

6th March 2022


The **Methodist Church**

South Warwickshire Circuit

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

Hello everyone, my warmest greetings to you all,

This is the first Sunday of Lent, the time where we join Jesus in his forty days of temptation in the wilderness – a time of penitence and reflection. Traditionally, of course, we have been encouraged to ‘give something up’ for Lent. For me, if I’m not very careful, this idea can become allied to the long list of failed New Year’s resolutions that I have in my collection. So as Lent begins, I always think of the words of a dear friend and minister back in the Sherwood Forest Circuit who, at this time, urges his congregations not just to give something up, but rather to take something up.

Even the quickest of glances at the Methodist Church’s main website reveals all sorts of different activities that one can become involved in, for instance **Life on the Breadline: a weekly online Bible study during Lent**. This course is led by Rev’d Farai Mapamula, who I met for the first time recently on the District Retreat. I’m sure it will be an enlightening and thought-provoking course. It’s on Zoom, on the first four Thursdays of Lent, from 7.00-8:30pm. You can book your free place here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/life-on-the-breadline-online-lent-course-registration-255093650977>

There are also some lovely **prayers on the Methodist website** to enrich your own personal devotions during Lent.

Tearfund have produced a Lent devotional entitled ‘One’:

https://www.tearfund.org/-/media/tearfund/files/campaigns/lent-devotional/lent_devotional_2022_a6_full_booklet_digital_pdf_aw.pdf

which explores weekly themes such as ‘One with our identity’, ‘One with creation’ and ‘One with each other’. Given the conversations that we, the Methodist Church, are involved in at the moment, this seems a very valuable way to engage with God this Lent.

Lent offers us fresh reason, fresh motivation to take up making time for God. And if this involves giving up the things that get in the way of us making time with God, then so be it. As God delights in the time we spend nurturing our relationship with God, no moment set aside will be fruitless.

The wonderful **Rev’d Dr Barbara Glasson**, a former President of Conference, joined the Queen’s staff in my second year, as a pastoral theology tutor. This is taken from her ‘Reflections on the Water: Forty Days of Praying and Pondering through Lent’ (Rattlesden: Kevin Mayhew, 2020) which I am intending to take up during this Lenten period:

*In the simplest acts of kindness,
in the ordinary times of grace,
open a window on your presence,
I pray.
When acts mean more than words,
presence more than reason,
waiting more than action,
holding more than healing,
come again everyday God.*

*Open a space
in our pressured lives
to sit with us,
and listen,
so that we may also
do the same.*

May we all be blessed as we take up the journey to the cross with Jesus.

Rev'd Sally

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 service moves from being a weekly service to monthly, on the first Sunday of the month. Additional services for special celebrations (eg Easter Sunday) will also be available all 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:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzyDSCOYMtQvpCroUv vxjE93MqkTWQomY>

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. The service provided by the Methodist Church will be sent out and made available in those weeks when there is no Circuit Service.

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)*

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	Rev Jeongsook is on sabbatical until 31 st May.	
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