



## The Methodist Church

**Bishopston, Easter Compton, Horfield, Shirehampton Methodist Churches and St Peter' Pilning.**

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We are part of the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit ([www.bsgc.org.uk](http://www.bsgc.org.uk)),  
a family of over forty churches serving communities across the local area.

These notices are also posted on <http://www.horfieldmethodist.org.uk>

**“This too will pass” (Anon).**

**“All will be well, and all manner of things will be well” (Julian of Norwich).**

### **Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2020.**

Rev Patrick is currently still on holiday. The following is from Emma Langley of St Albans, Westbury Park:

Well, it is quite an honour to be asked to write something for you all. In these strange times one of the things I have missed most is being able to get out to different churches on the plan and share with you in your ways of being church. One of the ways we have been church here in Westbury Park has been with a *'listening bench'* where every day of the week (weather permitting) a volunteer sits on a bench in the church yard for two hours to be available for anyone who needs to talk - or just wants a chat. It has been incredible what varied conversations we have had and how pleased people seem to be that it is available and it has been a great reminder to us of the power of presence - just being there for people, especially when so much has been stripped away. It is not the most snazzy church initiative ever - we just have a wipeable chair for visitors to sit on and volunteers of all shapes and sizes, ages and aptitudes - and sometimes no one comes to talk and sometimes they do. It is just a little thing, but it has felt so meaningful in these strange times. The bible is full of such small things of course, mustard seeds and yeast, still small voices and sparrows. God is in these tiny things. In days when all of our big plans have gone out of the window my prayer for all of us is that we might bless one another with the small actions and see the presence of God in those places which before might have seemed insignificant. Because in such things is the Kingdom of God.

With love and prayers,  
Emma.

#### **SERVICES, DEVOTIONS, ETC.**

**Sunday Morning Live.** BBC1 at 10.00am. Sean Fletcher Bell and Sally Phillips take a look at the ethical and religious issues of the day.

**Songs of Praise.** BBC1 at 1.15pm. Revd Kate Botley learns how Christians founded The National Trust 125 years ago.

#### **BSGC Corona Virus Worship resources.**

Worship resources and other resources for reflection are available on the Circuit website. There is also a daily prayer, based around the Methodist Prayer Handbook, for people to use at 12.00noon.

Our online worship videos will continue for the time-being, and in August will include contributions from Christian organisations here in Bristol and further afield. Please do continue to watch these and pray for those who lead and work in all these faith-based organisations.

**The New Room.** The New Room has partially re-opened Tuesdays to Saturdays 11.00am - 3.00pm. The Cafe is open for drinks, cakes and light lunches with limited seating and the Chapel and the courtyard for private prayer and reflection. It is planned to re-open the museum on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> August.

**The New Room – Friday Reflection.** See website.

**Dial-a-Prayer.** A FREE phone service to hear prayers and news from the Methodist Church has been launched, updated each Thursday evening. Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514 Listen to news: 0808 281 2478.

**Bible Study.** Bible Study, looking at the book of Esther, will recommence on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> August at 7.45pm. Zoom Meeting details:- Meeting ID: 824 4060 4625 Passcode: 202692.

**Video reflections.** A video reflection for this weekend is available on church websites.

**Afterzoom tea.** Sundays at 3.30pm to share news informally and see friends. Please join online via [zoom.us](https://zoom.us) Meeting ID: 962 4920 4497 Password: 004692.

If you would like to join either the Bible Study or Afterzoom Tea, but do not have internet access, you can use your phone: please dial **0330 088 5830** then enter the Meeting number followed by the Password for the particular event. We look forward to hearing you join in.

**All Age devotions.** Alongside our own devotions included in this news sheet, there are free materials for younger members of our congregations accessible via [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com) (and other material for the young at heart too).

**Big Church Sing.** There is a new link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XjETodcfHY>

## CHURCH NOTICES.

### All churches.

If you are looking for somewhere local to visit for some quiet time in God's presence, then everyone at ALFACC\* (Fulligrove House, Woodwell Road BS11 9UG) will be pleased to welcome you to their garden which is available for people to come on their own or with a few friends (appropriately spaced) to sit in peace and think/read/pray etc. They are affiliated to the Quiet Garden Movement

<https://quietgarden.org/> and have a few photos and resources in the summer house. It is generally helpful if people contact us in advance ([info@alfacc.org.uk](mailto:info@alfacc.org.uk) or 01179826455 or [alfacc.org.uk](http://alfacc.org.uk)) as there are days when activities will be happening and the garden will not be quiet. Drop-in sessions will be available on Wednesdays 2.00pm – 4.00pm in August when the weather is dry: tea and cake will be on offer!



