

28th June 2020


The **Methodist Church**

South Warwickshire Circuit
Registered charity no. 1154830

Matthew 10:42 ... "whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

There seems to be a lot of pressure going on in the readings today. Jeremiah and Paul stick to their messages despite opposition. Jesus tells his disciples of trouble ahead. The verse above stands out as solace in the middle of the pressure. I imagine most of us have benefitted from small acts of kindness in recent months and have ourselves acted more gently and kindly towards others given the pressures of these extraordinary days. Gestures that normally might have passed us by unnoticed have become like a lifegiving cold drink of water to the thirsty. I'm reminded of two stories where small gestures of meant everything. Bishop Desmond Tutu at the age of nine saw a tall, white priest, Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, do something unheard of at the time of apartheid. He doffed his hat in greeting to Tutu's mother a working-class black woman. This respectful act became a defining moment in Tutu's life and contributed to him becoming a priest and to his lifelong struggle for justice. The other act of kindness is recorded by Oscar Wilde. In the custody of prison guards, handcuffed and humiliated, he was moved through a hostile crowd. He was jeered and spat on. One man acted differently - he respectfully raised his hat. This was as a drink of cold water to the broken poet and playwright. He wrote that the memory of that small kindness ... 'made the desert blossom like a rose and brought me out of the bitterness of lonely exile into harmony with the wounded, broken and great heart of the world.'

Sunday Worship

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/live>

In addition, we will be offering services online on the **Circuit's** own FaceBook page or via YouTube: https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=142865293925553&id=110929903785759
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9E0b5XWCv-SB0co6kiL5AylbMJ77Q_MN

A full text of this service is also available at this FaceBook 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.

TV & radio opportunities for worship:

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

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

Prayer

Daily prayers at 10am are led by members of the circuit via zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/328494818>
Please contact Michael Sharman on 07818 118979 if you'd like help getting in.

Reminder: Dial – a – Prayer, Methodist Church

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

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

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