



Our thanks to Naomi for putting this together! – Bonni-Belle and Tony

Ideas for sharing in worship and fellowship from home during COVID-19 – 17 March

During a time of great uncertainty and anxiety, when our opportunities to meet together for worship, prayer and fellowship will be necessarily limited, it is important that we find new and creative ways of ‘being church’ and of watching over one another in love (as well as making the most of those resources already at our disposal). The following list of suggestions is not exhaustive – please contact Naomi or Bonni-Belle with suggested additions, and keep an eye on the guidance and resources on the Methodist website: www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/latest-news/all-news/the-methodist-church-coronavirus-guidance-and-resources/ **We are using the North Kent Methodist Group Facebook page as our central site for posting updates.** Hopefully our circuit website will soon be up and working again after a short (but frustrating) absence (not our fault!).

Pastoral care

- **Pastoral visitors** are asked to contact those in their care by phone – particularly any who may be vulnerable or especially anxious at this time. Perhaps you can develop a ‘Methodical’ way for making sure all are contacted on a regular basis!
- These phone calls are valuable in themselves – preventing social isolation, providing prayer support, and helping people to feel connected to their church family. In addition, you might wish to offer **practical support** with shopping, meals, dog-walking etc – on your own behalf, or on behalf of others in the church.
- Please signpost the resources below (by email or by dropping a hard copy through their door) to those in your care.

Fellowship, prayer and worship

- Services on Sunday – we are attempting to put one or two services together and will advertise these on the Facebook page.
- Groups that are unable to meet in person may be able to find other ways of doing so remotely. For instance, **Muffins & More** at Larkfield will continue to light candles and pray for one another at 10am on Tuesdays. Other groups may wish to consider meeting via Skype or Zoom, or committing to pray for one another at their usual meeting time.
- Those who are online may wish to make use of any or all of the following:

- The Joint Public Issues Team’s ‘**Living Lent**’ reflections – sign up here to receive a daily email: <https://livinglent.org/>
- The Singing the Faith website includes **service sheets** for worshipping at home and links to church services that can be **live-streamed**: see www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/worship-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/
- The Methodist website includes a **daily Bible study**: www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/the-bible/a-word-in-time/
- Those who are not online may like to listen to one of these **radio programmes** listed on the next page (kindly compiled by the Revd Paul Parker).
- The **Bible study group** hosted by Julien Myles will be experimenting with meeting via WhatsApp. Contact Julien if you would like to join in.

Use of buildings

- With worship services and most gatherings cancelled and everyone encouraged to work from home, many of our church buildings will be empty most of the time. Property stewards are encouraged to make regular visits to the property to ensure that there are no untoward incidents and to consider whether heating schedules need to be amended.

Keeping up-to-date

- As mentioned above, the North Kent Methodist Circuit website is temporarily down. If you are on social media, follow the **circuit Facebook page** (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/northkentmethodistworship/>) for updates.
- The Extraordinary Circuit Meeting scheduled for 18 March has been postponed indefinitely. Further information should come through email.
- Thank you to those who lead groups for updating regular attendees when a meeting needs to be postponed. Please consider whether this information should also be shared via the church’s website or Facebook page and/or a note on the door.

Further guidance will be disseminated (via stewards in the first instance) as and when it becomes available. Thank you for all you are doing to maintain our worship and fellowship as a church under challenging circumstances – it has been a joy already to see the creative ways that have been found to support one another and to offer worship to God. In anxious times, we trust that “perfect love casts out fear” (1 John 4:18).

Service	Station/Channel	Time	How to get it
Choral Evensong: sung evening prayer, usually with an anthem, in a Cathedral style.	BBC Radio 3	Wed 3:30pm Repeated Sunday 3pm	92 – 95 FM and DAB Digital Radio
Sunday Worship: Radio broadcast of worship from a church; the closest to “a normal Sunday service”	BBC Radio 4	8.10am Sunday	103 – 104 FM and DAB Digital Radio
Daily Service; a 15min service of music, prayers and scripture	BBC Radio 4 Long Wave or Radio 4 Extra	09:45 Mon - Saturday	Long Wave: 198 or to get Radio 4 Extra on DAB: After tuning to Radio 4 DAB, select "Daily Service" (from your display, shortly before it is due to start) with the tuning wheel and press the selector button.
Songs of Praise. A religious magazine TV programme; interviews, prayers and hymns/songs. Words appear on the screen so you can join in singing.	BBC One, (TV)	usually 1:15pm	