



Newsletter from  
The Bury St Edmunds Circuit  
for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020



Dear Friends,

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May is Ascension Day when we remember Christ returning to his Father.

Ascension Day is also the beginning of Thy Kingdom Come which is a worldwide prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost on 31<sup>st</sup> May. Christians from 172 Countries and 65 denominations have taken part in praying for friends and family to come to faith in Jesus Christ.

The days between Ascension and Pentecost have always been full of expectation and anticipation. So the renewed call across the Church is to set these days apart to pray, and each individual to pray for five people to come to know the love of Jesus Christ.

On the Circuit web site each day will be posted a Bible passage, short reflection, prayer and a suggestion for action from the Prayer Journal, [prayerhttps://www.burystedmundsmethodistcircuit.org.uk/thykingdomcome.htm](https://www.burystedmundsmethodistcircuit.org.uk/thykingdomcome.htm) The prayer journal is being posted to those without internet access.

Also churches across Suffolk have met and we have felt it important, especially in these days, to light up Suffolk with prayer. We have drawn together a pattern of prayer; you may wish to do all of it or some of it.

**Each morning pray a blessing** for your community, those in need, those serving, including key workers – I think that this is something we could do whilst looking out of the window or standing by our front door. There is a suggested prayer

**Mid-day pray the Lord's Prayer** set an alarm to remind you if that helps. Phone a friend and pray with them.

**5-5-5** – At 5p.m., pray for five minutes for five people - that they would know more of the Light of Jesus Christ in their lives

**Light up Suffolk with prayer poster** for you to colour in and put in your window (or design your own poster), you are also asked to light a candle in the evening for all to see, and/or you could put fairy lights around your window – this is so that we witness that we are praying for all people.

You will find full details of these on the circuit website along with prayers to use at these times and other resources. For those without internet access you will receive information in your posting today.



I am delighted to read that more and more people are turning to Christianity with many of the “missing age group” accessing live stream services. This Sunday we had many more trying to access Zoom Church and nationally the system crashed – the complaints started to peak around 10am – Wow!

Please if you are speaking to anyone do ask them if they are receiving the service material and if you hear of anyone, connected to the church or not, who would like it, then please do let one of us know.

Rita, Ruth and Debbie continue to pray for you, we really miss you, being able to drop in on you and especially being together at the services.

We hope you are keeping well.

May the grace and peace of God fill you and may his healing hand be upon you and all those you love. God bless.

### **Rev Keith Horton**

Keith is currently in West Suffolk hospital and we are hopeful that he will soon return to his care home.

### **Keith Peck**

Keith is also in West Suffolk Hospital and we pray that a new dementia nursing home will be found for him soon.

### **Anne Dean**

Anne is now back home and continues to improve

Please pray for Rev Keith Horton, Keith Peck and his family and Anne Dean and her family. We pray for all who are struggling at this time especially those who are finding the isolation a real difficulty.

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*Each week we ask for a church to write something about itself, my apologies to Bradfield Church whose article should have been in last week.*

### **Bradfield Chapel Anniversary 2020**

Standing alone, without the faithful community at Bradfield the 153<sup>rd</sup> Chapel Anniversary will be reached on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

In the past the Chapel Anniversary (and Harvest Festival) were joyful occasions which also raised money when the collections were used to boost the 'Trust Funds' of the chapel. An army of volunteers scrubbed the wooden floors, polished the seats, cut the grass and tidied the churchyard. Services took place on Sunday in the morning and evening and a 'Rally' was held on the Monday evening. A well-known preacher - Rev. H.J. Martin or Rev. G. Sharman was invited to give a rousing address to the congregation. A chapel full of people sang heartily and were rewarded with Bradfield refreshments. The tables in the schoolroom were laden with sandwiches, sausage rolls, cheese scones and cakes of every description. Gallons of tea were served and the time of fellowship continued as everyone chatted together. At the close, the setting sun and vibrant sunset in the west would seal the evening. A warm glow would send everyone on their way. Please remember the vulnerable community at Bradfield who live in this unknown world that we inhabit at this time, but trust in a known God.

### **Ixworth**

The congregation at Ixworth is in good heart. We had 13 people at our Zoom Coffee Morning on Tuesday and we all enjoyed being able to see each other again (apart from the odd technical blip!). Sunday worship, following either the video or the service sheet, is one activity which is keeping fellowship alive, and some are taking part who are not normally able to come to Chapel on Sundays. Lots of phone calls are being exchanged and there is a real sense of togetherness, which encourages us to see God at work even in this strange and, for some, lonely time of 'lock down'. We wait expectantly, because we know that 'weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning' (Psalm 30.5 NIV).

### **Midday Prayer**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

The Lord's Prayer is the one spoken prayer that Jesus taught his followers. Please join us in saying the Lord's Prayer at midday.

Here are a few ideas of how to pray the Lord's Prayer:

- Say these words out loud to yourself.
- Read each line and then pause and add your own prayers in.
- Pray the Lord's Prayer with someone else. You could pray it with someone in your house, or ring a friend and pray with them over the phone.

Sign the prayer as you say it. Follow our video here:

<https://www.light-wave.org/rhythm-of-prayer>

If you are interested in finding the Lord's Prayer in the Bible you can look up Matthew 6.9-13 or Luke 11.1-13.

Thank you for joining us.  
You are making God's light shine where you are

*Pray together*

Thy Kingdom Come  
Pray together Suffolk