



14<sup>th</sup> February 2021

The **Methodist Church**

South Warwickshire Circuit

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

February 14th used to be the feast of Saint Valentine. I say 'used to be' because Valentine was de-canonised (un-sainted) by the Vatican along with some others, because there wasn't enough evidence to prove that he ever actually existed. Despite this spiritual demotion, many will still pay homage to Valentine today with cards and flowers and marriage proposals .

Sadly, today marks yet another *red-letter day* disrupted by the pandemic. We have lost count of birthdays, church festivals, and holidays where we have had to restrict celebrations or have been kept apart from loved ones. Thankfully there is light ahead as the number of vaccinations passes the 10 million point and the rates of infection begin to drop.

This is also the Sunday before Lent when the lectionary readings tell the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus. It reminds us of our very real need of celebration, encouragement, spiritual uplift and affirmation in order to cope with times of struggle and difficulty. None of us could claim to be more spiritually resilient than Christ himself who, through his encounters on the Mount of Transfiguration, was able to set his face like flint towards Jerusalem and continue along the uncertain path of vocation.

So, whether you received breakfast in bed with flowers and cards - or not - this morning, I hope that in the message of the Transfiguration reassures you and that you are affirmed by God as truly Beloved.

*Rev Sam McBratney*

#### **Lent Course:**

Wednesdays in Lent, starting on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 7:30 pm and finishing on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. Meetings will be by Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87081720177?pwd=eUFTejVqSUtFVGxZUG45eVNvY3N6Zz09>

To join by phone, dial:

**0203 481 5240**                      or                      **0203 901 7895**

when prompted, enter the following on your phone keypad:

Meeting ID:    **870 8172 0177 #**

Participant:    **#**

Passcode:      **284 888 #**

#### **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 the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday mornings at: <https://www.facebook.com/Birminghammethodistdistrict/live>

#### **Circuit Service**

The Circuit continues to provide a pre-recorded service each week, via YouTube, Facebook and our website – see below for details:

##### ***Change of YouTube account:***

Please note, the Circuit now has its own YouTube account, which means that the URL has changed. Please access the YouTube video by clicking the following link or typing it into your browser:

[tinyurl.com/SWCplaylist](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzyDSCOYMtQvpCroUvxxjE93MqkTWQomY) 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.

Rev Jemima, Michael Sharman & Graeme Russell have created **Family Worship Time** video which is available from 9:15 am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month through our YouTube Channel – and can be accessed here: [tinyurl.com/SWC-FWT](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzyDSCOYMtQsCToUfQ3sforT5J7geU2-D) again if this doesn't work, try the longer version: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzyDSCOYMtQsCToUfQ3sforT5J7geU2-D>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SW.Methodist/>

Website: [www.methodist-swc.org.uk](http://www.methodist-swc.org.uk)

A full text of this 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. These 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>

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>
Rev. Barbara Greenwood	01926 740846	<a href="mailto:barbara.greenwood@methodist.org.uk">barbara.greenwood@methodist.org.uk</a> ,
Rev. Jeongsook Kim	01926 426084	<a href="mailto:revjeongsook@gmail.com">revjeongsook@gmail.com</a> ,
Rev. Audrey Simpson	01789 267971	<a href="mailto:revaes@gmail.com">revaes@gmail.com</a> ,
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**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*