



6th June 2021

The **Methodist Church**

South Warwickshire Circuit

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

Jesus asked “Who are my mother and my brothers? I write at the end of a day spent with my sister, her husband, my broth and his wife and my own wife. It’s the first actual get together in many months though we have ‘zoomed’ coffee and cake a couple of times! For many years my mother had been the link ensuring all the family down the generations were kept in contact. Our lads referred to her home in Banbury as GCHQ as she seemed to have all the intelligence on us. We marveled how it was that in 1985 she phoned me from Banbury early one morning when I and my family was living in Gweru (Zimbabwe) to check that we were OK. She had just heard on the BBC World service that there had been a riot in Gweru late the previous evening. “News to me” I said. No idea what you are talking about. In fact there has been an uprising in the relatively nearby town ship (about 2 miles).

Two things stand out from that incident. Firstly how much many parts of the world depend on the BBC for unbiased news of events in their country where the local media is censored. Secondly the extent of a mother’s life long concern for her children.

The inquiry into the Bashir interview of Princess Diana has damaged that reputation a little, probably more in the UK than abroad. A reminder that whatever organization we belong to, including the church, our errors of judgement have ripples far away from the actual lapse itself. We all have a responsibility to stand together and hold differences of opinion together as a loving family does at its best. And I wonder how Jesus’ question when Mary came to hear of it must have hurt. I understand what he was driving at – in the work of the kingdom there will be times when the needs of others are more important than even our own family but she may have found that hard to bear then day. It is balanced by his care for her even as he was dying entrusting her care to “the disciple whom he loved”

There is though an underlying truth as well. And that family is more then those who share a bunch of genes. The adopted child, children from a partner’s prior marriage, and many other groups form into families as deep and worthy, sometimes functioning better then our birth family. I ma grateful for the work done and continuing to be done keeping this Christian family – the South Warwickshire Circuit of Methodist Churches, you and me in touch with each other and able to hold one another before God in prayer.

Rev Richard Wilde

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, eg Methodist Central Hall (London) streams worship each Sunday at 11:00 am (<https://mchw.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=PLzyDSCOYMtQvpCroUvvxjE93MqkTWQomY) or if this doesn’t work, try the long version:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzyDSCOYMtQvpCroUvvxjE93MqkTWQomY>

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 2nd and 4th 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

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 zoom meetings are now protected by password – please contact Michael Sharman (see below) for the password. 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 <i>(Day off – Friday)</i>	07368 875790	iain.ballard@methodist.org.uk
Rev. Barbara Greenwood <i>(Day off – Friday)</i>	01926 740846	barbara.greenwood@methodist.org.uk ,
Rev. Jeongsook Kim <i>(Day off – Tuesday)</i>	01926 426084	revjeongsook@gmail.com ,
Rev. Audrey Simpson <i>(Day off – Friday)</i>	01789 267971	revaes@gmail.com ,
Rev. Jemima Strain <i>(Part-time)</i>	07969 345389	jemima.strain@methodist.org.uk ,
Rev. Sam McBratney <i>(Part-time)</i>	07706 586860	s.mcbratney@methodist.org.uk ,
Rev. Richard Wilde <i>(Part-time)</i>	07971 218356	revrichardwilde@gmail.com ,
Chris Flood <i>(Part-time)</i>	07772 292033	chrisflood_erniescheu@hotmail.com ,

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