOMVNwQVVJUT09>

**January 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Rev Rita Carr**

<https://zoom.us/j/85852814435?pwd=MFINMG1oMGhNWTViUmMzZkNScCtQQT09>

Meeting ID: 858 5281 4435

Passcode: 004216

Dial by your location 0208 080 6591 0208 080 6592 0330 088 5830 0131 460  
1196 0203 481 5237

0203 481 5240 0203 901 7895

Meeting ID: 858 5281 4435

Passcode: 004216

**January 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Rev Ruth Ridge**

<https://zoom.us/j/92019798320?pwd=Y1BWZzgyODFTUUtEdEo2OER0MTJOUT09>

Meeting ID: 920 1979 8320

Passcode: 467660

One tap mobile

+442080806592,,92019798320#,,,,\*467660# United Kingdom

+443300885830,,92019798320#,,,,\*467660# United Kingdom

Dial by your location

+44 208 080 6592 United Kingdom

+44 330 088 5830 United Kingdom

+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

+44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom

+44 208 080 6591 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 920 1979 8320

Passcode: 467660

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aCMI6Clgc>

## **January 30<sup>th</sup>**

Rev Julie Minns

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6111649426?pwd=NWxjT2w0WXBqM2dzRDNmVG03QmV6Zz09>

Meeting ID: 611 164 9426

Passcode: 398104

## **February 6th**

Francis Carr

<https://zoom.us/j/85852814435?pwd=MFINMG1oMGhNWTViUmMzZkNScCtQQT09>

Meeting ID: 858 5281 4435

Passcode: 004216

Dial by your location 0208 080 6591 0208 080 6592 0330 088 5830 0131 460  
1196 0203 481 5237

0203 481 5240 0203 901 7895

Meeting ID: 858 5281 4435

Passcode: 004216

## **February 13th**

Rev Val Spencer

<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

0203 481 5240      0208 080 6591

0203 901 7895      0208 080 6592

## December Carols & More Across The Circuit



9<sup>th</sup> December 6pm Carols, Stowmarket

12<sup>th</sup> December 3pm Carols, Ixworth

12<sup>th</sup> December 6pm HC, Crib & Carols, Glemsford

16<sup>th</sup> December 6pm Carols, Stowmarket

19<sup>th</sup> December 4pm Carols, Trinity, Bury St Edmunds

19<sup>th</sup> December 4pm Carols, Christchurch, Needham Market

24<sup>th</sup> December 4pm Christingle, St Johns Sudbury

24<sup>th</sup> December 9pm Midnight in Bethlehem Communion, St Johns

26<sup>th</sup> December 10:30am Christchurch, Needham Market (LA Service)

Anyone wishing to submit articles for the February Newsletter please send through to Caroline at the circuit office [circuit.admin@hotmail.com](mailto:circuit.admin@hotmail.com) by Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January please, we look forward to hearing your news.

If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter or information from Bury St Edmunds Methodist Circuit please ring 01284 731082 or [circuit.admin@hotmail.com](mailto:circuit.admin@hotmail.com)