

8<sup>th</sup> August 2021

  
**The Methodist Church**

**South Warwickshire Circuit**

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

Greetings all. One of my sons is in the Royal Navy, a submariner to be precise. Not a job I could do for a whole number of reasons – his degree is in physics so he understands the nuclear reactor that powers the vessel, he is a confident swimmer so passes the underwater emergency escape tests, and he is able to adjust to living in a confined space for months. I feel claustrophobic in minutes if I am in a restricted space. He called in with his wife and daughters enroute to a sailing competition, this time on the surface in the Solent! He recently returned from a submerged tour lasting nearly half a year looking as pale as you would expect having not seen natural light throughout that time. We were discussing what he missed most and longed for while away (apart from the obvious friends and family time).

High on his “longed for” list was home cooked food. The crew survived many weeks of rations, rehydrated food, frozen meat and veg, and a limited menu to say the least. When I say ‘home cooked’ please understand that apart from familiar meals when visiting family, when at home he does most of the cooking. For him its therapeutic and part of how he and his wife share household responsibilities. After months of eating what was prepared by a chef, at last he can be involved in preparing and sharing the meal with those most loved. Longing for the familiar, or ‘normality’, tension in relationships – complaints and misunderstandings feature in today’s Psalm and gospel passage. As we slowly emerge from our national social restrictions and are able to do some things previously outlawed, we still have longings and yearnings I’m sure. Most of us are now coming for worship as a congregation, albeit with thought and actions to keep ourselves and others safe, but not everyone feels able to return to such gatherings of people while others are not sufficiently mobile to do so.

“Eating the flesh and drinking the blood” of Jesus was unsurprisingly misunderstood by those who had been part of the feeding miracle as our Lord tried to get folks to think beyond the immediate and physical. He wanted them to reach for the mystical and eternal things that can only be expressed in metaphor and symbol. This year’s Methodist Conference seems to have understood how folks have felt cut off from the sacrament of Holy Communion for many months and now permits participation at home with an on line service. But what of those who do not have access to the internet? If you are waiting patiently for the chance to enter that mystical experience again, the bread and the wine, the sense of belonging to the body, then let your pastoral visitor or church contact person know so that she/he can make arrangements for home or extended communion for you. Waiting and longing are a common experience for many people but we are doing all we can to shorten that time of yearning....

*Rev Richard Wilde*

**Comings and Goings:**

With this letter and Circuit service sheet, you will find details of how to book for the Leaving Service for Sam McBratney and the Welcome Service for Sally Jones. Places are limited for both services, so booking is essential. Bookings for both services can be made via the Circuit Office (01789 470495) from 12 noon on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

**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](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	<a href="mailto:iain.ballard@methodist.org.uk">iain.ballard@methodist.org.uk</a>
Rev. Jeongsook Kim <i>(Day off – Tuesday)</i>	01926 426084	<a href="mailto:revjeongsook@gmail.com">revjeongsook@gmail.com</a> ,
Rev. Audrey Simpson <i>(Day off – Friday)</i>	01789 267971	<a href="mailto:revaes@gmail.com">revaes@gmail.com</a> ,
Rev. Jemima Strain <i>(Part-time)</i>	<i>Rev Jemima is on Sabbatical</i>	
Rev. Sam McBratney <i>(Part-time)</i>	07706 586860	<a href="mailto:s.mcbratney@methodist.org.uk">s.mcbratney@methodist.org.uk</a> ,
Rev. Richard Wilde <i>(Part-time)</i>	07971 218356	<a href="mailto:revrichardwilde@gmail.com">revrichardwilde@gmail.com</a> ,
Chris Flood <i>(Part-time)</i>	07772 292033	<a href="mailto:chrisflood_erniescheu@hotmail.com">chrisflood_erniescheu@hotmail.com</a> ,

**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*