

13th February 2022


The Methodist Church

South Warwickshire Circuit

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

Dear Friends,

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released,
that the blind will see,
that the oppressed will be set free,
and that the time of the Lord's favour has come." (NLT. Luke 4: 18-19)*

For many of us the last few years do not seem to have been years of favour, and the outlook for 2022 may seem equally bleak. People are faced with the daily struggles of finding enough money to live on, paying bills, rising inflation and raising children.

I bet when Jesus read those words out nearly 2000 years ago, and then claimed to have fulfilled them, those hearing him would have been stunned: You could have cut the atmosphere with a knife. For when Jesus made this claim, Israel was occupied by the Romans, taxation was high, and people worked all day long just to get enough food to survive. The ruling class were corrupt and the big decisions that affected national life were made in Rome, not Jerusalem. The people were powerless. All around hope and favour seemed to be in short supply.

However, the hope and feel-good factor that Jesus is offering is not one that will quickly fade like the winter sunshine. Jesus is offering good news that will last forever. It is news about God's care and love for all humanity. It is news about having a way of relating to him, and to others, by looking at Jesus and believing in his teachings and the way he lives his life. It is about creating a new society that doesn't just count material possessions as the only measure of blessings, but it is about relationships.

This new society unites rich and poor, weak and strong, male and female in equal partnership. People from every nation are invited into a new family.

In spite of all that's happened in the last two years, we can trust that there is a new season on the horizon. For with every 'race' we run, Jesus is right next to us, giving us new life and building our faith, not just for a season, but for eternity.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. (NLT Hebrews 12: 1)

As we continue our race, we must prepare for the long haul in front of us, each playing our part in the team and tackling the hurdles as they come along. Together, we can win this race, and believe that 2022 will not be the same as the two years we have left behind, but a year of experiencing new and fresh blessings.

With love in Christ
Rev Jeongsook Kim

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/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.

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, 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>	01789 267971	revaes@gmail.com
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