

25th July 2021


The Methodist Church

South Warwickshire Circuit

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

Dear Friends

Today is the first Sunday after what some have referred to, in England, as 'Freedom Day'. For me it was more of a case of 'Freedom to Choose Day'. Now, as individuals and churches, we have choices such as whether and where to wear face coverings; whether to sanitise our hands on entering and leaving buildings; and whether to continue to practice social distancing.

For some the freedom to choose will have been welcomed. For others it will have had an adverse effect on their lives and sense of wellbeing.

As Christians the freedom to choose does not give us licence to do as we please. In Romans chapters 14 and 15 and in Galatians 5:13-14, St Paul, encourages us to remember the impact that our choices have on other people:

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence but through love become slaves to one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

The Circuit Covid Advisory Group have written to churches to help our Councils decide how our buildings are to be used and how worship is to be conducted in ways that enable us to live safely alongside Covid 19. Our thanks are due to the members of the CCAG for their work in helping us put government guidelines and laws into practice since March 2020.

As we and our Church Councils are given the responsibility and freedom to make choices may the Holy Spirit enable us to be 'cautious as snakes and as gentle as doves' (Matthew 10:16 GNB).

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, 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:

Please access the YouTube video by clicking the following link or typing it into your browser:

[tinyurl.com/SWCplaylist](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLzyDSCOYMtQvpCroUvvxjE93MqkTWQomY)

or if this doesn't work, try the long version:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLzyDSCOYMtQvpCroUvvxjE93MqkTWQomY>

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.

District Messages: The Birmingham District puts out a message on their YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC65eOm7QtM4Wu1R6jTI7frw>

or you can search on YouTube for *Birmingham Methodist District*.

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>	(Rev Jemima is on Sabbatical)	
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