

15th August 2021


The Methodist Church

South Warwickshire Circuit

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

The longing for comfort has never been more urgent. Many in our world are living with pain and sorrow and uncertainty. Many are mired in degrading poverty and endure a gruelling struggle with daily hunger. Some are lonely and isolated, with friends and family out of reach. Perhaps they face their final days and hours with no one but strangers around their bedside. When the Covid-19 pandemic was first spreading around the globe, even the solace of a funeral at which to mourn loved ones and celebrate their lives was impossible for some.

The pressure that we experience is like being in a confined space, or having a heavy weight placed upon us. We long for the relief and release of entering a spacious place, and also to know that God is present with His people, and can bring them encouragement, hope and comfort.

When Jesus saw that his disciples were strained to the limit, he didn't demand more of them. He looked at them with understanding and love, accepted their vulnerability, and told them they needed a day off. A time to relax.

“Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.” (Mark 6:31)

Remember a garden where you've been happy, perhaps your own garden or another. Think about it. Imagine being there with a companion, someone you love. Let their presence in your memory bring joy and comfort. Sit together in silence and picture the garden in your mind. The lawn, the hedges, the flower beds and shrubs, the colours. Enjoy it.

“Calm our troubled hearts, O God, with your peace;
Bless our restless souls with your presence
And calm the tempest within us with the gift of yourself;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”.

Jeongsook

Rev. Jeongsook Kim

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 17th 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

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	iain.ballard@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>	<i>Rev Jemima is on Sabbatical</i>	
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