



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),

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, 30th August, 2020.

The arrangements for shielding a member of our family have been relaxed, so I have been out and about a little more in the last couple of weeks, although still acting with caution. I am happy to be doing so, but it has taken some time to get used to encountering others outside our immediate family and adapting to current social norms. I was delighted to be able to join with last Sunday's act of worship with a small group at Shirehampton, and am equally looking forward to doing so in other places, all being well in the coming weeks.

Those sacred spaces are all valued, they are not the only places where we worship and encounter God. A colleague from Sheffield, who has been on sabbatical over the summer, has recently written* about the traditions of Celtic worship, which focussed on the community meeting outdoors, alongside people and with a more 'earthy' quality about the way of being church and being involved in God's work. That tradition initially stood (and continues to stand) in contrast to the thought of going to a particular place of worship, instead acting as a reminder that God's mission is always amongst and with us.

I do not disagree with those who value the our particular places of worship, our church buildings, but as we begin to return to them and worship in them once more, I hope and pray that we will continue to value all the places that we have encountered God over the past few months, and so that we develop a fuller and richer expression of God's presence through us all, in all places.

With my prayers for you all

Rev Patrick

(* if you would like to read more, please visit theologyeverywhere.org/2020/08/24/spirituality-in-a-hard-place/)

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. Aled Jones visits Blenheim Palace to explore its private chapel and magnificent grounds.

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.

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 and Listen to news: 0808 281 2478.

New Room update. The chapel, cafe, shop, museum, courtyard and toilets are now open Tuesday - Saturday, 11.00am -3.00pm. There is a full safety system in place to reassure visitors including hand sanitation points, a one way system and participation in NHS Test and Trace.

The cafe is offering drinks, cakes and light lunches with limited seating inside and benches in the courtyard. Timed tickets must be booked in advance to visit the museum and can be booked at www.newroombristol.org.uk/plan-your-visit/ . As well as the Friday Reflection which is posted on the New Room website each week, an Emmaus prayer service is also being held in the chapel at 1.00pm every Tuesday. This can be attended in person (please wear a face mask) and is also being streamed live on Facebook, just search for the 'New Room Bristol' page. Prayer sheets so that you can follow the service at home can be found at www.newroombristol.org.uk/faithandresources/ - click on Emmaus Service Resources to find the sheet.

Bible Study. Bible Study, looking at the book of Esther, will recommence on Wednesday, 19th 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](#) 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 (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.

Accommodation for Asylum Seekers. A local charity has issued an urgent appeal to help house asylum seekers in Bristol. Bristol Hospitality Network (BHN) is working together with the council to find move-on accommodation for asylum seekers who have been made destitute. Usually the charity does this through their 11-bed men's hostel and a network of hosts,

but at the moment, the hostel is full so they need to find more hosts to support some of the most vulnerable people in the city.

Many asylum seekers have come from Iraq, Syria, Sudan, or Afghanistan and will have lost a lot on their journey to safety. Offering someone in need a room and your trust is a very immediate way to show welcome and solidarity. Volunteer Hosts would need to offer a spare room or living space for a minimum of three months. Most guests are self-sufficient and need very little in terms of time or energy. Just a safe place to sleep and a warm welcome. Hosts are able to join an active network, which will provide advice and support. All guests are actively supported by BHN to make progress with their asylum claims while hosted, and BHN also provide them with food and some money. To find out more, visit www.bhn.org.uk or contact laura@bhn.org.uk for a no obligation discussion about becoming a host with BHN.

Update for reopening for worship. A short act of morning worship has been held at Shirehampton for the past few weeks and it is planned to continue to do so, with a decision being made each week about the following Sunday: the stewards will communicate directly about this. We are in a similar position at Pilning, which opened last Sunday. The Church Council at Horfield met last week, and agreed that we should aim to be ready for a morning service on 20th September and thereafter; we are also exploring holding an evening service online. More information to follow.

Dates for September. The following Meetings will take place via Zoom. Nearer the date log in details will be circulated with the agendas.

- Wednesday 9th at 7.30pm - Local Preachers and Worship Leaders Meeting.
- Thursday 17th at 7.30pm - Circuit Meeting.

Cancelled. The planned service to mark the 250th Anniversary of George Whitfield on 30th September has been cancelled.

Education Sunday. A Circuit Service will be held on Sunday, 13th September. It will be accessible from 4.00pm on the Circuit YouTube Channel. Further details will be circulated nearer the date.

Horfield.

Congratulations to Danikka and Jehlani on their excellent GCSE results which will allow them to

move onto the next stage of their education. Danikka will be moving to the Performing Arts School in Bristol to study BTEC in Dance and Musical Theatre; Jehlani will continue at St Mary Redcliffe 6th Form studying Psychology, Philosophy and Photography. *We offer prayers of thanks for them both, and pray for God's continued blessing upon them and their wider family.*

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 (Helen-treasurer@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:- Andy Stevenson, Maddy Stonehewer, our minister Patrick, and Rachel, Chin and Dylan Tan.

WEEKLY NOTICES, ETC.

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

This week's lectionary readings are:

Exodus 3: 1 - 15; Psalm 105: 1 - 6, 23 – 26 &45c; Romans 12: 9 - 21; and Matthew 16: 21-28

Reflection on Matthew 16: 21 – 28 by Howard Wilson.

As a child growing up in Sheffield in the late 70's early 80's I used to go to Crusaders on a Sunday afternoon. We would be picked up by 'Chalkie' White, the class leader, in his Leyland Sherpa minibus. We would drive to a Methodist Church hall where everyone would start off with singing songs. The songs were different to anything we sang at church, they were lively and 'fun' to sing – written for young people in a book called 'Youth Praise'.

Of these, one of my favourite songs was based on this reading – so much so that as I picked up the copy by my piano, I didn't even have to look it up in the index to know it was number 81;

Chorus

*If any [one] will follow, if any [one] will follow,
If any [one] will follow after my Jesus:
Let [them] deny [them] self, oh, let [them] take up [their] cross
And let [them] come and follow after my Lord!*

Whosoever will live for self will throw [their] life away,
Christ gives life to all who follow Him –
What is a [person] advantaged if [they] gain the whole wide world
And then loses [their] soul!

Chorus

Whosoever will be ashamed of Jesus and His words,
In this sinful age in which we live,
Jesus the King will be ashamed of [them] in that great day
When in glory He comes!

Chorus

Apart from changing to more inclusive language, I did not even need to look up the words to type it out – yet it must be over 35 years since I last sang it in any sort of service.

John Bell of the Iona Community, who is himself a hymn writer, points out that we learn so much more of our theology through what we sing, than through preaching. This hymn, along with so many others, helped form the theology which nurtured the faith which led to my career with so many different people.

Which hymns have influenced your walk of faith?

- And Can It Be, That I Should Gain?
- Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.
- This, This is the God We Adore.
- I Want to Serve the Purpose of God, In My Generation.

As we start to think about returning to meeting for worship in our building, I wonder what worship without hymns will be like. How much will we retain? What will move us? What will our experience of God be like? Even the online services that have so wonderfully kept us going during lockdown have included recordings of hymns and songs. Never forget that Methodists in particular are 'Born in Song'.

But also never forget the very reason for our belief in the first place – if we follow Jesus, we must deny ourselves, take up his cross and follow him. I pray we will remain open to hear his prompting, and willing to listen and respond.

A prayer:

*“Lord, your summons echoes true
When you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
And never be the same.
In your company I'll go
Where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
In you and you in me.”*

John L. Bell and Graham Maule