

Dear friends,

In response to the continuing pandemic, we are making some changes to the opportunities we can offer to you to take part in worship and have fellowship.

Our priority is to act safely, follow rules and guidance, and show good practice. Infection rates continue to be at a high level, and we are being asked to stay at home as much as we can. We have worked hard to make each of the churches in this Circuit to be covid-secure. A good team of volunteers complete weekly building checks, take seat reservations, keep track and trace records, welcome, and lead worship. Many are now needing to shield or isolate. Others still place great value in attending worship. This is particularly so amongst those who are working or have little contact with others throughout a week.

However, it is no longer fair or possible for us to have all church open each Sunday. From Sunday 17th January we will revert to the pattern we established during last summer. Worship will alternate between Rothwell and Central-Kettering Methodist Churches. In addition, we will offer mid-week worship on the first and third Thursday afternoons at Cornerstone, Corby. All of these are open to anyone.

Whilst worshipping in the building that you know and love is a wonderful experience, we know too that we can encounter God beyond the church walls. A good proportion of church members have access to the internet. E-worship and Thoughts for the Day will continue. We are becoming familiar with the joys of video conferencing. It offers a safe way of seeing and speaking with friends without worrying about 2m distancing or facemasks. Virtual Coffee gatherings will return. Biblical knowledge is vital. Blessing abounds with three opportunities to do study each week.

We underpin all that we do with prayer. The Circuit Prayer Group meets each week. This will be complimented by one-to-one prayer (via Zoom) time led by Rev. Noel, and encouragement to form prayer triplets (see below).

Fiona Farrington, Circuit Pastoral Caller helps co-ordinate pastoral care throughout the Circuit. Working with Noel and myself we aim to keep regular contact with every church member. Fiona primarily works on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Our children and youth are integral to the life of this Circuit. We are aware of the pressures they now face with home-schooling and significant times needed to work on-line. Caroline Barratt, Circuit Young Persons' Worker will co-ordinate a monthly 'Messy Church' and a 'Youth Church'. Each week we will distribute a worship sheet suitable for use by families.

A handy weekly plan, together with 'zoom' links and other information, is attached. We do hope that there will be something that you can attend. We do hope that soon we will be able soon to return to more usual patterns of gatherings. For now, we are encouraged by the growing number of people who are receiving a vaccine. We know too that 'best of all, God is with us'. By remaining steadfast in prayer and worship, by seeking to care for each other, and by faith we will not journey alone.

Please do contact me or Noel, at any time, if you wish to talk.

May God bless you and keep you, and make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you, now and always, Amen.

Andrew.

Rev. Andrew Farrington, Superintendent Minister
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Diary Events from 17th January 21 to Easter 21.

Sunday:

Worship at **Rothwell** Meth. Church, Well Lane, Rothwell. 10.30 a.m.

Sunday: 17th Jan, 31st Jan, 14th Feb, 28th Feb, 14th Mar, 28th Mar.

Seat reservations with **Fiona Farrington** fiona-farrington@outlook.com 01536 485690.

Worship at **Central** Meth. Church, School Lane, Kettering 10.30. a.m.

Sunday: 24th Jan, 7th Feb, 21st Feb, 7th Mar, 21st Mar.

Seat reservations with **Sue Walters** sp_walters@hotmail.com 01536 675211

Virtual Coffee Morning: 10.30 a.m. every Sunday

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89356853991?pwd=Z3ZOaEFrWkRGbjA1ODU1RkdpbWZoUT09>

Mondays:

Bible Study Group with Mark Powell. Currently looking at Gospel according to Saint John. Contact Mark at 01536 410991 for further details.

Tuesdays:

Circuit Prayer Meeting 7.30 – 8.15 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82621451487?pwd=SFLOEt4SmhBQjJJa3J1c1I3eGVidz09>

Wednesdays:

Bible Study Group with Rev. Noel. Currently following The Book of Esther.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83911099748?pwd=cUVYMW5jb3Z0eEhuSFVZK3pLWm95dz09>

Thursdays:

Virtual Coffee Morning: 10.30 a.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89356853991?pwd=Z3ZOaEFrWkRGbjA1ODU1RkdpbWZoUT09>

Worship at **Cornerstone** Meth. Church, Kingsbrook, Corby

Thursday: 21st Jan, 4th Feb, 18th Feb, 4th March, 18th March, 1st April.

Seat reservations with **Wendy Curtis** wendymichael80@gmail.com 01536 771987

Bible Study Group with Rev Andrew. Discovering the Gospel according of Saint Mark.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88941179277?pwd=eGFWRjFmRGIMem9IOFVxKzRmU2UvUT09>

Fridays:

One-to-one prayer time with Rev. Noel between 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Noel will see one person at a time, and you may need to wait for a few minutes to be seen and prayed with.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89172463899?pwd=WINZTTItYVBMVGYzMktNZ0g5V3hMUT09>

MESSY CHURCH

SUNDAY 7th February and 7th March at 4 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85189773193?pwd=b28rRG5KRE0rSVVRYzV0cXNObnZZQT09>

Meeting ID: 851 8977 3193 Passcode: 4316

Prayer Triplets

Praying together in threes means that we can encourage one another by praying for situations in which we find ourselves, world, national and local situations, people we know and for ourselves. It also gives an opportunity to praise God and to give thanks.

Ruth, Jane and I have been praying together on a weekly basis for a number of years, and over the last year have continued on zoom.

This has helped us when we have felt tired or discouraged, and has enabled us to hear God more clearly. It is wonderful to remember how many times our prayers have been answered!

Praying together in an atmosphere of stillness and complete confidentiality is a deeply spiritual and liberating experience. We have also experienced a deepening personal relationship between us, and know that God is walking with us on our journey.

Joan Catherall