Feeding Bristol is fundraising for part of the city-wide Healthy Holidays project, looking to support our most vulnerable children during the summer holidays. Please visit this fundraising link if you feel able to contribute.

### Horfield.

**Thank You cards.** The Fundraising Group has now produced some Thank You cards. So many people have been helped by others willing to go the extra mile to make life easier for them we are extending our greetings card range to include Thank You cards.

Coffee cup cards are £1 each with a minimum order of 3 cards. There are various options available. There are three designs:-

- Traditional floral.
- Contemporary floral.
- Spots/stripes).

A choice of drink sachet:-

- Douwe Egberts coffee.
- Lyons decaffeinated coffee.
- Twinings teabag.

A choice of greeting inside:-

- "To thank you for your kindness, And the care you've shown me too, I'm sending you this cuppa, As a thanks from me to you."
- "Thank you for listening, Thank you for caring, Thank you for being you."

Teapot 'Thinking of You' cards at 4 for £3, are still available to order.

Email orders for coffee cup or teapot cards to: [teapot\\_cards.etc@yahoo.com](mailto:teapot_cards.etc@yahoo.com). This can be done through our facebook page, 'Teapot cards - and more'



You are asked to pray for Jade Heal who is struggling with pain which is getting her down.

**Worship Consultation.** The next meeting will be online on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm. Zoom Meeting details:- Meeting ID: 856 0226 4713, Passcode: 104301.

**Junior Church.** We are running online Junior Church sessions every Sunday on-line at 10:30am. For details of these sessions please email the Junior Church Leaders ([Helentreasurer@horfieldmethodist.org.uk](mailto:Helentreasurer@horfieldmethodist.org.uk)).

An important part of our discipleship is to pray for our community and each other. This week you are asked to pray for the following people and their families:- Mary and Jamie Quilala, Lorraine Richardson, Ruby and Desmond Reid, Kenneth Reid, and Miriam Reid.

## WEEKLY NOTICES, ETC.

Please submit all items to John Hopper by each Tuesday ([p.hopper1@btinternet.com](mailto:p.hopper1@btinternet.com) or 0117 951 4529). To be added to, or deleted from, the electronic circulation, please email John Hopper.

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### This week's Lectionary readings are:

Genesis 37: 1 - 4, 12-28; Psalm 105: 1 – 6, 16 – 22 and 45b; Romans 10: 5 - 15; Matthew 14: 22 - 33.

### Reflection.

So after the feeding of the 5,000 the disciples see Jesus walking on water. Most of us will have read this passage a number of times over the years. But as I read it this time I didn't see Jesus walking on water at all, I simply saw the storm – I think for lots of people 2020 will have felt like a storm. So much has happened, so many changes battering us from all sides, hollering winds, battering rain, lockdown, a virus that we didn't know about, strain on the NHS, watching exhausted nurses crying that there was no food in the supermarket at the end of long shifts. Working from home, experiencing people differently, experiencing going out differently. Communicating in new ways, being bombarded by announcements, graphs showing high levels of death and illness and knowing each person involved in those numbers and graphs have family, friends, a background story.

And yet still in the storm, Jesus gets out of the boat, into the storm and brings calm, the presence of God. We too have seen in this pandemic moments of calm, exhibitions of love of devotion, some became very public demonstrations, others will remain quiet, singular acts of kindness.

And this week – the same happens again, this time it isn't to us – it's a huge explosion, in Beirut, death, destruction, fear and pain all experienced in a second. And yet again in the dramatic scenes there comes pictures of people helping survivors, people from all over the world reaching out to offer help, individuals using their hands to dig through rubble to find survivors, the sharing of expertise in search and rescue. Again in a picture of horror we see Jesus getting out of the boat, into the storm, bringing calm and the presence of God through the love and dedication of people.

2020 still has some months to go – there will be more storms, more upset, local lockdowns, the impact on the economy is really beginning to show – in increasing notifications of jobs being lost, of additional people being in homes where hunger, aggression and conflict increase as a result of trauma.

I hope and pray that we continue to have the strength to keep looking into the storm, to see Jesus calming, that we as individuals and his church on earth, act as his disciples, by bringing love, joy, comfort, forgiveness, hope in the midst of the storm. We pray that the storm settles but I pray also that the lessons learnt and the positive changes remain. That there are always people who will provide calm in times of chaos, that each of us can be that for others in whatever small way we can.

Whilst we read of the storms may we remember that we can 'be still, for the presence of the Lord is moving in this place....' At Shire we listened to this song in worship on Sunday and I find it calling again this week.

With hope of blessings to you all.

Jo Hill

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Let us remember that the world changed forever seventy-five years ago on 6th and 9th August when they dropped the first atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We must never cease our efforts to pray and work for peace.

*"Blessed are the peacemakers."*