

5th Sunday of Easter

Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia!

Warm greetings to you all as we share together in worship via post and Internet for the seventh week. Our prayers and pastoral work continue across the Circuit as those involved in worship and pastoral ministry continue to offer what support they can. Funerals have become an increasing part of our work and the sadness that you will have heard about is even more deeply moving when only a small handful of immediate family can gather at the Crematoriums. In each and every case we offer the prospect of a thanksgiving service in one of our churches when we can welcome folk into our buildings again. Please pray for all those affected by the death of loved ones in these extraordinary times. As I write, the news is of looking to the future. A time when the lock down ends or at least loosens its grip on individual, family and community life. We are rightly cautious. We were thrown into this crisis with very little public notice and we would be unwise to rush out of it with the potential to fall into a subsequent wave of illness and death. The churches are beginning to consider what opening our buildings and beginning to gather again will look like. We will look to this across the Circuit here in South Warwickshire. But.....at this stage I want to be absolutely clear that we will take our time to do this with care and safety uppermost in our thoughts and actions. No church will reopen without my agreement and after a process agreed with Local Church Stewards. Each context is different and so we expect to begin to embrace the 'new normal' gently and over some weeks. It will not be a case of here's the date and off we go! It will take time and careful steps to reopen our buildings and establish new ways of working with those who use our premises as well as our own church activities. The Circuit Leadership know you will continue to support us as we advise and guide the coming weeks and months. This Sunday's Gospel reading from John 14 is reminder of how we all need reassurance sometimes. Jesus seeks to reassure Thomas and the others listening, that he will be with them, until the end of time. May we know that assurance too. *Pray for us, as we pray for you.*

TV & radio opportunities for worship:

Radio 4, Sunday Worship, Sunday 8:10am,	BBC1, Sunday Worship, Sunday 10.45am,
Radio 4 Long Wave, Daily Service, 9.45am Mon-Fri,	BBC 1, Songs of Praise, Sunday 1:15pm
Radio 3, Choral Evensong, Sunday 3pm.	

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,

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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