



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>

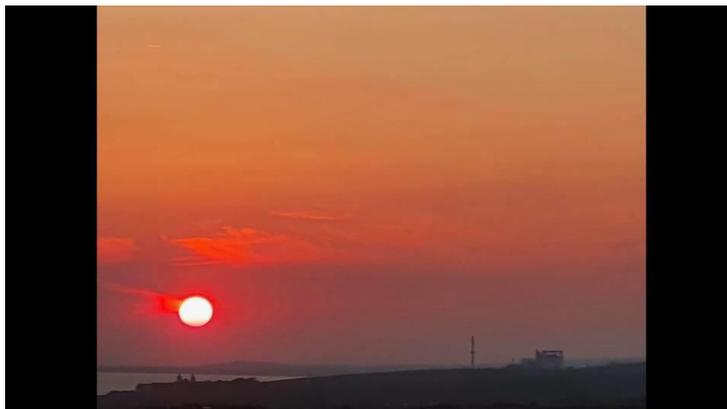
“Think and be thankful.” (Anon).

“The best of all – God is with us.” (John Wesley).

Sunday, 27th September, 2020.

"God of all places, of all people, and all time ...," words which often come into my head when I lead impromptu prayers. That might seem repetitive, but they act as a vehicle to settle myself into prayer and think about what I might say next. They remind me that God is ever-present and all-creating, yet reaches out to us in every moment, no matter where we are, who we are and what is around us: individually we can know and have a relationship with God.

That sentiment came into sharp focus last week, whilst I prayed for a former colleague who sadly died having been in intensive care for several weeks. Nonetheless, I felt God was present with her, her husband and their wider family and circle of friends, even amidst their grief. If I needed personal confirmation of that, see the following image, captured over the hospital where she was as her life was drawing to its close, another reminder of the on-going wonder of God's creation bringing light even in difficult moments.



*“The sun that bids us rest is waking,
Our brethren 'neath the western sky,
And hour by hour fresh lips are making
Thy wondrous doings heard on high.” (John Ellerton)*

Rev Patrick.



SERVICES, DEVOTIONS, ETC.

Bishopston.

Sunday, 27th September at 10.30am. Revd Peter Mortlock.

Sunday, 11th October at 10.30am. Holy Communion and Harvest Festival. Revd Patrick Stonehewer. Donations of food for Bristol North Food Bank and Money for the Methodist Centre.

Easter Compton. Next service to be confirmed.

Horfield.

Sunday, 27th September at 10.00am. Harvest Festival. Revd Patrick Stonehewer will lead worship via video recording. We request that gifts of money only be brought to church, to be donated to the Methodist Centre. Please send your gifts of provisions direct to the Food Bank in your area or alternatively contribute via a collection point at your local supermarket.
Sunday, 4th October at 10.00am. Rev Patrick Stonehewer

Note. If you decide to come to church for morning worship you need reserve a place by calling 0755

278 0740 between 9.00am on Monday and 5.00pm on Friday for the coming Sunday morning.

Horfield Junior Church.

We are running online Junior Church sessions every Sunday at 10:00am. (Note change of time.) Email Helen before Saturday midday, for each week's Junior Church Zoom access details (treasurer@horfieldmethodist.org.uk).

St. Peters, Pilning.

Sunday, 27th September at 10.00am. Rev David Willis. Then Sunday, 4th October at 10.00am..

Shirehampton.

Sunday, 27th September at 11.00am. Then 4th October at 11.00am.

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. Claire McCollom explores Saltaire in Yorkshire. Now a World Heritage site, the Victorian village was built by a Christian mill owner to transform the lives of his workers.

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.

Bible Study. The next online Bible Study will be on Wednesday, 30th September and is on Lamentations. 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).

CHURCH NOTICES.

All churches.

Sponsored walk for Lymphoma Action. "I am doing 7 miles, including Bristol Bridges, this Sunday for Lymphoma Action with Ken. This is a big deal for me in terms of my stamina, and the funds are vital. September is Blood Cancer Awareness Month too and more information is on the websites for this cause. The link for Give Penny the fundraising platform is - https://givepenny.com/pearlluxon_bridges_of_britain/?fbclid=IwAR0mDmX38OhCwqp8yKljV5kXNQ3bO5rajOCwYYeBNCGW2npCVCX28tTQ_M Thank you. Revd Pearl Luxon.

