

24<sup>th</sup> October 2021

  
The **Methodist Church**

South Warwickshire Circuit

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

Dear Friends,

Earlier this month I spent an afternoon with the Supernumerary Ministers. They were reminiscing about their past appointments and time in ministry, and their current ministries in the Circuit. It was good to hear their voices, their stories and some of their concerns. After they'd left and we were finishing the tidying up I considered just how much experience had been in the room (I won't embarrass them by saying their combined years of service). As I drove home I thanked God that I had been in the presence of saints and human beings.

It is easy for us to consider the current situation and believe that we are the first to face such difficulties as a pandemic, the declining influence of the church, a reducing number of available volunteers etc, etc. As the Supernumeraries told their stories I became more and more aware that ministry and indeed the church has faced many challenges over the years. There is nothing new in what we face today. We are not the first generation to live through a pandemic, nor are we the first to notice a reduction in the size of our churches or to feel our influence in the world is reducing. In all these things there is nothing new.

Yet they are new to us, we have to learn how to face them and to not only survive but thrive. I don't believe for one minute that God has finished with his Church, nor do I think the future will be easy. It has never been easy. We take our places amongst the saints of the past and awaiting the saints of the future, doing what we can and what we are called to, for we can do no other.

As the nights draw in and the weather turns colder let us draw faith and strength from the love of God and the presence of the Holy Spirit. All is not lost, Christ has already conquered. The victory is already ours.

Richest blessings,

Iain

*Rev Dr Iain Ballard*

**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/>

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 Sally Jones <i>(Day off – Monday; Study day – Friday)</i>	01926 740846	<a href="mailto:sally.jones@methodist.org.uk">sally.jones@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>	<i>Rev Audrey is on Sabbatical</i>	
Rev. Jemima Strain <i>(Part-time)</i>	07969 345389	<a href="mailto:jemima.strain@methodist.org.uk">jemima.strain@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*