

12th September 2021


The **Methodist Church**

South Warwickshire Circuit

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

I remember reading a poster a few years ago which read "If you can read this, thank a teacher". The poster was inside a school near the reception window so presumably it was intended to influence the attitude of a parent wanting to meet the head teacher for whatever reason. One could be nit picking pointing out that some children are partly and in some cases, completely taught to read by her/his parent/carer but I am one who values teachers and what they are trying to achieve sometimes in difficult circumstances. As a child there are some teachers I will never forget either because they were really good or really bad in my experience. On the bad side were the few who used bullying, humiliation and physical force to maintain discipline – I still carry a scar where I was hit on the forehead by a chalkboard rubber- while others were an inspiration. Having failed the 11 plus and been sent to a Secondary Modern School its perhaps understandable that society and some teachers saw my cohort as low achievers suitable only for manual work as adults while others recognised the range of academic ability and intelligence among us.

While I was there my school was merged with the neighbouring Grammar school (where my older sister and brother had both been pupils) and called Comprehensive. Some years later it became a really good school where students and staff flourished. I wrote CSE exams aged 16 but was allowed to stay on and passed 6 'O' levels leaving school aged 17. Mr Atherton taught me geography to CSE and 'O' level. He gave me a love of physical and human geography that was so helpful when I began work traveling the UK on civil engineering sites and useful when I lived in Africa. Mr Budd used his experience as an RAF navigator as a hook to help us see the relevance of trigonometry, algebra, geometry and how to use logarithms. Mr Morris guided me through CSE Rural Science then O level Agricultural Science. There were others too, women and men who encouraged us to believe in ourselves and the value of education in its fullest sense overcoming the damage done by failing an exam when aged 10yrs.

It is from this background that I see and read of the concerns of what may well happen if Afghanistan returns to former Taliban policies of excluding girls and women from education. It is so short sighted and enforcing such policies claiming them to be true to Islamic values is, in my opinion, a blasphemy within their own religion. And it doesn't just damage women and restrict their life choices/fulfilment. The whole of society and economic progress is stunted when girls are denied education when they reach their teens. I remember in my early years working in Zimbabwe (mid 1980's) listening to community development workers who realised the error made by families in poor, mostly rural, areas who sent only their sons to secondary school through much of the twentieth century. Traditionally women worked the soil growing vegetables, rearing goats and chickens, watching over family health and nutrition, teaching values and customs to their own children. The theory was that men would get well paid jobs and send money home to the extended family. In many cases that worked in a limited way. But when the economy collapsed, HIV/AIDS was rampant, and infrastructure fractured too many women lacked the knowledge to guide families through and to a better future.

So pray for all involved in education here, in Afghanistan and in many countries where access to education is limited by poverty and prejudice. And, if you read this letter, thank a teacher!

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:

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.

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 Sally Jones <i>(Day off – Monday; Study day – Friday)</i>	01926 740846	sally.jones@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>	<i>Rev Jemima is on Sabbatical</i>	
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