

Sunday 17th May 2020

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

Warm greetings to you as we share together in worship via post and Internet for the eighth week. Peter Powers has asked me to write this week's letter (normal service will be resumed next week!). In a week when the Government has started to ease the lockdown many will be wondering when we can resume worship in our churches. Their new guidelines suggest July at the earliest. However, we will be taking a cautious approach and will be in no rush. We expect to adopt a phased approach. A tricky area is singing, a key and defining aspect of Methodist worship. Unfortunately singing is a particularly effective way of spreading the virus. Solutions will no doubt be found in due course, but for now it remains an obstacle.

Ministers on the move

The other important piece of news relates to our minister, Revd. Barbara Greenwood, who looks after Warwick, Whitnash and Wellesbourne. Her appointment ends in the summer of next year, 2021. After careful consideration Barbara has decided not to seek an extension and will 'sit down', the Methodist term for retirement. At the appropriate time we will of course thank Barbara for all she has brought to the circuit, and the 3Ws in particular, but she will be with us for another year so it's not time to say goodbye just yet!

This does mean that we will now start the process of finding a new minister, focusing on the 3Ws. This will not be easy, given the shortage of minister nationally. However, we will put our best foot forward. The process is quite a long one and we will not know the result until later this year, or even next.

Of course, we haven't yet finished this year's moves. We are still hopeful Peter Power's move to Oxford and Iain Ballard's move to Kenilworth can proceed as planned but there is still some uncertainty. Both have young families, so please keep Peter & Deborah, Iain & Sarah, and their children in your prayers.

Dial – a – Prayer

The Methodist Church has launched a new telephone service. If you would like to hear a prayers or current Methodist Church national news there are two freephone numbers, shown below,

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

Listen to news: 0808 281 2478

Chaplaincy at MHA Charnwood

An opportunity for a part time chaplain at MHA Charnwood in Coventry has arisen. If you are interested please see further details at <http://www.mha.org.uk/careers> or the sheet attached with this letter. If you know of someone who may be interested, please let them know. **Closing date is 7th June.**

Sunday Worship

Although we are not able to worship in the traditional manner, a whole variety of new possibilities have sprung up. Many in the circuit are among the 500 or so across the Birmingham District and beyond, enjoying the live streamed worship offered by the District via FaceBook at 10.30 on Sunday mornings. Note, you don't need to have an account: <https://www.facebook.com/Birminghammethodistdistrict/>

In addition, you are invited to join the recorded Circuit services online on YouTube. You can view this at any time from 9am on Sunday 17th. by clicking on the link below. As usual, a printout is also included with this letter: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9E0b5XWCv-SB0co6kiL5AylbMJ77Q_MN

We would love to know how you are getting on with these online worship offerings. Has logging on been straightforward? What aspects do you like? What could be improved? What other online worship are you enjoying? If you have a moment please email or phone Kate at the Circuit Resource Centre (see below). Please also contact Kate if you know of someone else who would like to receive this letter, or if you wish to stop doing so.

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

Contact Details		
Rev Barbara Greenwood	01926 740846	barbara.greenwood@methodist.org.uk ,
Rev. Audrey Simpson	01789 267971	revaes@gmail.com ,
Rev. Jeongsook Kim	07741 461060	revjeongsook@gmail.com ,
Chris Flood	07772 292033	chrisflood_erniescheu@hotmail.com
Rev. Jemima Strain	07969 345389	jemima.strain@methodist.org.uk
Rev. Sam McBratney	07706 586860	s.mcbratney@methodist.org.uk ,
Rev. Richard Wilde	07971 218356	revrichardwilde@gmail.com
Rev. Peter Powers	07941 328155	revpeter.mwc@gmail.com
Circuit Resource Office – Kate Tennyson	07578 640013	swc.katetennyson@gmail.com

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.

Trevor Pethick,
 Circuit Steward.

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