

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2022

  
**The Methodist Church**

**South Warwickshire Circuit**

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

“He tends His flock like a shepherd,; He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart; He gently leads those that have young.” Isaiah 40: 11. What a lovely image of our God and how appropriate for this April edition when we see young lambs in the fields and for a pastoral letter. (Pastor means Shepherd). Its one of a series of metaphors in this chapter of Isaiah’s prophesies and introduces the third and final part of this amazing book. These words of hope and comfort were addressed to a nation who have been driven out of their towns and cities by a powerful invading and occupying army. Almost entire populations moved from their homes fleeing for their lives and/or being taken to settle in the empire of the oppressor. A situation that rings with rather more relevance today than we would like. Already European Union countries have received and accommodated seven figure numbers of people displaced from towns and cities of Ukraine and by the time you read this a few thousand will have settled into homes and hostels in this country too. The generous response of UK individuals, villages, towns and cities has been very moving and stirs a sense of common humanity. Hosts will receive an unexpected but welcome contribution from tax payers towards their costs.

The metaphor of shepherd which is frequently used throughout the Bible and Jesus appropriates to himself as” The Good Shepherd” (John 10:11) is one I am reminded of every week at Stratford Livestock Market. My earliest memories include seeing new born lambs that are underweight or orphaned or for some reason have been placed in a box of straw close to the range in the kitchen or living room for warmth and a watchful eye. I see my late father in his khaki smock carrying twins in his arms leading their mother to a safe spot after their birth as farmers did and do for thousands of years. As you watch the idyllic scene of lambs playing in the fields returning to their mums for a top up of milk every little while spare a thought and prayer for the farmer who has and will tend them. She/he will have worked literally night and day for six weeks with little sleep during lambing. Spare a thought and prayer too for refugees from Ukraine who are settling into homes up and down this country and for their hosts who have taken them in at considerable personal costs and inconvenience. Then spare a thought and a prayer for those who have fled other conflicts who are not allowed access to this country and become prey to those who exploit them in their plight.

Rev Richard Wilde

**Reminder: Dial – a – Prayer, Methodist Church**

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514  
2478

Listen to news: 0808 281

**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/>)

Livestreaming of worship takes place at other venues associated with the Connexion – see <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/worship-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/> for more details.

**Circuit Service**

The Circuit now provides a pre-recorded service each month (on the first Sunday of the month), 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://tinyurl.com/SWCplaylist)

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

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzyDSCOYMtQvpCroUvxxjE93MqkTWQomY>

***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)

Additional pre-recorded services will be provided by the Circuit for special feasts (Easter, Christmas etc)

A full text of the pre-recorded 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.

In intervening weeks, the Circuit will be using the service provided by the Methodist Church.

#### **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, 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	07368 875790	<a href="mailto:iain.ballard@methodist.org.uk">iain.ballard@methodist.org.uk</a>
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*(Day off – Friday)*

Rev Sally Jones	01926 740846	<a href="mailto:sally.jones@methodist.org.uk">sally.jones@methodist.org.uk</a>
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*(Day off – Monday;*

*Study day – Friday)*

Rev. Jeongsook Kim *Rev Jeongsook is on sabbatical until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022*

*(Day off – Tuesday)*

Rev. Audrey Simpson	01789 267971	<a href="mailto:revaes@gmail.com">revaes@gmail.com</a>
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*(Day off – Friday)*

Rev. Jemima Strain	07969 345389	
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[jemima.strain@methodist.org.uk](mailto:jemima.strain@methodist.org.uk)

*(Part-time)*

Rev. Richard Wilde	07971 218356	<a href="mailto:revrichardwilde@gmail.com">revrichardwilde@gmail.com</a> ,
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*(Part-time)*

**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*