



## The Methodist Church

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

Minister: *Revd Patrick Stonehewer* T: 0117 924 8407, E: [patrick.stonehewer@methodist.org.uk](mailto:patrick.stonehewer@methodist.org.uk)

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).**

(Any suggestions for a new quote or saying? - John Hopper)

### **Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2020.**

Many people have gone back to work recently, and many more children have returned to school. For all of us, this has created a sense of change, of transition and of uncertainty. For many of us it is a time when we must be gentle with ourselves and with one another, and look out for our spiritual and emotional health. The problem is, we are not inclined to do so exactly when we need to, and it is easy to resist by keeping ourselves mentally strong and just keep going.

As people of faith, we may we will have a rhythm of spoken prayer, but if that is not the case, there is benefit from being still, mindful and peaceful, or perhaps focusing on another activity, which in turn becomes prayerful. Through them, our spirits have time to sort through the challenges of the present, and encourage us to enjoy the joys instead. There are many ways we can do this including meditation (use an app if you are so inclined), taking a walk to enjoy the things you see and smell and hear, or other things like drawing, an odd DIY job, knitting, doing the washing up, singing, listening to music ... you get the idea. Take a while to stop, and see what God says to you.

'Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.' (Luke 5:15f.)

Rev Patrick.

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#### **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 marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower.

#### **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. 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.** The chapel, cafe, shop, museum, courtyard and toilets are open Tuesday - Saturday, 11.00am - 3.00pm. Timed tickets for the museum must be booked in advance and can be booked at [www.newroombristol.org.uk/plan-your-visit/](http://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/](http://www.newroombristol.org.uk/faithandresources/) - click on Emmaus Service Resources to find the sheet.

**Bible Study.** Please note that the next online Bible Study will be on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup>

September (no meeting this week, 9<sup>th</sup> September). 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](http://www.rootsontheweb.com) (and other material for the young at heart too).

## CHURCH NOTICES.

### All churches.

**Education Sunday.** A Circuit Service will be held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September. It will be accessible from 4.00 pm on the Circuit YouTube Channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiPdHk7wmFsEelpy2hRf6nw>. The service includes a number of contributions, including a sermon from Barbara Easton, Head of Methodist Schools and Vice President Designate of the Methodist Conference.

Victoria Methodist Church are delighted to be able to re-open their '**Searching for Home**' Lent **Exhibition** which had to be closed due to lockdown. The exhibition will be open Mondays to Saturdays 12.30am - 2.30pm until Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September. Please do visit.

**InHope's** popular training course - Understanding Addiction and Recovery in the Church - has six sessions that explore the pathway to recovery from addiction. This year's course was disrupted by the Corona Virus, but we are pleased to offer the latest session on Zoom. The '**12 Step Programme**' led by Lydia Davenport, a drug and alcohol counsellor, will be a session via Zoom starting this Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> September from 7.30 to 9.30pm. 12 Step

fellowships play a huge role in helping people recover from addictions. Some say "It is the only way", others that "The steps saved them", but some also say "It didn't work for me", and some even ask "Isn't Jesus enough?" This one off session is open to anyone - whether you simply want to know more, you are supporting people struggling with addiction, or if you want to know if the steps are "in step" with the Christian faith - this is essential training. Email [stuart.leitch@inhope.uk](mailto:stuart.leitch@inhope.uk) to register your interest in joining the meeting.

**Sea Mills local history.** If you are interested in local history, why not listen to the new podcast about the history of Sea Mills, available via [seamills100.podbean.com](http://seamills100.podbean.com) for some interesting stories based around the historic suburb of Sea Mills and Coombe Dingle, with trips down memory lane from the Sea Mills 100 project. If you know of someone who would be interested in this, but does not have the means to listen to it, please email [info@seamills100.co.uk](mailto:info@seamills100.co.uk) who will be able to offer a loan player.

**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](http://www.bhn.org.uk) or contact [laura@bhn.org.uk](mailto:laura@bhn.org.uk) for a no obligation discussion about becoming a host with BHN.

