

22<sup>nd</sup> August 2021

  
**The Methodist Church**

**South Warwickshire Circuit**

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

Shock horror! Methodist ministers are human too! I'm not sure we always bear that in mind. We expect them to be available when we need them, visit us as soon as a personal crisis hits, turn up for the church fete and be peacemaker within the church community. We assume they'll run the meeting, lead prayer, always know the right thing to say and be on call 24/7. We defer to them for the hard decisions and often let them take the flak when things go wrong. (Ministers reading this will be mentally adding to the list.) In all this we expect them to wear a smile, not be grumpy, never turn anyone away. I wonder whether some people even still think their spouse or partner 'comes for free'.

This is the usual time of year for ministerial changes. We've recently said goodbye to Revd Barbara Greenwood, and David, of course. Next week we have a leaving service for Rev Sam McBratney (last call for donations and contributions to his card). The first Sunday of September we will formally welcome Rev Sally Jones fresh from her ministerial training. Meanwhile Rev Jemima Strain is on sabbatical until mid October, and when she returns Rev Audrey Simpson starts hers. In the new year Rev Richard Wilde will be reducing his hours. Even when we have a full team ministers need to have a day off each week and every three months take 'quarter days'. Ministers are also encouraged to take time for training or retreat, and Sally will need an extra day a week for study during her 2 year probation. All in all, this autumn ministerial resources in our circuit will be stretched.

To misquote an old strapline, "ask not what your minister can do for you, but what you can do for your minister". From time to time you probably already ask them how they are. Perhaps once in a while offer to take a task off their hands? We all know how a small act of kindness goes a long way. And as the laity, we need to take more responsibility for running our church. Show concern for our ministers' wellbeing. And above all hold them in our prayers.

*Trevor Pethick, Circuit Steward*

**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/watch?v=PLzyDSCOYMtQvpCroUvvxjE93MqkTWQomY)

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLzyDSCOYMtQvpCroUvvxjE93MqkTWQomY>

***If you regularly watch the Circuit Service, do consider subscribing to the Channel.***

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SW.Methodist/>

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

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e: [swc.katetennyson@gmail.com](mailto:swc.katetennyson@gmail.com)

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*