

30th August 2020

The Methodist Church



South Warwickshire Circuit

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves, and take up their cross and follow me."
(Mt 10:39)

Warm greetings to you and welcome to this week's letter and printed service. As the church year draws to a close it's not difficult to put a finger on the dominating issue of the last 12 months. Many people have wisely reduced their intake of Coronavirus news. Too much can be bad for your mental health. Most of us have been affected in some way, directly or indirectly. It is easy to become weary of it, and of the measures we need to take as a result. So as we move into a new church year there are a couple of things we need to be particularly mindful of - our care for others, and our approach to worship.

My experience is that as we went into lockdown in March it brought out the best in people. Ok, sometimes also the worst, but by and large people offered to help others, do errands with good grace, get to know their neighbours better, willing to go the extra mile. Thankfully much of this has continued but there is a risk that as some aspects of normality return these little acts of kindness tumble down our list of priorities. So let us ensure we make that phone call, take a moment to check on our neighbour, be prepared to change our plans to help someone out. God's kingdom is not, and has never been, restricted to church buildings, but is present wherever people are in need.

The other area we need to pay attention to is our approach to worship. While a few churches are starting to offer gathered worship again, it's not the same as before, may not be appropriate for some and won't be to everyone's taste. As a result it's easy to fall out of the habit of worshipping, and our faith will suffer accordingly. Ironically, there are exciting alternatives, especially online, on tv and the radio. The variety there far exceeds what has been available in our church buildings. Yet even in our South Warwickshire churches creativity is breaking out! Prayer is being offered at Radford Road, reflections at Dale St, there are daily prayers on zoom, a new garden of hope is taking shape at Kenilworth and, a particular favourite of mine, outdoor worship at Mickleton in the 3Bs garden. Praise be!

Trevor Pethick, Circuit Steward.

Reminder: Dial – a – Prayer, Methodist Church

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

Listen to news: 0808 281 2478

Sunday Worship and Daily Prayers

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>

Change of YouTube account:

Please note, the Circuit now has its own YouTube account (it's no longer piggy-backing off Peter's), which means that the URL has changed. Please access the YouTube video by clicking the following link or typing it into your browser:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzyDSCOYMTQvpCroUvvxjE93MqkTWQomY>

In addition, we will be offering services online on the Circuit's own FaceBook page or via the Website:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SW.Methodist/>

Website: www.methodist-swc.org.uk

A full text of this service is available at this FaceBook link and on the website, and is being sent by post to all those people who do not use the Internet so they can join in too. These 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 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

(*The times of the TV services can alter, please check the times*)

Daily prayers at 10am are led by members of the circuit via zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/328494818> Please contact Michael Sharman on 07412 401988 if you'd like help getting in.

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 Dr Iain Ballard and he will link you up with help locally to you.

Rev Dr Iain Ballard	07368 875790	iain.ballard@methodist.org.uk
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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