Sleep Out 2020. Bristol's first ever 'home edition' Sleep Out! In two weekend's time, twenty two (so far) inHope supporters will be sleeping out in their gardens, or in another uncomfortable place in their house, to fundraise for our work with people who don't have a home. It is not too late for you to register and be part of the first ever 'home edition' sleep out at inhope.uk/sleepout2020/ If this isn't for you but you would still like to donate, you can text INHOPESLEEPOUT to 70085. Please remember to add the digit of the amount you want to donate e.g. INHOPESLEEPOUT 10, to donate £10.

The recent Circuit Service for Education Sunday is available to watch on the Circuit Youtube channel www.youtube.com/channel/UCjPdHk7wmFsEelpy2hRf6nw and includes a number of contributions, including a sermon from Barbara Easton, Head of Methodist Schools and Vice President Designate of the Methodist Conference.

Opportunity with accommodation for charity volunteer. ALFA CC (Abundant Life for All Christian Community, www.alfacc.org.uk,

Facebook ALFA CC) is a small Christian charity supporting adults with learning difficulties. They currently have space in their house for a volunteer who is interested in working with such adults – rent is negotiable. Activities at the house include woodwork training, gardening training, hospitality, respite care and use of the quiet garden for prayer and reflection as well as administration of the charity. An enhanced DBS check would be required. Please contact Chris and Lyn Morton on info@alfacc.org.uk to discuss.

Please join a weekly prayer meeting for the Methodist Church, 12.45pm to 1.00pm each Tuesday. Go to www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/evangelism-growth/year-of-prayer/ for details and to register for the online link.

Horfield.

Card payments. We have now set up facilities for card payments to the church. A card reader is available in the church building if you would like to make your offertory this way, or visit horfieldmethodist.myдона.com.

A few details will be collected from you on the first occasion that you use the system, which will

ensure you get a receipt for your payment and also to process any Gift Aid. We plan to extend the facility to cover other payments in the future, for example when we are able to hold fundraising events.

3 Little Pigs story sack. Some time ago, after a Little Fishes session, someone borrowed a story sack of the 3 Little Pigs which contained 3 pig hand puppets and a very large wolf hand puppet. If it was you, please could you let me know as we need it back asap. Many thanks. Helen Wallbridge (tel 0117 962 4257).

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:- Jean White, Kingsley White, Heather Wilcox, Pam Williams, and the 4:12 Fellowship Group.

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 17: 1 - 7; Psalm 78: 1 – 4 & 12 - 16; Philippians 2: 1 - 13; and Matthew 21: 23 - 32.

Reflection on Matthew 21: 23 - 32 by Howard Wilson.

Two quite different stories in today's lectionary.

In the first Jesus is asked from where he derives his authority. Many people ask where the politics is in the Bible, but here is a classic political game. Like any politician being interviewed by their political adversary, Jesus sees the trap in the question. If he answers truthfully, that his authority is from God, then he would not only be directly challenging the chief priests' authority, but in their eyes would be blaspheming. So he asks them a similarly barbed question. As the reading shows, the chief priests and elders also see his trap. So the encounter ends in a stalemate – neither answers the others' question.

Jesus' side stepping the question, which the chief priests had hoped would have brought him down, either because he would admit he had no authority, or he would make a claim that they could use against him, must have added to their frustration with this 'upstart'. It would have added fuel to the fire of those who were maybe already looking to rid themselves of this troublesome preacher.

In the second story Jesus spells out the common issue of children who say one thing and do another. When asked to do a job one child refuses, but later does what he was asked. The other readily agrees, but never does it. Jesus points out how the authorities missed the message with John, but those generally considered outcasts accepted him, and even when shown to be right the authorities ignored (and ultimately killed) him.

As we continue in a time of uncertainty, where our political leaders are saying one thing, but quite possibly meaning another, we need to be as wise as Jesus to see and interpret the motivations behind what we are told. Likewise, we need to watch for those who might say the wrong thing, but do the right, and vice versa.

Remember for every complex question or situation there is an answer that is simple, easily understood... and wrong! Sometimes silence is the best response as we wait on God's time. The writer and poet Gordon Bailey, in his book 'Stuff and Nonsense' sensibly wrote; "They told me there was nothing new under the sun, so I looked above it".

Loving God,
 In times of uncertainty and fear,
 Help us to feel you near.
 As we face uncertainty
 Remind us that you are with us always.
 Grant us your wisdom to know your way,
 Give us the strength to speak out for you.
 Give us the faith to look for you.
 Give us the confidence that we will find you.
 Amen



The memorial in St. Peter's Church, Filton, to the victims of the air raid on the Bristol Aeroplane Company works, 25th September 1940