



26th July 2020

The **Methodist Church**

South Warwickshire Circuit

Registered charity no. 1154830

An article in the weekend newspaper a couple of weeks ago introduced me to a phone app which enables you to receive phone calls from complete strangers. You might think that sounds like a nightmare – but read on! The premise is that if you love books, for example, the system matches you up with someone else who loves books. You know that at a certain time in the week your phone will ring, and you will be connected to someone who will happily chat about books. If it's not a convenient time, you just don't answer, and the person you would have spoken to speaks to someone else instead. It is completely anonymous, so if you don't like your conversation partner, you can simply hang up and they will never be able to trace you.

This app has been in existence for a year, but as the pandemic developed, its creators added a new feature: a daily call at a random time of day, with no particular theme. The idea was twofold; to relieve the isolation of people were unable to leave their homes; and to replace some of the random meetings with people which can only happen when you go out.

Today's paper included a report about the impact of lockdown on mental health – how many of those who had pre-existing issues have got worse, and many had developed a problem for the first time. Alongside this was an article saying that only 12% of people want life to go “back to normal”, exactly as it was before. The rest have found at least one thing they want to keep. They have learned a new skill, or got to know their neighbours, or noticed nature, or appreciated the cleaner air. This is what times of crisis do. They put huge pressure on us, but they also release resourcefulness and creativity and pave the way for new thinking.

As we wait to see how things develop in our area, let us remember that the ultimate source of all life and creativity is God himself. What good things have you found during the pandemic? What do you hope to keep?

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. 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/live>

In addition, we will be offering services online on the Circuit's own FaceBook page or via YouTube:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=142865293925553&id=110929903785759

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9E0b5XWCv-SB0co6kiL5AyIbMJ77Q_MN

A full text of this service is also available at this FaceBook 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.

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> Please contact Michael Sharman on 07818 118979 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. Audrey Simpson and she will link you up with help locally to you.

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 ,

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