



28<sup>th</sup> March 2021

The **Methodist Church**

South Warwickshire Circuit

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

This week we passed the anniversary of the first lockdown in England due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Little did we know then that, a year on, we would still be waiting for a return to some sort of normality. After many false starts and unrealistic promises, we are now at a point where an end to lockdown restrictions looks at least possible. We give thanks to God for the dedicated work of researchers and scientists and all those who are making possible the roll out of not one, but half a dozen, vaccines.

From pandemic to Palm Sunday. The people of Jerusalem are eager for relief from military occupation but are confronted with the spectacle of a saviour riding on a donkey colt. Surely this is a parody of liberation and their hopes are quickly turned to disappointment when they realise that this Jesus of Nazareth will not fulfil their expectations of kingship.

We too are a people waiting in expectation of deliverance. But we must not fall into the same trap of expecting a restoration of what was; for the business of Jesus is not restoration but resurrection. We are offered not a return to the past but a renewed vision of what could be in the future, if we but believe in this Messiah on a donkey. We are invited to be co-workers with him in building communities of peace, equality and justice. Hallelujah! Hosanna to the son of David!

*Revd Sam McBratney*

**Run the Wall – A message from Rev Rachel Hextall:**

I am joining with other runners from Palestine and around the world to cover the 750km length of the Israeli separation wall over the weekend of 26 - 27 March 2021.

I am going to run 10km one day and Nordic walk 11km the next - to make up a half marathon distance. I only took up running in January 2020 and have never run this far before!

The event will raise awareness of the human cost of the Wall, highlight the lack of freedom of movement for Palestinians and help raise £15,000 to rebuild a Palestinian home.

Amos Trust normally takes a team to participate in the Palestine marathon in Bethlehem at the end of March but this year, for obvious reasons, that won't be happening so instead we will "RUN THE WALL" in our own towns. If you would like to support my endeavours, then please follow the link to my fundraising page :

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Rachel-Hextall> Thank you for your support. Reverend Rachel Hextall

**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=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 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.**

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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*