

Warwick Methodist Church
Keeping in Contact During Covid-19
Number 38 – 29th October 2020

Dear Friends,

Firstly, as I start to write this letter as Barbara is taking a holiday, I would like to thank Barbara for the letters she has been writing each week. It seems like it is an easy thing to do, but it is a gift to write them week after week and find the words that not only encourage and lift others in their faith during these times, but also challenge us in our own thoughts and actions.

I am still deep in thought and reflecting on the starting words from last week - "The times, they are a-changing," sang Bob Dylan.

Over the years I have not been a person who has liked change and when change has come along I have managed mostly to keep it in my comfort zone. As I look out of the window of my office I am fortunate to have a view of a number of trees and at this time of year they are in full autumn colour, they are also in various stages of dropping their leaves. Change is all around us and the best thing to do is to embrace it and enjoy the wonderful display.

During this summer I have managed to sort out the garden and we have enjoyed a front garden full of colour, which has also been enjoyed by neighbours and dog walkers alike. The back garden has also had a few changes and I am looking forward to spring when the bulbs I have planted will hopefully grow and flower, they will be a surprise for Jackie as she has no idea of what I planted!

The last 3 years or so have seen a lot of change and as I reflect a lot of it has been out of my comfort zone. It started with moving away from South Wales, starting a new job, in a new town, in a new country! Previously I had spent most of my life living in the same town.

The next changes were not so exciting but were challenging in a different way. The day I started my new job my father fell ill and about a month later we sat with him sharing one last time together. We experienced two other losses in the next year as we said goodbye to Tilly, our special little cat, and to Sakura, our lovely dog.

Jackie and I really did experience empty nest syndrome, as our son Chris had already left home, but now our daughter Katherine also moved out after finishing university.

Then the Covid lockdown came along and the changes continued! I started a new job in the South Warwickshire Circuit and our daughter moved back in with us. So, there were a few positive things to counter the stopping of running groups, attending church and not being able to do my normal sporting activities.

Life still goes on, looking at nature the seasons are still taking place, the sun will continue to set and rise again each morning. At this moment we are still able to meet for the services and reflection times we currently have planned in the three churches. Back in South Wales they are once again in lockdown and have been told they cannot attend services.

I believe that we are called to be the church wherever we are and whatever we are able to do, so if we cannot meet in person we can still pray or contact somebody to share our faith, by sharing that we care and love them, that they are not forgotten and we can offer a listening ear to help others through their times of distress. Each one of us can play our part.

When Jesus was asked which of the commandments was the greatest - "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

We often do not have any idea of what others have been through or are going through, I do know that when I have gone through hard times friends and family have prayed for us, offering unconditional love and support.

In this time of change, in this time of hardship and distress for so many I pray that we all will be able to love our neighbours as ourselves, that we will be kind and loving, holding each other in prayer, sharing words of support and encouragement, offering unconditional love and support.

The changes have continued as I am involved in two new activities - Family Worship Time – A new online resource for the circuit. If you have children in your wider family, please share about it and that it is available on the circuit YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzyDSCOYMtQsCToUfQ3sforT5J7geU2-D>

I am also hosting TakeTime Meditations, beginning on Thursday 29th October 2020 at 3 pm. TakeTime meditations use your imagination to provide a calm, comfortable space in which to meet God.

Join via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87486210132?pwd=ZU0weXQ3cUIxVlBjemt6dlErMjhKQT09>

Please contact me if you would like further information.

God bless

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