**Online Gatherings**

With the new Connexional year come the major meetings of Representative Synod (12th Sept) and Circuit Meeting (17th Sept). Normally these lively gatherings are times of discussions, fellowship and renewal of friendships as well as gatherings for business. This year, of course, both were held online via Zoom, but despite the larger numbers, both were deemed successful meetings, and both included discussions in smaller groups called 'Breakout Rooms'.

At [Synod](https://suttonparkcircuit.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9824c2fe1ec335b5560caec51&id=28346a5b95&e=28109fba71) we formally welcomed our new Minister Revd Emily Young. We had a presentation on the Post-COVID understanding of the Methodist Conference "*God For All*" Report (see below); a presentation on Social Justice and Inclusion, and a presentation on The Environmental Crisis (see below). These were discussed in our groups, as was the District Development Plan.

At the Circuit Meeting, we rejoiced that Revd Malcolm Oliver was re-invited for an additional year to serve in this Circuit until August 2022. We discussed the current Circuit Mission Priorities and welcomed a proposal to invest Circuit resources into missional projects rather than just maintenance. We thanked John Rutherford for his long service as Acting Treasurer, and continue to appeal for a Circuit Treasurer, and indeed additional Circuit Stewards, as we go forwards. Financial, Property, Safeguarding, GDPR, LP Meeting and other Reports were presented and received with grateful thanks.

The following list of Circuit Worship opportunities was presented to the Circuit meeting:

**ONLINE**: Each Sunday morning 10.30 weeks 1 and 3 from District, weeks 2 and 4 from Circuit (again several young people from Sutton Park Circuit take part in this week’s District service)  Each Sunday 6.30 pm evening worship produce by Sutton Park Circuit.

**AROUND THE CHURCHES:**

**Blackwood** are not meeting yet. They are waiting and may possibly use Zoom.

**Four Oaks** will live stream a service on 27 September. They are investigating the technology. It may be possible to live stream the Wednesday service.

**Kingsbury** are opening for 30mins prayer and Bible study on September 13th

**South Parade** had their first service in church on September 6th. They plan to open every Sunday with a ‘live’ service on 1st and 3rd Sundays and a circuit live streamed service on 2nd, 4th, & 5th Sundays

**Falcon Lodge** will share services with Rev Alan and the Worship Leaders for 4 Sundays beginning 20th September.

**Witton** Worship for young people will be recorded at Witton but will not be ‘live’.

**Stockland Green** held a service in a tent in the garden for 60 young people to say farewell to Ruda and to welcome Charlotte. There will be streamed services in the Café but people must sign in. Caution must be exercised because many people are over 70.

**Erdington** will live stream services but they need to upgrade the equipment. They are keen to open when everything is in place.

**St Chads** have been open since 9th August to screen the live streamed District service and followed it with Holy Communion. The congregation is small which enables social distancing.

**Streetly** had 3⁄4 of the normal congregation, making it easier to socially distance people. Kirsten has been streaming by Zoom. They are considering how to make it interactive for people at home.

**Nechells** are working towards opening on the 2nd Sunday, possibly for bible study when they have done the risk assessment.

**Kings Rd** have had a meeting and have set up a working party.

**Boldmere** are hoping to watch a live streamed service followed by prayers.