



25th October 2020

The **Methodist Church**

South Warwickshire Circuit

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

A few days ago I went for a walk in the countryside around Kenilworth. Walking is something that I used to enjoy, but if I'm honest I'm a little out of shape. I have often found it a way to relax and be with God, rather than running round trying to do for God. Yet as we walked I found myself to be a little anxious. I was with someone I didn't really know and more importantly for me, I didn't know where we were going or even how far. But, my companion did know, exactly how far it was and exactly where the paths were. As we walked through a Golf Course he was able to remind me to be careful as I crossed the fairway and more importantly which way the ball would be coming. In this way he kept me safe. As we walked we talked together and learned about each other, with the only distraction being the beauty of the countryside around us, rather than a telephone ringing or someone knocking at the door.

In the reading from John's Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples that he will send the Advocate often described as one who will interceded for us with the Father, rather like a Barrister would with a Judge. Yet the relationship we have with the Holy Spirit ought to be much deeper than this. Our Methodist ancestors had a very deep understanding of the Spirit. It was (and I would argue is) the Holy Spirit which pleads with our own spirit, calling us out of the world and into a relationship with God. For Wesley and myself it is the Holy Spirit which first allows us to cry, 'Abba, Father!' Those first words of faith, rather like the first words a child speaks. Something has changed forever and there is no going back.

The work of the Spirit doesn't end when our eyes and hearts open and we see and feel the love of God. It is the Holy Spirit continuing to work in us that empowers us to begin and then sustain our journeys as disciples' of Christ. It is the Spirit that not only intercedes on our behalf but who also intercedes on God's teaching us how to live our everyday lives. The Spirit is our companion throughout the journey of life.

Rather like my companion earlier in the week, it is the Spirit who knows the way and can show us the right paths; it is the Spirit which shows us the dangers and can keep us safe and it is the Spirit which knows the very essence of God and can lead us back to life in all its fullness.

This week take time to be with God, find time to do whatever it is you need to do to feel close to God and to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in you. Take time to reflect that the Spirit of God has been inside you since the very moment that life began and will remain with you not only until this life ends, but for all eternity. Make space to nurture that relationship, go for your walk (physical or metaphorical) with the Holy Spirit and see where she leads you.

May you be richly blessed this week,

Rev Dr Iain Ballard

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 the 1st and 3rd Sunday mornings at: <https://www.facebook.com/Birminghammethodistdistrict/live>

Circuit Service

The Circuit continues to provide a pre-recorded service each week, via YouTube, Facebook and our website – see below for details:

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=PLzyDSCOYMtQvpCroUvvxiE93MqkTWQomY>

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

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

Website: www.methodist-swc.org.uk

A full text of this service is available 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>

All members of the Circuit are invited to join, **you do not need a zoom account to join**. You can also join by **telephone**. 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