

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020

### **Easter Day**

No one would have predicted just a few short weeks ago that all our churches would be closed on Easter Sunday, of all days, and that we would not be able to gather to celebrate and remember the resurrection of Jesus. It is a reminder that tomorrow is unknown to us, though fully known to God. It is at times just such as this that those who are wise put their trust in the Lord. Trust is sometimes very hard. Those closest to Jesus found it so. When it came to it trusting in all he had said and done fell away and he was left alone. It fell, as it often does, to the women to safeguard that trust by doing as they had always done. It was their culture and custom that gave them the surprise and joy of Easter morning. They would have gone to the tomb anyway. For they had to do what was right in seeing to the body. The symbol of the 'Body of Christ' is such an important metaphor for the church. Especially in these days when church can no longer be buildings. We are forcefully reminded that The Church is the body, the people of God, worshipping Jesus and serving him wherever we are.

One of the things we have become more aware of is the great numbers of people who cannot gather in church week by week when life is *not* on lock down. Their restrictions are more often to do with age and infirmity than with a specific health risk brought on by a very infectious virus. Those who are confined to their homes or to residential or nursing homes actually make up about a third of our adult membership. They may receive one to one pastoral visits, but these cannot replace the joy of gathering with others for worship. We face the challenge of how to continue to make use of old and new technology to share more fully with them. Watch this space!

We gather apart to mark what will, when we look back, be a very special and memorable Easter Day. Overleaf you will find a list of other places to receive blessings via TV and radio. We share them with you especially for all those not on the Internet.

A reminder that if you are in pastoral need of any kind please contact your own Minister direct by email or phone. We may also be able to arrange practical help with shopping and so on. Our details are below. **If in any doubt, please contact Rev. Peter Powers and he will link you up with help locally to you.**

Rev. Barbara Greenwood 01926 740846 [barbara.greenwood@methodist.org.uk](mailto:barbara.greenwood@methodist.org.uk)

Rev. Audrey Simpson 01789 267971 [revaes@gmail.com](mailto:revaes@gmail.com)

Rev. Jeongsook Kim 07741 461060 [revjeongsook@gmail.com](mailto:revjeongsook@gmail.com)

Chris Flood 07772 292033 [chrisflood\\_erniescheu@hotmail.com](mailto:chrisflood_erniescheu@hotmail.com)

Rev. Jemima Strain 07969 345389 [jemima.strain@methodist.org.uk](mailto:jemima.strain@methodist.org.uk)

Rev. Sam McBratney 07706 586860 [s.mcbratney@methodist.org.uk](mailto:s.mcbratney@methodist.org.uk)

Rev. Richard Wilde 07971 218356 [revrichardwilde@gmail.com](mailto:revrichardwilde@gmail.com)

Rev. Peter Powers 07941 328155 [revpeter.mwc@gmail.com](mailto:revpeter.mwc@gmail.com)

There are plenty of opportunities to join in worship if you have the internet. We are encouraging everyone to link up with the live stream worship being offered by the Birmingham District via Facebook on Sunday mornings at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Birminghammethodistdistrict/>

In addition, we will be offering services online on the Circuit's own Facebook page and on YouTube. The links are below:

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=142865293925553&id=110929903785759](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=142865293925553&id=110929903785759)

A full text of this service is also available at this link and is being sent by post to all those people who do not use the Internet so they can join in too. These two worship opportunities will be available and sent to you every Sunday. We will be offering worship in a similar way each Sunday as the health crisis continues. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us.

Keep safe. Keep caring. Keep praying.

With every blessing to you and yours.

*The Ministers and Stewards of the South Warwickshire Methodist Circuit of Churches*

**Other places to receive blessings via TV and radio:**

Radio 4, Sunday Worship, Sunday 8:10am

BBC1, Sunday Worship, Sunday 10.45am

BBC 1, Songs of Praise, Sunday 1:15pm

Radio 3, Choral Evensong, Sunday 3pm

Radio 4 Long Wave, Daily Service, 9.45am Monday-Friday