

5th December 2021


The **Methodist Church**

South Warwickshire Circuit

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

Dear Friends,

Advent is a time of getting ready, not only for Christmas coming but for the return of Christ. This advent we may need to remind ourselves that Jesus was born away from home, and quickly needed to flee to a foreign land. The journey from Bethlehem to Egypt would not have been easy. Joseph and Mary journey with a young child, away from their families, their support networks, their home. They journeyed into a foreign land, where they didn't share the language, culture, religion. They journeyed from the land of milk and honey and back to the land where the Hebrews had been slaves. They travelled not because they wanted to but because it was the only way that they and their son our saviour would be safe.

As we prepare to receive the refugee family of Christ into our lives this Christmas are we prepared to help those who are fleeing persecution? As we welcome our families and guests amongst a plethora of gifts and food and presents, are we prepared to share from our wealth, with those who by comparison are in extreme poverty? Are we prepared to welcome the gift of love from God and share it with those around us? As I write this letter to you, I am filled with a mixture of emotions for those who lost their lives yesterday as they tried to make it across the channel. With the end in sight they must have started to feel safe even excited at the prospects of their new lives. Yet they never made it to our shores, men women, and children died in the English channel as they tried to flee the persecution of their homelands. As we prepare to welcome Jesus who became a refugee will we welcome others fleeing persecution in exactly the same way?

Rev Iain

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/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/UC65eOm7QtM4Wu1R6jTI7frw>

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	ian.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,

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