



# The Methodist Church in Sheffield

**. . . growing followers of Jesus**

*Dear all,*

*This is the latest 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,**

*The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine. (Isaiah 9:2)*

First, how are you as we enter the third week of the second national lockdown tomorrow? I don't know about you but the darker nights and the reality of a virus that is still very active on our world, despite the hope for a vaccine to be available in the New Year, make this lockdown feel a little heavier than the former one, at least that is how it feels to me, so I need to dig deep to look for signs of hope.

But, of course we are moving towards the season of hope and joy, towards the celebration of the Christmas season that is usually full of activities and events, and while we know that those will not happen this year, it does not remove the good news that God became flesh and dwelt, and dwells among us. So, how do we encounter good news in a time of a global pandemic? Where do we find light in the darkness? Or is the question how do we take hope, and light into the darkness?

Does it help to ponder that new life can begin in the dark, think of a seed planted in the ground, a baby in the womb, or even Jesus in the tomb of Holy Saturday (yes, I am mixing seasons), in each of these cases new life stirs and a spark of hope is born. Maybe then we can make the most of the dark nights by sharing signs of hope, lighting a candle in your window, or stringing up lights, sharing with friends and neighbours what you are doing and why. Spending some time in meditation, especially in advent, I am following Celtic Advent, which began on 15<sup>th</sup> November, and purposely spending time remembering to look for signs, and symbols of hope, and then translating them where I can into actions. Perhaps a reverse advent calendar, to help a local foodbank, writing an encouraging letter, finding ways of offering random acts of kindness, being hope and light.

I pray that in these days, even in the dark nights, you will encounter deep hope, as you are called to walk in the light.

Peace and blessings



Reverend Sally Coleman

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

[Christ Church Stocksbridge](#)

[Stephen Hill Methodist Church](#)

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

[Church of Christ Darnall](#)

[Victoria Stafford Road](#)

### **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.*

## **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](#)*

### **Summarising the position for places of worship**

**Update 12 November 2020**

*The [National Restrictions](#) are now in effect **from 5 November 2020** in England. As part of these new restrictions, places of worship and their ancillary accommodation will have to close or remain closed for congregational worship and all other user groups, with certain [exceptions](#).*

### **Safeguarding Advice as churches think ahead to the end of lockdown**

*Please find advice from Connexion [here](#)*

### **District Safeguarding News**

*For Septembers District Safeguarding Newsletter I focused on online safety. Since the stay-at-home guidance was issued, Childline has seen a 11 per cent increase in the number of counselling sessions about online sexual abuse, from an average of 207 sessions per month before lockdown to an average of 230 sessions per month since lockdown began (NSPCC). This issue is not going away and as children continue to have to access their education online the reality is the situation is only going to get worse.*

*The NWG in association with The Marie Collins Foundation has produced two in-depth guides about online sexual abuse; one for parents and one for professionals. You can find more information here: [marie-collins-foundation-mcf-and-the-nwg-network](#)*

*In the Guide for Parents you will find information about what online harm is and ways you can effectively help and support children.*

*The Guide for Professionals has been developed to address the challenges professionals face when working with issues of online harm and young people. It contains information about what online harm is, the specific issues facing young people, and ways professionals can effectively engage with young people and their families.*

*As always, I'm here if you need to discuss this or any subject relating to the safeguarding: [safeguarding@sheffieldmethodist.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@sheffieldmethodist.org.uk) or please call 07483 362 735.*

*Many thanks, Alison Hill*

*District Safeguarding Officer*

### **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*

### **News from Sheffield City Council: Covid 19**

#### **[New national restrictions](#)**

*Subject to Parliamentary approval, the Government is introducing National coronavirus restrictions across England.*

*They will begin at one-minute past midnight on Thursday 5 November 2020 and are expected to last until Wednesday 2 December 2020.*

*These new national restrictions will replace Sheffield's regional restrictions.*

*More information regarding local restrictions in Sheffield is also available on SCC [Website](#)*

### **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!***