



10<sup>th</sup> January 2021

The **Methodist Church**

South Warwickshire Circuit

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

Dear Friends

Can you remember the first time you heard or offered the Covenant Prayer? I remember when I first encountered it and the effect it had on me as clear as day. In January 1980, halfway through a year's teacher training course I attended a Covenant Service at Headingly Methodist Church. In the previous term I had attended worship in other churches. I was shopping around in search of a denomination that ordained women and in which I felt at home. I was blown away by the gravitas and challenge of the Covenant prayer and immediately felt at home. Since then, some years the words have proved more difficult to say than others depending on what has happened and how faith has fared in the previous 12 months.

How are you feeling about offering the Covenant Prayer this year? Some may be champing at the bit because the challenges of 2020 have led to increased trust in God and deepening faith. Some may be thinking of giving the Covenant Service a miss because the uncertainties of the year have been mirrored in a sense of uncertainty in where you stand with God. If the latter is the case set aside a time to be quiet and, remembering you are in God's presence, read through the Covenant Prayer (see the service sheet p10). Ask the Spirit to guide you and lead you to greater understanding. Focus for a while on each phrase. Which do you find difficult to say to God? Reflect on what it is about the phrases that makes them difficult to say and mean. Be honest - tell God exactly how it is and why you hesitate to offer the prayer. Listen for God's word in your mind and heart – let the conversation unfold.

Every blessing

Audrey Simpson.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:

[tinyurl.com/SWCplaylist](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzyDSCOYMtQvpCroUvwxjE93MqkTWQomY) or if this doesn't work, try the long version:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzyDSCOYMtQsCToUfQ3sforT5J7geU2-D>

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

Rev Jemima, Michael Sharman & Graeme Russell have created **Family Worship Time** video which is available from 9:15 am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month through our YouTube Channel –

and can be accessed here: [tinyurl.com/SWC-FWT](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzyDSCOYMtQsCToUfQ3sforT5J7geU2-D) again if this doesn't work, try the longer version:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzyDSCOYMtQsCToUfQ3sforT5J7geU2-D>

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 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	<a href="mailto:iain.ballard@methodist.org.uk">iain.ballard@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*