

Sunday 24th May 2020

Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia!

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ. Our prayers continue to give us comfort and hope during these times of trial. Those of us who have been at funerals will know that they are a shadow of what they would be because of the gathering restrictions, which at most crematoria are down to a mere handful of immediate family. Sadly, not even family can embrace other family members if they do not come from the same household. It is heart breaking to see. These experiences have got me thinking about the term 'household'. It is not used that much as we fall back on the somewhat more restrictive term 'family' much more often. In these days, however, household is coming back into use recognising the different lock down situations folk are in. In New Testament Greek the term 'oikos' is used by St. Paul to illustrate the nature of what we might call 'the family of God' or the 'family of the church'. For Paul it is an all-including term and goes way beyond the ties of blood and includes all those who share a sense of home together in some way. It includes family but also visitors and those who serve often as slaves. It also includes those from whom we are physically separated but that we still consider part of our household. This is an important illustration for these times and for our sharing as those who follow Christ.

We wanted to share the positive news that we are beginning to make plans for opening our church buildings again. It is our intention to do so as soon as possible. A small group is meeting already to consider what will be needed for this to happen and to work with Local Church Stewards to assess and plan for opening again in each individual context. Opening our buildings will no doubt come with a range of specific requirements to do so safely. It will be an interesting and testing time, but we look forward with hope for the days when we can gather again for worship and service to our communities.

No Local Church will re-open without the affirmation that all is safely in place to do so from the Superintendent, in conjunction with ordained colleagues in pastoral charge and the senior Church Steward/s at each church.

Reminder: Dial – a – Prayer, Methodist Church

The printed sheet for last week contained an error in the telephone numbers for the prayer and the news. The correct numbers are given below and we apologise to anyone who was inconvenienced by this error.

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514
Listen to news: 0808 281 2478

Sunday Worship

Birmingham District Live-streamed service 10:30 <https://www.facebook.com/Birminghammethodistdistrict/live>
South Warwickshire Circuit recorded service https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9E0b5XWCV-SB0co6kiL5AyIbMJ77Q_MN

TV & radio opportunities for worship:

Radio 4, Sunday Worship, Sunday 8:10am,
Radio 4 Long Wave, Daily Service, 9.45am Mon-Fri,
Radio 3, Choral Evensong, Sunday 3pm.

BBC 1, Sunday Worship, Sunday 10.45am,
BBC 1, Songs of Praise, Sunday 1:15pm

Pastoral Support

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 ,
Rev. Audrey Simpson	01789 267971	revaes@gmail.com ,
Rev. Jeongsook Kim	07741 461060	revjeongsook@gmail.com ,
Chris Flood	07772 292033	chrisflood_erniescheu@hotmail.com
Rev. Jemima Strain	07969 345389	jemima.strain@methodist.org.uk
Rev. Sam McBratney	07706 586860	s.mcbratney@methodist.org.uk ,
Rev. Richard Wilde	07971 218356	revrichardwilde@gmail.com
Rev. Peter Powers	07941 328155	revpeter.mwc@gmail.com

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