

Dear Friend,

At the heart of our Methodist Calling is our responsibility to be an active member of society, to care about others' lives and share God's love and kindness. We are reminded in these times that, as Christians, our faith teaches us to love one another and support those in need as St Paul reminds us in this letter to the Ephesians;

***Ephesians 4:32*** "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

The challenges faced by Methodist Homes (MHA) care homes, retirement living and community schemes during the global pandemic has been enormous. MHA Sunday 2021 will be an opportunity to come together in faith to reflect on the past year, celebrate the collective courage we have found and give thanks for the strength our faith has given us.

The focus of MHA Sunday this year is Jesus' call to support those in our community who are struggling and offer compassion and kindness. Taking our reading from Mark's gospel chapter 5, the service is inspired by Jesus' example in helping reduce isolation and bring hope to all those in later life.

In 2020, MHA embarked on the creation of Digital Communities, a new content platform designed to tackle social isolation head on. In particular Digital Communities encompasses MHA's Befriending service, giving those in need a sense of community, a connection to the outside world and lending a caring ear.

This has been hard hit over the last year, as our face to face interaction with members and residents was so severely impacted during the pandemic. But Digital Communities has bridged that gap by also creating and sharing video content specially designed to keep our audiences engaged, from exercise videos to religious services, crafting and zoom based quizzes. And it's this service that we are seeking to support through MHA Sunday this year.

MHA Sunday will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and I invite you and your congregation to join us for this important moment. There is also the flexibility to join in at a time that works for you. Please do join us for MHA Sunday Live with Pam Rhodes, to be broadcast at 4pm on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June, featuring music, stories and interviews from across the MHA family and a message from the President of the Methodist Conference, Revd Richard Teal.

To order Gift Aid envelopes and download additional free resources including children and youth resources, a video to show in your service, an Order of Service and fundraising ideas, please visit: [mha.org.uk/sunday](http://mha.org.uk/sunday)

With every blessing,



Sam Monaghan - Chief Executive