

7th November 2021


The **Methodist Church**

South Warwickshire Circuit

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

Dear Friends,

‘Do you have a desire to know Jesus more intimately, love Jesus more fully and follow Jesus more wholeheartedly?’ (**Discovering the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius** by Larry Warner)

My world is noisy at the best of times. I’m noisy and loud and my small humans are, well, typical small humans, bundles of energy, loud, fun, wonderful. Life in our house is always non-stop, there’s always a story, or a mini drama about how one of them getting stuck in the toilet at school and having to climb out the window. Football training, swimming lessons, homework, playdates...I’m one of those mothers who goes to work for a rest and the joys of ministry are often anything but restful.

As I sit here, recently back from sabbatical, I want to say something about the gift of sabbatical. But in particular, the gift of silence. We started my sabbatical with positive PCR tests, and whilst I wasn’t really poorly, neither was I well. On the day our isolation ended, my 7-year-old woke me up at 6am full dressed ready to go out for the day. We were determined to not waste the rest of the summer.

And so, September came and I craved quiet and rest. My body, mind and soul couldn’t do anymore.

I booked a week at St Beuno’s in North Wales, and in the next few days I will be vlogging about my experience as an extrovert there and following the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius.

There were so many ways that I found God speaking, when I finally allowed him space to speak and me time to listen. One of the things that God showed me were the most amazing sunsets, that with the space of nothing else to do and no chitchat or demands, I was able to stop, pause and watch the glory of God displayed in the sky.

We were encouraged to start each prayer with thankfulness, and to ask God for the desires of your heart.

I’m currently back in the thick of the business again. But I don’t want to be so busy that I don’t have moments to stop, pause and recognise the ever-loving presence of God. Life is busy and complicated and loud for many of us.

As we enter into this new week, may you take time to pause to be still; to breathe slowly; and to re-centre your scattered senses upon the presence of God. Amen.

Rev Jemima Strain

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.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC65eOm7QtM4Wu1R6jTl7frw>

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	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>	<i>Rev Audrey is on Sabbatical</i>	
Rev. Jemima Strain <i>(Part-time)</i>	07969 345389	jemima.strain@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