



2nd May 2021

The **Methodist Church**

South Warwickshire Circuit

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

"God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also." 1John 4: 16b,19-21

One of the difficulties in writing this Pastoral Letter is that it is usually written over a week before it goes out, to allow for postage. Events can overtake what has been written. As I write, a white policeman has been convicted for the killing of a black man; the first time that this has happened in Minnesota. More pertinently, a Panorama programme has highlighted racism in the Church of England. The Archbishop of Canterbury has admitted racism exists within the church but the gagging orders placed on those who have complained has led to the resignation of the person appointed to help the Church deal with it.

Methodism is much smaller and is not the State church, so it doesn't come under the same scrutiny. The same charge could be made against us. What we say and what we do are not the same. For example, when I became a minister the signing of a Covenant between the Anglican and Methodist Churches was a topic for debate. A number in the Circuit where I was stationed opposed the Covenant because the Church of England did not at that time appoint women to all posts (bishops). A sound argument perhaps - except that that Circuit had never had a woman minister. When I was ordained, many carloads came from the Circuit to be present. My successor's successor was a woman Probationer. When she was ordained, only one person from the Circuit attended - and that was because they were already attending Conference as a delegate.

Today's Epistle challenges us to move beyond saying the 'right' thing and to live it out in practice. We are called to love our sisters and brothers, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental abilities. We say that we do, we sing "Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live" with gusto. But then we hold on to our prejudices. We need to learn how to love as God loves us.

*"Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word." (M Haugen, Singing the Faith 409)*

Rev David Greenwood

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 zoom meetings are now protected by password – please contact Michael Sharman (see below) for the password. 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
Rev. Barbara Greenwood	01926 740846	barbara.greenwood@methodist.org.uk ,
Rev. Jeongsook Kim	01926 426084	revjeongsook@gmail.com ,
Rev. Audrey Simpson	01789 267971	revaes@gmail.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 ,
Chris Flood	07772 292033	chrisflood_erniescheu@hotmail.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