



Newsletter from the Bury St Edmunds Circuit
for Sunday 25th April 2021

Dear Friends,

I was reading the Methodist Recorder this week and came across this article:-

Did you know.....?

The average British person's "bits and bobs drawer" contains six batteries, three phone chargers, five "unspecified" cables and four takeaway menus.

It is also home to four mysterious keys with no known lock, six pens and pencils, and five instruction manuals.

Research of 2,000 adults found 55% keep their drawer in the kitchen, while a quarter have theirs in the front room.

And despite 25% frequently scrabbling through for some long-lost item, only 14% always find what they need, with each search taking an average of two minutes ten seconds!

This made me smile and I am sure like me this resonates with you! I cannot believe it, but I only have three months until my final service (18th July). The big sort out has started ready for the packing and I think I have far more than one of those drawers!! But as I thin things out I am finding those long lost items.

It is those long lost items that set me thinking about the love of God shown through his Son. He never gave up – he never gave up on the lost nor on us. The lost coin, the lost sheep, the prodigal son, all parables told by Jesus and the greatest act of all to give his life on the cross – all of these to let us know that the Father will always love us and never give up on us.

So I will continue sorting out those many "odds and bobs" drawers and cupboards I have, and I will continue to be surprised at what I find - but I guess I won't find the item I really need.

God bless

Debbie, Ruth and Rita

Rev Peter Dainty RIP

Rev Peter died peacefully at home with his family on Friday 16th April 2021. We give thanks for the life of Peter. We hold Margaret and the family in prayer.

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

Circuit Administrator

Our new circuit administrator is Caroline Edwards. Caroline will be working Monday and Thursday 9.30 am to 2.30 pm. We welcome Caroline to the circuit.

A Date for the Diary

There will be a summer service of celebration in the Abbey Gardens on 27th June in the afternoon. This is being arranged by Bury St Edmunds churches together. Further details to follow, but please put the date in the diary.

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 - [ixworth Methodist Church 2021 & our Christmas Festivals | January 2021 \(ixworthmethodistchurch2020christmas.com\)](http://ixworthmethodistchurch2021&ourChristmasFestivalsJanuary2021(ixworthmethodistchurch2020christmas.com))

Email - ixworthmethchapspringfest@btinternet.com

Thought for the Day for 15th April 2021 by Liz Kearsley

This week we are marking the death and celebrating the life of Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh. You will all know that he was nearly 100 years old and had been married to our Queen for over seventy years. What has struck me as I have watched television documentaries about his life is how committed he was to “serving” in so many different capacities. He was committed to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth and has supported Queen Elizabeth throughout her long reign through the many trials and tribulations that have occurred. It is his lifetime of service that so many people are mentioning as they remember him.

He was a highly intelligent man, well read, and interested in a great many subjects including technology, the Arts and the environment. He was deeply interested in religion and constantly sought answers to his questions about faith. It is clear from all of those who knew him that he was interested in everything and everyone he came across

during over 22,000 solo royal engagements he undertook on behalf of the royal family. He was particularly interested and enjoyed talking to everyday people doing everyday jobs. He was President of 800 different organizations but will be remembered most keenly for creating the Duke of Edinburgh Award in 1956 which has inspired so many young people and given them great life skills.

I have been reflecting upon servanthood and what it means to us as Christians seeking to serve our Lord. I was reminded of Jesus Christ's act of washing his disciples' feet during the Last Supper. (John 13:3-11) It was a role usually undertaken by servants and as we know Peter was not initially going to allow his Master to abase himself in this way. Jesus' reply was “Unless, I wash you, you will have no share with me.” For us it means that unless we are prepared to be served and to serve others then we cannot consider ourselves true Christians. That act was symbolic of Jesus Christ's life of healing and teaching those who were drawn to him. His ultimate act of servanthood was to die on the cross to serve both God and humanity to secure forgiveness for our sins and eternal life with the Father. The disciples would go on to serve in the same way bringing people to faith. It is their service that resulted in the spread of Christianity and the writing of the Gospels and the New Testament.

We are all called to serve in different ways. They may not be grand but they are all valued and blessed by God. In the last year we have witnessed the devoted service of the NHS staff at all levels, the dedicated work of scientists developing a vaccine for the whole of humanity, and many ordinary people who have served their neighbours by doing simple acts of kindness to help during this challenging time.

God calls us all to serve each other, regardless of status, with love in our hearts and Jesus Christ was the example to follow. I have been reminded of that lovely hymn:

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you:
pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant too.