

11th July 2021


The **Methodist Church**

South Warwickshire Circuit

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

There are many things of note and significance from conference this year, mainly talk around the vote to allow same sex couples to marry in our churches. Another first is our new President of the Methodist Conference is the Revd Sonia Hicks. She became the first black woman to hold the post when she was inducted during Conference at the National Conference Centre in Birmingham on Saturday June 26th. I wanted to take note of her address in our pastoral letter this week.

In her address to the Conference, which was held in hybrid form this year (both in person and online), she reflected on the racism and marginalisation that she and her family had experienced, and how the Church could respond to injustice and division in society today.

Rev Sonia recalled the experience of her Great Aunt Lizzie, who had arrived from Jamaica with her Methodist membership card only to be rejected from her local church because she was black. She and her family eventually found a home at Walworth Methodist Church in south London.

“In a world where people are excluded because of their ethnic background, their sexual orientation, their gender, or simply because, like me, they were brought up on a council estate, I believe that we are called to show God’s love for all people,”

“It is a calling that Christian people have always struggled with, but we can and should be better at making God’s love a reality in the British Methodist Church, overcoming the systemic discrimination that exists.”

“As Christians we are to mirror the grace and the mercy of God. We are to find ways of issuing God’s invitation of acceptance to those we meet on a daily basis. No ifs, no buts. I believe that there is a place for all in the presence of God, at God’s table.

“But, as we acknowledge that everyone has a place, we also must acknowledge that we will therefore live with the tension of not all thinking the same. We will also have to recognise that living with such tension is never the easy option.”

It was 4 days later that the Methodist Church heard and accepted the 'God Love Unites Us' report to conference. Many are celebrating whilst others are in deep pain. As we learn to welcome the 'other', and live together with contradictory convictions, may we learn to mirror God’s grace and mercy, accepting all we meet on our way.

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/playlist?list=PLzyDSCOYMtQvpCroUvxxjE93MqkTWQomY)

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

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

Circuit Resource Centre, Wellesbourne Methodist Church, Bridge Street, Wellesbourne, CV35 9LR

www.methodist-swc.org.uk

m:07578 640013

e: swc.katetennyson@gmail.com

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.

District Messages: The Birmingham District puts out a message each week on their YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC65eOm7QtM4Wu1R6jT17frw>

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. Barbara Greenwood <i>(Day off – Friday)</i>	01926 740846	barbara.greenwood@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. Sam McBratney <i>(Part-time)</i>	07706 586860	s.mcbratney@methodist.org.uk ,
Rev. Richard Wilde <i>(Part-time)</i>	07971 218356	revrichardwilde@gmail.com ,
Chris Flood <i>(Part-time)</i>	07772 292033	chrisflood_erniescheu@hotmail.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