



11<sup>th</sup> October 2020

The **Methodist Church**

**South Warwickshire Circuit**

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

When I was little, there was one day of the year when you got to wear your new clothes: Whit Sunday. That was the day the girls had new dresses and the boys new jackets and ties. All because that was the day we walked behind the brass band and the huge church banners for the Whit Sunday procession. The following Sunday, they would come out again because what was new the week before now became the 'Sunday Best'. And you always went to church in your best.

We are in a more informal age and there are fewer suits and frocks on a Sunday morning. In lockdown, we are joining in services from home on any day of the week, whenever suits us. No need to get dressed up, no need, even, to get out of bed. And there is nothing wrong with that. Except ..

Except, today's Gospel reading is all about being dressed ready for when the Bridegroom returns. As it could be any time, we can't always be wearing our smartest - we might be in bed or even in the shower. Perhaps there are spiritual clothes we ought to be putting on and unspiritual habits that we ought to be taking off. That would be clothing ourselves in our 'Sunday, Monday, Tuesday .... Best' all the time.

**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, 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=PLzyDSCOYMtQvpCroUvwxjE93MqkTWQomY>

If you regularly watch the Circuit Service, do consider subscribing to the Channel.

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 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	<a href="mailto:iain.ballard@methodist.org.uk">iain.ballard@methodist.org.uk</a>
Rev. Barbara Greenwood	01926 740846	<a href="mailto:barbara.greenwood@methodist.org.uk">barbara.greenwood@methodist.org.uk</a> ,
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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*