

10th April 2022


The Methodist Church

South Warwickshire Circuit

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

Hooray! It's Palm Sunday, all donkeys, cloaks and cheering! So, is it too early to look forward (if that's the right expression) to Good Friday? After all, this time next week we will be celebrating the resurrection and unless you're planning to take part in a Good Friday service or walk of witness it can seem like simply two joyful celebratory Sundays in a row, like travelling across a bridge between two peaks without ever looking into the chasm below. Just as peaks don't have meaning without troughs, the resurrection doesn't have meaning without the crucifixion.

So what does the cross mean to you? How do you respond to the many different depictions in art of the crucifixion? Do you see a historical figure being cruelly treated by the authorities and abandoned by his closest friends? Do you see God incarnate? To what extent do you see a connection across the centuries with your own life? Do you feel he did something for you that day, without ever knowing of your future existence?

Without the cross the resurrection would be little more than a happy ending. How can we celebrate God's victory over death if we don't see Jesus' sacrifice on the cross as his ultimate and perfect gift to us?

I find Holy Week passes too quickly. So much happens in the gospel accounts we have little time to pause and reflect – the cleansing of the temple, the fig tree, countless teachings and parables, the anointing at Bethany, the Upper Room, Judas, Gethsemane, Pilate, Peter's denials, and that's even before we reach the cross itself. But pause and reflect we must.

Two millennia ago God sent his only Son. For three years he preached, taught and healed. Then he travelled to Jerusalem, the seat of power and was hailed as king. Yet his radical message of love was too strong for the authorities who put him to death like a common thief. They thought, hoped, that would be the end of the matter, that their authority would exceed his, that force and violence would expose his weakness, that their version of the truth would win out, that this would be seen as just a flash in the pan, that in the end he would be remembered as an irrelevance, if remembered at all.

We are Christian, followers of Jesus, because we know different. May the events of Holy Week touch you in a new and fresh way, reveal His love for you, and in a world full of darkness and suffering, give you hope.

Trevor Pethick SWC Circuit Steward

Reminder: Dial – a – Prayer, Methodist Church

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514
2478

Listen to news: 0808 281

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/>)

Livestreaming of worship takes place at other venues associated with the Connexion – see <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/worship-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/> for more details.

Circuit Service

The Circuit now provides a pre-recorded service each month (on the first Sunday of the month), 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=PLzyDSCOYMtQvpCroUvwxjE93MqkTWQomY)

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

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzyDSCOYMtQvpCroUvwxjE93MqkTWQomY>

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

Additional pre-recorded services will be provided by the Circuit for special feasts (Easter, Christmas etc)

A full text of the pre-recorded 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.

In intervening weeks, the Circuit will be using the service provided by the Methodist Church.

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	07368 875790	iain.ballard@methodist.org.uk
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(Day off – Friday)

Rev Sally Jones	01926 740846	sally.jones@methodist.org.uk
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(Day off – Monday;

Study day – Friday)

Rev. Jeongsook Kim	<i>Rev Jeongsook is on sabbatical until 31st May 2022</i>	
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(Day off – Tuesday)

Rev. Audrey Simpson	01789 267971	revaes@gmail.com
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(Day off – Friday)

Rev. Jemima Strain	07969 345389	
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jemima.strain@methodist.org.uk

(Part-time)

Rev. Richard Wilde	07971 218356	revrichardwilde@gmail.com,
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(Part-time)

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*

