

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT

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Not very long ago Kate and I met (virtually) to put together the March to May Preaching Plan, which you now have. We spent the first part of meeting deciding whether or not we should even try to write a plan followed by, how much should we write? How full should we make it? Knowing that we had no idea what the future was going to look like we embarked on writing a plan for most of the Circuit from Easter onwards, trusting that at least some of it will come to fruition and if things move faster than expected, well at least we have a plan.

You will see that there are Communion Services for Easter. I have planned all of the available Ministers to take these services and so have tried to spread them out across the Circuit. This will leave some places without a service of their own. If you are wanting to attend a service then please do make contact with your nearest church that has one. I hope that this Easter even if we have to be socially distanced and cannot sing, at least we will be able to hear the Easter Story and respond by receiving Bread and Wine. Later in the plan every church has at least one Local Arrangement please see this as an opportunity rather than a chore. I encourage you to try new things or to work as a team to bring your worship to God. Perhaps these are times for people to test a call to Worship Leading or Preaching. For Pentecost we hope to be able to do something together (and possibly outside).

We do not know for how much longer we will be required to have Risk Assessments and Socially Distanced Worship but at the time of writing these are still very much part of how we must live in these difficult times. It is therefore a requirement for any Church wanting to hold any activity including Worship to have a Risk Assessment which has been accepted by the Local Church Council. This Circuit Plan does not and cannot remove that need, but the CCAG are ready and able to help any church through the process of re-opening. May I take this moment to thank all those involved in re-opening churches for their time and diligence in making sure we are all safe.

In the time since starting to write the plan we have had good news about vaccines showing signs of working, and harder news about new variants. If I am honest I am starting to understand the child sat in the back seat of the car who asks the question, 'are we nearly there yet?' Of course none of us really know the answer. What I do know however is that God is travelling along with us. Sometimes calling us on, or urging us to move faster. At different times slowing us down and pleading that we simply rest and be with him rather than doing for him. Equally there are times when God laughs and cries with us and even when God carries us because we are too weak, tired, or afraid. May the journey of Lent and on through Easter allow you to find time and space to be with God, may you hear the voice of God calling you not into a plan but into a loving embrace with the one who created you. As we move towards Pentecost may you be filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit, God present within you.

Richest blessings,

Iain

Revd Dr Iain Ballard DipTheol, MBChB, MRCEM

Superintendent Minister of the South Warwickshire Methodist Circuit

		March 7th	March 14th	March 21st	March 28th Palm Sunday	April 4th Easter Day	April 11th	April 18th	25th April	May 2nd	May 9th	May 16th	May 23rd Pentecost	30th May Trinity Sunday
Alternatives can be found at www.methodist.org.uk (search for LECTIONARY)		Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 1 Cor's 1:18-25 John 2:13-22	Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Eph's 2:1-10 John 3:14-21	Jer'ah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12 Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33	Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Phil'ns 2:5-11 Mark 14:1 – 15:47	Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Cor' 15:1-11 John 20:1-18	Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1 – 2:2 John 20:19-31	Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48	Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18	Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:25-31 1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8	Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98 1 John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Psalm 1 1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19	Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:24- 34, 35b Rom's 8:22-27 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15	Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 29 Rom's 8:12-17 John 3:1-17
Internet Services														
Pastoral Letter	9:00 am	Pethick	E Clark	Kim	McBratney	Ballard	Mee	B Greenwood	Strain	D Greenwood	McBratney	Tarrant	Ballard	Rowland
Worship Leader	9:00 am	Simpson	Strain	Ballard	Pethick	Oliver	Kim	A Howe	Weston	Sharman	Bullivant	Oliver	Weir	D Greenwood
Readings	9:00 am	Kim / Rowland	A Howe / Pethick	Saxton / K Pearson	D Greenwood / Weir	Evans / Blackwell	Weston / Saxton	K Pearson / Aldridge	Sharman / B Greenwood	McBratney / Strain	Saxton / Simpson	Evans / Rowland	Simpson / Sharman	A Howe / Weir
Sermon	9:00 am	Blackwell	Saxton	D Greenwood	Kim	B Greenwood	Blower	Bullivant	E Clark	A Howe	Strain	Aldridge	Ballard	McBratney
Church services														
Kenilworth	10:00 am					Ballard S	Flood	D Greenwood	Ballard S	S Brown	T Pearson ASD	LA		Ballard S
Stockton (LEP)	10:30 am		Ballard S				Hextall S				Ballard S			
Warwick	10:30 am	B Greenwood CSS	Blackwell Zm	Ballard	Oliver R	B Greenwood S	Metcalf	3:00 Selby NYNC	Mason	Ballard S	LA	3:00 Bullivant NYNC		Rowland
Wellesbourne	10:30 am					Rowland S	G Howe AW	Lloyd	B Greenwood S	LA	Pethick AW	J Gardner		B Greenwood S
Whitnash	10:30 am						B Greenwood S	LA	4:00 Bullivant SD	G Howe AAWP	B Greenwood S	Strain		Hill
Cubbington	10:30 am					Kim S	S Brown	Ballard	LA	Kim S	Weston R	Rowland		J Gardner
Dale Street	10:30 am					Hextall S	Kim	G Howe	Kim S	LA	Selby	Dobson S		T Pearson
Henley in Arden	10:30 am	Simpson	B Greenwood	Cooper	Ballard	Flood	Simpson S	Blackwell	D Greenwood	Aldridge	Simpson S	LA		Simpson
Stratford on Avon	10:30 am	Lloyd ASD	Strain	Simpson	G Howe	Simpson S	Selby	Dobson S	Simpson	LA	Church	Mason S		S Brown
Radford Road	10:30 am	Church	Rowland	S Brown	Church	Strain S	Church	LA	Hill	Strain S	S Brown	Church		Church
Bidford on Avon	10:30 am					Mason S RMS		S Brown	Rowland S	LA		Fitton		11:00 Welford RMS
Mickleton	10:30 am					@Bidford S RMS	Ashton	LA	Strain S	M Clarke	Cooper	McBratney		11:00 Welford RMS
Tysoe	10:30 am					@Fenny Compton S RMS	T Pearson	B Greenwood S	LA	Flood	McBratney S	Neal		11:00 Welford RMS
Welford on Avon	11:00 am					10:30 @Bidford S RMS	M Clarke	Kim S		B Greenwood	LA	Ballard S		McBratney RMS
Fenny Compton	10:30 am					McBratney S		Neal		Ashton	Flood	Wilde S		Fitton
Kineton	10:30 am	Ashton		Mason	@St Peter's S	@St Peter's S		Wilde		McBratney		Phipps	@St Peter's S	LA
Kineton	6:30 pm		4:00 St Peter's Wilde					4:00 St Peter's				4:00 St Peter's		

At present, services at Methodist Homes are only for residents

AAWP	All Age Worship and Parade service	CSS	Covenant & Communion	R	Reader Service	SD	Something Different
ASD	Assessed Service	LA	Local Arrangement	RMS	Rural Mission Service	Zm	Zoom
AW	Alternative Worship	NYNC	Not Your Normal Church	S	Holy Communion		