

Sunday 26th April 2020

3rd Sunday of Easter

Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

This week things get more serious as we are in lock down for another three weeks and the news is of increasingly long extensions to the time before we can be 'set free' again. 'Being free' is one of the messages at the heart of the Good News of Jesus. In his risen life Jesus is set free from the bounds of earth and heaven. By his Holy Spirit Jesus is everywhere at all times and in all places. This is the promise faith makes to us it is our hope.

The leadership of the Circuit are already talking about how we continue to be the Body of Christ in the coming weeks. The weekly service and this letter will develop I am sure and we will continue to offer all the ministry we can as the time goes along, as we get used to a new normal.

One or two people have expressed their concern at the cost of posting out the service each week. We wanted to assure you that this cost is more than offset by the savings we make by not having travel costs to cover! Ministers and other staff would usually be claiming back the cost of the travelling they do for work. Obviously, this is not happening at the present of foreseeable time. That said, we know that folk appreciate the worship mailing however it comes to then and we will be continuing to develop this ministry long after this crisis has abated. We want to encourage you to continue giving to the work of your church wherever possible and if you do not already do so by standing order or direct debit then please contact your Local Church treasurer or the Circuit Treasurer, David Witham (davidwitham1962@yahoo.co.uk or 01926 493090) and they will help you to do so. Thank you.

TV & radio opportunities for worship:

Radio 4, Sunday Worship, Sunday 8:10am, Radio 4 Long Wave, Daily Service, 9.45am Monday-Friday, Radio 3, Choral Evensong, Sunday 3pm

BBC1, Sunday Worship, Sunday 10.45am, BBC 1, Songs of Praise, Sunday 1:15pm

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. Peter Powers and he will link you up with help locally to you.

Rev. Barbara Greenwood 01926740846 barbara.greenwood@methodist.org.uk

Rev. Audrey Simpson 01789267971 revaes@gmail.com

Rev. Jeongsook Kim 07741461060 revjeongsook@gmail.com

Chris Flood 07772 292033 chrisflood_erniescheu@hotmail.com

Rev. Jemima Strain 07969345389 jemima.strain@methodist.org.uk

Rev. Sam McBratney 07706586860 s.mcbratney@methodist.org.uk

Rev. Richard Wilde 07971218356 revrichardwilde@gmail.com

Rev. Peter Powers 07941328155 revpeter.mwc@gmail.com

There are plenty of opportunities to join in worship if you have the internet. We are encouraging everyone to link up with the live stream worship being offered by the Birmingham District via Facebook on Sunday mornings at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Birminghammethodistdistrict/>

In addition, we will be offering services online on the Circuit's own FaceBook page and on YouTube. The links are below: https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=142865293925553&id=110929903785759

A full text of this service is also available at this link and is being sent by post to all those people who do not use the Internet so they can join in too. These two 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.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of us.

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