



21st February 2021

The **Methodist Church**

South Warwickshire Circuit

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

“Will you join in our crusade?” the title of the Bible study I am currently studying with my Homegroup. Study makes it sound laborious, but it is not! It is an enlightening and enjoyable discussion based on Victor Hugo’s novel “Les Miserables”. The study started with watching the film of the same name. Each week since we have been following the journey of the main character Jean Valjean. The study promises us that we will accompany Jean Valjean and Jesus on the road to the cross.; on their journey, on their Crusade.

There is so much I could say about the journey so far, however my thoughts turn to the theme of grace from week 1. Grace, the middle name of one of my daughters and maybe the name of someone you love, but it is so much more than a pretty name.

If you know the story you will recall Jean Valjean at the start of his journey, a convict and thief, who was shown grace by the Bishop he had stolen from. Not only does the Bishop deny to the authorities that Jean Valjean has stolen from him he gives him more treasures to add to his stolen hoard. More items for him to sell to enable him to start a new life - to change his life.

So what is grace? To quote Steve Mann in the study commentary “Grace is a difficult word to define (yes!) but here we have it expressed perfectly. Mercy is not being treated as one deserves when one has done wrong... Grace goes beyond that. Mercy wipes out a negative. Grace adds a positive...Grace is being given something we don’t deserve.”

This was the Bishop’s response to Jean Valjean’s wrongdoing, he showed mercy and gave him something he did not deserve. Whilst we may not have committed the crimes Jean Valjean had in this fictional story, we are humans with our own stories however big or small. In living our stories and in our individual crusades in the week ahead we ask for God’s Grace to enable us to change our lives and draw closer to him.

We pray,

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all ever more.

Amen.

Miranda Tarrant, Circuit Steward

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 1st and 3rd 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=PLzyDSCOYMtQvpCroUvvxjE93MqkTWQomY) or if this doesn’t work, try the long version:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzyDSCOYMtQvpCroUvvxjE93MqkTWQomY>

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 2nd and 4th 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

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	iain.ballard@methodist.org.uk
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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