



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;

3rd February 21

Dear Friends,

Dear Friends,

First I hope that this finds you well, or as well as can be as we move through the New Year and find ourselves in February! Yesterday was my birthday, and speaking with my soon to be daughter-in-law, we reflected that if anyone had told us this time last year how the world would be today we wouldn't have believed them. This time last year we went for a family meal to celebrate together. This year was very different.

Yesterday of course, also brought the news of the death of Captain Sir Tom Moore, such sad news, and such news that it was immediately surrounded by controversy, the media has an interesting way of changing its tune, and I am not going to comment on that, because whatever we think, another family has lost a loved one and another family is grieving. They are now counted amongst the 108, 013 families who have experienced such loss. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are asking us as a nation to pause, to reflect, and to use the healing gift of lament, getting in touch with our sorrow, our fear, our frustration and disorientation. With that in mind I offer you this meditation;

Numbers again,

statistics read,

those who have died,

intensive care beds,

vaccines available,

centres,

deniers,
compliers,
fines handed out,
wedding parties and wakes,
funerals,
votes/ voters...
redundancies,
the lost,
the lost hoppers...

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those who hope against all the odds...

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may we remember that each one has a face,

a story,

a grief,

a family,

or no family any longer,

each has a struggle,

the need perhaps for a long missed cuddle,

each has a prayer,

or no prayer,

some rage and some despair,
while others get on quietly,
silently even,
sharing their tears and fears
with their pillows alone...

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let's not be swift to judge,
but reach out in love,
to the ones who drive us mad,
to the ones who make us sad,
the ones who make us glad,
and all those in-between,
who on our in-between days
find ways to cheer us...

or simply to be near us, through post or phone...

when we open our hearts we are not alone...

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we are always more than numbers....

We are always more than numbers, we need to hold onto that for ourselves, our families and communities in order that we can hold onto hope, as the vaccine is rolled out, and with the heartening news that the UK government has agreed with the World Health Organisation to share that vaccine with countries in need we can hold out hope.

So I pray that as we walk through this current lockdown we will know the God who walks with us, and invites us to take on his yoke, the yoke whose burden is light.

Many 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

Coronavirus Update

There is a wealth of useful information on the MCIB Website [here](#)

Information is wide ranging and includes;

Spiritual sustenance when in isolation, coronavirus guidance of property, worship & prayer during the pandemic, FAQ's, safeguarding considerations, church community during the coronavirus, tips for creating video.

District Safeguarding Update:

Bright Sky: Domestic Abuse Support

Bright Sky is a [free app](#) which can be downloaded from Google store and Apple play, and [webpage](#) that provides support to those in an abusive relationship as well as those that may be worried about someone else. The app (and webpage) is currently funded by the Home Office alongside the Vodafone Foundation, with both Thames Valley Partnership and Hestia working together to help get it to those that need it most. Key features include: nationwide service directory of local and national specialist support, risk assessments (based on CAADA DASH), journal function, educational tools such as online safety guide, consent, myths, types of abuse etc. One of its most prominent functions is that it is dual pathway, you have the ability to 'get advice for myself' or 'get advice for someone else'

As ever, if you have any questions or concerns please give me a call on 07483 362 735 or email me at safeguarding@sheffieldmethodist.org.uk.

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, reflections and news from the Methodist Church

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

Listen to a pastoral message from the President and Vice President: 0808 281 2695

Listen to our Podcast: 0808 281 2478

Prayer updated every Thursday, Presidential message updated every Monday, Methodist Podcast updated on first and third Thursday of the month.

Please share these numbers locally with people who are not online and may feel very isolated and in need of spiritual comfort

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!