

19<sup>th</sup> September 2021

  
**The Methodist Church**

**South Warwickshire Circuit**

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

I hope you are well. I wonder if you find change threatening or refreshing? Invigorating or unsettling? A sign that the Spirit is actively at work in our lives or that traditions are being undermined? You may have thoughts about what your church (and circuit) should look like as we emerge from the pandemic. There are those things many long to get back to – like proper Methodist singing and coffee after the service! There are other things we've learnt in the past 18 months we may want to retain because they will still be useful, such as the weekly online and printed service.

Can we have the best of both worlds? I think so, yes. Some churches (eg Stratford) are upgrading their equipment to enable their Sunday services to be live streamed to those unable to attend. For meetings we may choose to have some in person and some, perhaps in the cold dark winter months, by zoom. The reduced need for heating and travelling also has environmental benefits.

Talking of meetings there is also the prospect of reducing their number, and also the number of people needed. A Circuit Meeting last month endorsed a vision of reducing the number of Church Councils from 15 currently to possibly as low as 6. This would happen by combining Church Councils. Each new Church Council would cover a number of churches. A major benefit is we would then need only 6 safeguarding officers, secretaries, treasurers etc rather than 15 of each. Of course, each of these roles would increase in size, but there will still be a significant overall saving in time. Those who decide to relinquish their current role may take the opportunity to do something different such as getting involved in outward looking activities. And of course it would increase our sense of being with other Methodists.

Which groups will form? This is for individual churches to decide, but one natural model would be to form groups around each of Stratford (incl Henley & Mickleton), Leamington (incl Dale St, Cubbington and Radford Road) and Warwick (incl Whitnash & Wellesbourne). A further grouping would consist of the rural chapels while Kenilworth and Stockton would continue as they are. As they say on tv, other solutions are available.

These are significant changes and the implications for each church will need to be worked through prayerfully. It is important to note that nothing will change at your church without the agreement of your Church Council. Similarly the timescale for these changes will depend on the churches themselves, although those with fewer than 12 members will need to consolidate by September 2022 because of a recent change in Methodist rules. If you have any questions please feel free to contact your church steward or any of the circuit stewards.

May we be guided in prayer by the Spirit in all we do as the church moves forward.

*Trevor Pethick*

**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](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.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC65eOm7QtM4Wu1R6jT17frw>

or you can search on YouTube for *Birmingham Methodist District*. We also have it up on our website.

#### **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	<a href="mailto:iain.ballard@methodist.org.uk">iain.ballard@methodist.org.uk</a>
Rev Sally Jones <i>(Day off – Monday; Study day – Friday)</i>	01926 740846	<a href="mailto:sally.jones@methodist.org.uk">sally.jones@methodist.org.uk</a>
Rev. Jeongsook Kim <i>(Day off – Tuesday)</i>	01926 426084	<a href="mailto:revjeongsook@gmail.com">revjeongsook@gmail.com</a>
Rev. Audrey Simpson <i>(Day off – Friday)</i>	01789 267971	<a href="mailto:revaes@gmail.com">revaes@gmail.com</a> ,
Rev. Jemima Strain <i>(Part-time)</i>	<i>Rev Jemima is on Sabbatical</i>	
Rev. Richard Wilde <i>(Part-time)</i>	07971 218356	<a href="mailto:revrichardwilde@gmail.com">revrichardwilde@gmail.com</a> ,
Chris Flood <i>(Part-time)</i>	07772 292033	<a href="mailto:chrisflood_erniescheu@hotmail.com">chrisflood_erniescheu@hotmail.com</a>

**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*