



25<sup>th</sup> April 2021

The **Methodist Church**

**South Warwickshire Circuit**

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

When Jesus says, 'I am the good shepherd,' I find myself asking the question, are we the good sheep? Which of course brings with it the further question, well what is a good sheep? Perhaps it is worth understanding that whilst sheep have good peripheral vision they are unable to see the same level of detail that we can and they have almost no depth perception at all. Instead sheep are fully reliant on the shepherd. It is the shepherd who sees where the green pastures are and how to get to them. It is the shepherd who understands where the potential dangers are and is able to protect the sheep from them. It is the shepherd who leads, the sheep are called to follow. So are we good followers of Christ? Are we reliant on him to determine our destination and the way we should take to get there? Or are we sheep who like to go our own way and get lost, potentially putting ourselves at risk of harm or danger?

Equally in Jesus' words we are told that he has more than one flock. When in a group it is easy for us to define ourselves by the group. Sometimes that can be our class, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, colour etc etc. Yet Jesus has another flock one which might be very different to our own. Jesus calls us to be one flock, this requires us to walk alongside and love those who are different to us as well as those who are just like us.

The good shepherd loves his sheep, do we allow ourselves to be loved by Jesus and to share that love with the whole flock around us? I'll leave you to ponder those questions as we worship together the good shepherd who laid down his life for the sheep.

*Rev Dr Iain Ballard*

**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.**

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> ,
Rev. Jemima Strain	07969 345389	<a href="mailto:jemima.strain@methodist.org.uk">jemima.strain@methodist.org.uk</a> ,
Rev. Sam McBratney	07706 586860	<a href="mailto:s.mcbratney@methodist.org.uk">s.mcbratney@methodist.org.uk</a> ,
Rev. Richard Wilde	07971 218356	<a href="mailto:revrichardwilde@gmail.com">revrichardwilde@gmail.com</a> ,
Chris Flood	07772 292033	<a href="mailto:chrisflood_erniescheu@hotmail.com">chrisflood_erniescheu@hotmail.com</a> ,

**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*