**Horfield.**

**Horfield will re-open for morning worship at 10.00am on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> September, when the preacher will be John Hopper.**

**It is currently understood that there is no change in the guidance as regards worship.**

We are looking for those who are able to act as stewards for these services, which will involve welcoming people to into the church and ensuring that we follow the arrangements which have been agreed as part of our COVID-19 risk assessment. Please contact Janet Browning if you are able to do this via email [janet.a.browning@gmail.com](mailto:janet.a.browning@gmail.com), or by telephone (0117 908 9035).

**Harvest Festival.** Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> September at 10.00am. This will be a Local Arrangement led by members of the congregation. Details to follow.

**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](mailto: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:- Bob Walters, Trish Thompson, John Turkson, and Helen Wallbridge.

#### **WEEKLY NOTICES, ETC.**

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

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#### **This week's lectionary readings are:**

Exodus 14: 19 - 31; Psalm 114; Romans 14: 1 - 12; and Matthew 18: 21 - 35.

#### **Reflection on Matthew 18: 21 – 35 by David Bainbridge.**

I count myself privileged to be one of those who, during lockdown were able to spend more time in the garden. Although I started my working life in farming, I must confess my gardening skills are basic and I have regularly had to turn to the experts in "Gardener's world" (newly subscribed) for assistance. In the latest edition I was especially drawn to an article by Monty Don, who had been asked to contribute to a book on space with his thoughts in relation to space in gardens. He concluded by saying, "the most important spaces that gardens can create are the ones within you. Time in the garden can expand your sense of self and your relationship with the rest of mankind in an extraordinarily direct way".

It is that inner space Monty refers to that connects with today's Gospel reading in which the central theme is forgiveness. Among the many things that may disturb our inner peace and harmony that Monty alludes to are the hurts and grievances we hold on to and which seem to grow and fester. We see this in our own communities where friendships are destroyed, families split, by disagreements which seem to grow over time and the original cause may be something quite minor or even lost in the mists of time and the more entrenched we get, the harder it is to forgive. However we look at it, forgiveness can be a long and painful journey and one of the hardest things we will ever do.

The Revd Julie Nicholson who lost her daughter in the London bombings has spoken with great feeling and integrity, of the pain of her loss and of her own inability to forgive the man responsible for the death of her daughter. I'm sure her honesty and willingness to share her feelings will have struck a chord with many people. Yet Julie is also on record as saying "The world couldn't function without forgiveness. Relationships couldn't function, communities couldn't function", and we could add that nations are also impaired when they adopt an unforgiving spirit. It is certainly the case that many of the tensions between nations and cultures which have led to war, or the threat of war in recent times have their origins in previous generations and sometimes go back over centuries. We can cite Northern Ireland, the former Yugoslavia and the Middle east as examples, where past hurts have festered over generations and caused deep divisions and when the voices that call for forgiveness and reconciliation are drowned by those who seek revenge the cycle of violence becomes difficult to break.

In today's Gospel reading Peter asks Jesus how often he should forgive his brother and probably thought he was being very generous when he suggested seven times as the Rabbis taught that you only need to forgive a repeat offender three times. We can imagine his surprise when Jesus said no, seventy times seven, in other words you don't put a limit on forgiveness. Jesus then goes on to tell a story of a servant who owed his master a lot of money and was faced with being sold along with his wife, children and possessions to pay off the debt. His plea for mercy resulted in him being forgiven the debt, but that same servant wasn't prepared to show the same compassion towards a fellow servant who owed him a much smaller sum of money.

To reach out to someone in a spirit of forgiveness will not always guarantee that the response will be in the same generosity of spirit or lead to reconciliation. Yet on a personal level even if our forgiveness is one sided and we don't get the response we hope for, we've taken a big step towards dealing with feelings which, if allowed to fester can take up so much emotional energy and have an effect on our well-being and our spiritual life.

To let go of our hurts and move on we need God's help and it helps to know that God's forgiveness is always freely available, but it's not cheap, for God through Jesus gave everything to restore our relationship with him.

*'Forgive our sins as we forgive,'  
you taught us, Lord, to pray,  
but you alone can grant us grace  
to live the words we say.*