

12<sup>th</sup> December 2021

  
**The Methodist Church**

**South Warwickshire Circuit**

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

Dear Friends,

*Finding joy in the little things.*

This week is the third week in advent where we think about joy. There is, of course, joy in the big things. The long-awaited moments, the big events, the delights of births, birthdays, weddings, celebrations, Christmas day itself, the party, the New Year's celebration.

Last weekend I preached on gratitude, learning to live with gratitude is a habit I want to weave more of into my daily life. I've realised I want to feel thankful and find joy in the little things. The small things to appreciate each day, not just the momentous occasions. Can we feel truly thankful about the stuff that we usually overlook? And in turn be present to what's really going on?

For instance, right now, as I sit here, I can feel thankful for the warm sweet hot chocolate that I just drank, the slippers on my feet, and the soft thanks for the peaceful calm floating around my house because my dreamy small humans are asleep in their beds.

This little non-spectacular moment has just switched up to be pretty special.

Maybe God is in the small every day stuff. I wonder what you are thankful for in this moment? I wonder what are your small joys today and this week?

Let us take time to pause when we are feeling overwhelmed, consumed or busy. Take a moment to notice our surroundings. Our senses of what we can see, hear, touch, taste and smell. And give thanks to God for our small joys.

Name it aloud. Write it down.

May you be ever aware of the presence of the God of delights and joy in the small stuff as well as the big things. Amen.

*Rev Jemima Strain*

**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, eg Methodist Central Hall (London) streams worship each Sunday at 11:00 am (<https://mchw.live/>)

**Circuit Service**

The Circuit continues to provide a pre-recorded service each week, via YouTube, Facebook and our website – see below for details:

Please access the YouTube video by clicking the following link or typing it into your browser:

[tinyurl.com/SWCplaylist](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLzyDSCOYMtQvpCroUvxxjE93MqkTWQomY)

or if this doesn't work, try the long version:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzyDSCOYMtQvpCroUvxxjE93MqkTWQomY>

***If you regularly watch the Circuit Service, do consider subscribing to the Channel.***

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.

**District Messages:** The Birmingham District puts out a message each week on their YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC65eOm7QtM4Wu1R6jTI7frw> or you can search on YouTube for *Birmingham Methodist District*. We also have it up on our website.

**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 <i>(Day off – Friday)</i>	07368 875790	iain.ballard@methodist.org.uk
Rev Sally Jones <i>(Day off – Monday; Study day – Friday)</i>	01926 740846	sally.jones@methodist.org.uk
Rev. Jeongsook Kim <i>(Day off – Tuesday)</i>	01926 426084	revjeongsook@gmail.com
Rev. Audrey Simpson <i>(Day off – Friday)</i>	<i>Rev Audrey is on Sabbatical</i>	
Rev. Jemima Strain <i>(Part-time)</i>	07969 345389	jemima.strain@methodist.org.uk
Rev. Richard Wilde <i>(Part-time)</i>	07971 218356	revrichardwilde@gmail.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*