



# The Methodist Church in Sheffield

... growing followers of Jesus

*Dear all,*

*This is the fourteenth mailing from the Circuit. Please find information below which may help you feel more connected at this time of separation.*

*Included below is a letter which one of the 3 Co Supers write each week for the Circuit newsletter;*

## **Dear friends,**

This week as a Circuit we find ourselves with some communities living in Tier 2 (High) and Tier 1 (Medium) of COVID-19 alert levels. Actually, I checked this while writing and the Sheffield Star is reporting that Sheffield is to move into Tier 3 (Very High).

- You can check the latest situation by your postcode at <https://www.gov.uk/find-coronavirus-local-restrictions#postcodeLookup>
- Find out what the tiers mean at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-levels-what-you-need-to-know>.

Here endeth the public service announcement...

Yes, all of this means that we will have to go about our daily lives in different ways to our sisters and brothers in other areas. We will also need to think carefully about how we interact with sisters and brothers from other areas. Yet it also reminds us that whoever we are, wherever we are and whatever we are going through, we remain 'one body: Christ' (1 Corinthians 12:27) – for each other and for the communities our Circuit serves.

Furthermore, what affects one part of body affects the whole body (1 Corinthians 12:26). The good news therefore is that we are not alone. We are united with each other in, and with, Christ.

So, how might we seek to live this out together and for our communities? A colleague shared the COVID-19 signage seen in one church based on the Government guidance:

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Hands

Face

Space

**Grace**

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How then, might we continue to do all we can to protect each other and our communities in a way that also offers grace? Part of our response surely needs to be:

- Wearing a face covering and foregoing corporate singing if we are meeting in a church building (even if we experience this as a 'cross to bear' as we follow the sacrificial example of Christ)
- Our individual response (and how we express it) to church council decisions about whether to open or close buildings for acts of worship
- Serving the community by allowing other groups to use a church building – even if we are not worshipping in the building

Perhaps for such a time of this, especially with the Rule of Six (gathering outside only if you live in a Tier 3 - Very High area for COVID), we have been given the [Methodist Way of Life](#) as a resource to help us individually and in small groups to deepen our discipleship by being accountable to each other and God (as in the early days, and dare I say heyday, of Methodism) as we strive to receive and share grace.

So, as we adjust to life in COVID-19 tiers, I invite us to reflect on this question from the Methodist Way of Life:

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“How are we seeking to serve others in our communities and beyond?

What has helped or hindered us in our service of others?”

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Yes, we might feel that COVID-19 restrictions are part of what hinders our service at this time so a supplementary question is, 'what different and creative opportunities for serving each other, our communities and God's world can we find even during these restrictions?

By the grace of a God who is with us, may we keep on keeping on in the sure and certain hope that one day God will wipe every tier (not a typo) away and there will be no more dying (Revelation 21:4). Until then, for the sake of each other and our communities, 'now wash our hands' (James 4:8).

With continues love, prayers and soap,



Rev'd James Morley...

Co-Superintendent

14<sup>th</sup> October 2020

### **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 \(as part of the Cornerstone Mission Partnership\)](#)

[Christ Church Stocksbridge](#)

[Stephen Hill Methodist Church](#)

[St Andrew's Church Gosforth Valley](#)

### **Singing the Faith Plus: Service Sheets**

*These short acts of worship have been produced for you if you are unable to attend church. If you are well enough why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you? Click here for the [link](#).*

### **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 [website](#)

### **Circuit Newsletter**

If you wish to receive the Circuit Newsletter which is being published every week during the Coronavirus Pandemic please follow this [link](#)  
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**

#### **Updated 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020 in light of current Government Guidelines\***

The Government launched its new strategy to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic in its document *Our Plan to Rebuild: The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy*. A number of points within the plan will have an impact on churches and their properties across the Connexion. In response to this the Conference Office, Connexional Property Team and TMCP have co-ordinated their approach to develop a set of property related guidance for managing trustees. [Click here](#) for further advice.

### **Keeping Safe on Zoom**

Zoom has emerged as a very popular tool for online meetings, training and other communication activities during the coronavirus pandemic of 2020, but there are risks associated with any such app.

The National Police Chief's Council have therefore written a short guide to the main security controls and how to access them, to enable you to keep safe during meetings.

You can download the Zoom advice guide [here](#)

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