



6<sup>th</sup> September 2020

The **Methodist Church**

South Warwickshire Circuit

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

**"nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:39)**

Today is my first Sunday as the Circuit Superintendent. It feels as though December and our visit was years rather than just a few months ago. Much has happened since that time and today is nothing like what I had planned. Yet we are here, and though things are different to what we expected or anticipated, we can all be assured that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Even when we are unable to physically gather for worship as we normally would, or when we can gather for worship that is so very different to what we are used to, God is still present.

We the church are called to be present in the world. Whilst much of that presence has changed from physical to being online or through the telephone or a socially distanced presence we can and must continue to be present in society. To use a Wesleyan term, we are all called to carry an extraordinary message to the world around us. A message of hope and love, for God loves all people; and because of that love, God gave through Christ, the gift of salvation; and through the Holy Spirit, God is present with and within us all.

We can choose to burry our heads in the sand hoping for Covid to just go away. It would be easy for us to do that and at times it is a perfectly natural and reasonable response, yet we are called to be a living hope. Perhaps this living hope is best heard through the words of Julian of Norwich, 'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.' It may not be as we expected or anticipated or even wanted, life rarely is, but we can be assured by the presence and love of God that all shall be well.

That message is one which the world, our friends, family and neighbours need to hear, all shall be well.

**Richest blessings**

**Iain**

**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](http://www.methodist-swc.org.uk)

A full text of this service is available at this FaceBook link and on the website, and it 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.**

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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*