

9th May 2021


The Methodist Church

South Warwickshire Circuit

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

The Gospel reading assigned for the 6th Sunday of Easter is John 15:9-17, part of Jesus' discourse to his disciples before his arrest and crucifixion. In it, Jesus gives the command "that you love one another as I have loved you." We give great attention to the command to love one another, love your neighbour and so on, and rightly so, because they are very important. We look at the continuation of this passage, in which Jesus says that the greatest love of all is to lay down one's life for one's friends, which of course is what he did for us. But I think we sometimes fail to notice what the passage is saying to each and every one of us: love one another, *as I have loved you*.

How has God loved us? Eternally, unconditionally and lavishly, that's how. God's love came first, it is not dependent on our worthiness or our efforts. It is simply there – always was, always will be. Many of us rail against that. We want to earn God's love, to deserve it, whereas all God wants us to do is accept it. I wonder what difference it would make in our relationships and our churches if we were able, however imperfectly, to love one another as God has loved us? Without demand or expectation, without requiring the other to become different to what they are?

There are demands made on disciples, there can be no doubt of that. But they are not the things we need to do to earn God's love – they are the things we do because we know in our bones that we are loved by God. Ponder that. Rest in that. And then, maybe, you will reflect more of it to those around you, without even trying.

Rev Barbara 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
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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