

Dear all,

Please find information below which may help you feel more connected at this time of separation. Included is a letter which each of the 3 Co Supers write each week for the Circuit newsletter;

Dear friends,

Thank you for all the (what may feel to you like small) prayerful and practical ways you are making a big difference to others during this time. I am aware through conversations how you are blessing others through praying, worshipping, showing appreciation for frontline workers, being in touch with others, delivering things, making face coverings, fundraising and many more things. Thank you!

I also want to encourage us in how we can continue to support other aspects of the mission of God at this time too.

- Locally By contacting our Church Treasurer to set up our giving via Direct Debit or Standing Order, if this is possible for us, or continuing to put our weekly giving aside until such time as we are physically able to offer it. This is because as churches and Circuit, our Presbyters and many of our lay-workers are still working and we are seeking to support those staff who have been furloughed as well as still needing to pay essential bills.
- 2. Nationally We will be aware of the terrible impact of Coronavirus within the residential care setting, which includes Methodist Homes for All (MHA). MHA Sunday is a date where the church traditionally comes together to give thanks for the work of Methodist Homes (MHA) and to offer prayer for those in later life and those who care for them. This year Covid-19 has had devastating impact in their homes and schemes, with hundreds of lives lost including residents, members and colleagues. At 3pm on Sunday 14 June, MHA will be broadcasting a service which is an opportunity to give thanks and pray, but this year to also pause and remember those lives that have been lost to this disease, to pray for all in later life and those who care for them. Please will you stand with them in thanksgiving and remembrance at 3pm on Sunday 14 June? You may also want to support their

- campaign for Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), to volunteer or financially give at mha.org.uk.
- 3. Internationally This pandemic has reminded us of just how connected we are as God's global community. Brenda lives in rural Uganda where all public transport has been banned and a police-enforced curfew is in place between 7pm and 6am. Brenda walks from her village to the nearest city each morning to try and find food and work and then walks home again. This is because only people living in cities are eligible to receive government aid so she cannot stay at home as many of us have been able to do. On the times she has been late home, she has been beaten by the Police for breaking the curfew. We might like to support All We Can, the Methodist Relief and Development Charity, and their life saving work on the ground in some of the most challenging contexts across the world by giving to their Coronavirus emergency appeal at allwecan.org.uk

Thank you again for all you are doing to share the love of God in practical ways and for all you might feel able to do. We cannot do everything and so may we remember that Jesus told us that, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me.' (Matthew 25:40)

With love and continued prayers,

James

Rev'd James Morley, Co Superintendent

Streamed services

Some churches are streaming regular services. This allows you to experience different preachers from different churches in the comfort of your own home if you choose to do so. You can even 'catch up' later when it's convenient. Please see below a list of services, (if you know of others that are being streamed, please let the Circuit office know and they will be included);

Victoria Hall
Greenhill Methodist Church
Coal Aston Methodist Church
St Paul's Methodist Church, Dronfield
St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church
Carterknowle Methodist Church
Totley Rise Methodist Church
Stocksbridge Christian Centre
Christ Church Stocksbridge

Facebook

Facebook is another way to keep in touch. In addition to the streamed services Sally Coleman, James Morley and Melissa Quinn are holding Morning and Evening Prayers and Reflections at various times as Watch Parties on their Facebook pages. These are videos where there is live participation at the time and the videos can be watched later. There are also occasional slots where we can listen to one of our local preachers.

Light A Candle of Hope

It has been suggested that people might want to light a candle and if it is safe to do so to display it in their window each day at 7.00 p.m. to pray for our church, our city, our country and our world.

Methodist Church Guidance

This is regularly updated and covers many topics including; prayers and worship during the coronavirus pandemic, (where you will find resources for worship at home), serving neighbours and speaking with friends, taking care of yourself and those around you, and many others. Find out by visiting the Methodist Church in Britain website

Methodist Prayer Wall

This is for people to write and submit their prayers so they can be prayed for by people around the world. You can find out more by visiting the Methodist Church in Britain <u>website</u>

Circuit Newsletter

If you wish to receive the Circuit Newsletter which is being published every week during the Coronavirus Pandemic please follow this <u>link</u>
There is also an option to subscribe.

Dial-a-Prayer

Free phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514 Listen to news: 0808 281 2478

Content is updated weekly on Thursday afternoon

Property

There has been an update recently of the Coronavirus guidance for our properties including answers to frequently asked questions. Please follow the <u>link</u> to get the latest information. This information is on the Methodist Church in Britain website.

Finally, please let us know if you have ideas of how we can keep connected!