



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

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, 4th October, 2020.

Part of our online worship last weekend invited us to look under our feet and see God in the ordinary encounters of our lives. Whilst I have been reflecting on that myself this week, these words of John Wesley seem to be apt, as we all consider how we might share God's blessings with others.

“Weep with them that weep. If you can do no more, at least mix your tears with theirs; and give them healing words, such as may calm their minds, and mitigate their sorrows. But if you can, if you are able to give them actual assistance, let it not be wanting. Be as eyes to the blind, as feet to the lame, a husband to the widow, and a father to the fatherless. This will greatly tend to conciliate the affection, and to give a profitable pleasure, not only to those who are immediate objects of your compassion, but to others likewise that ‘see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven’”. John Wesley (from his Sermon 100 'On Pleasing All [sic]')

On one aspect of that, many of you have been asking what is happening with the Churches Winter Night Shelter due to implications of Covid-19. Current Public Health advice is that communal night shelters cannot run in their usual format due to issues over shared air space for the vulnerable client group. At the moment the project leadership team are looking at options for alternative provision for night shelter guests, and hope to be in touch over the coming month with more details about this and how things might work this winter.

On a personal matter, some of you already know that my family is currently self-isolating at home, as we have had contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19. We are currently all safe and healthy, following our own tests at the end of last week, which came back negative. That does however mean that I will not be able to lead worship in person at Horfield this weekend as planned, so I am grateful to David Bainbridge for stepping in at short notice to do this.

With prayers for you all. Rev Patrick

SERVICES, DEVOTIONS, ETC.

Bishopston.

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, 4th October at 10.00am. Mr David Bainbridge. Then Sunday, 11th October at 10.00am.

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, 4th October at 10.00am. Rev Philip Rowe. Then Sunday 11th October at 10.00am.

Shirehampton.

Sunday 4th October at 11.00am. All Age Harvest celebration led by Jo Hill. Then Sunday 11th

October at 11.00am on 11 October.

Choral Evensong for Harvest. You are all invited to join this week's online worship, if you are able to, led by the Festival Choir from St Peter's Pilning, who have recorded Choral Evensong for Harvest. If you are not familiar with the tradition of Evensong (Evening Prayer set to music), please do try it out and allow yourself to draw closer to God through the music and words. The recording also includes an update on the work of the Bristol Methodist Centre, which works with and alongside the homeless community in Bristol. www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ue4KbeWUQ4M. Thank you to all the members of the choir, particularly Jonathan Edwardes who has led and prepared this over the past few weeks.

Sunday Morning Live. No programme this week due to London Marathon coverage.

Songs of Praise. BBC1 at 2.00pm. Revd Kate Borley visits people, places and music that have shaped her faith journey.

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, 7th October 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.

Bristol's first ever 'home edition' Sleep Out!

Next weekend (10th – 11th October) more than twenty 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's not too late for you to register and be part of the first ever 'home edition' sleep out at inhope.uk/sleepout2020/. If this is not 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.

Join the Big Church Sing on the Methodist Church Youtube channel live at 4.00pm this Sunday 4th October via www.youtube.com/channel/UCTeKtVcU_BVasnf_mWVZk1JA. Be part of a huge Harvest singing festival like never before as we worship together globally with acclaimed Christian musicians such as the world famous worship leader Graham Kendrick, the incredible Scottish folk band Celtic Worship, globally recognised boys choir Libera, internationally acclaimed London Community Gospel Choir, award-winning singer/songwriter Chelsea Amber featuring Central Heights Church, and The Methodist Association of Youth Clubs (MAYC) Orchestra & Singers, OneSound & The National Methodist Choir GB of over 1,400 singers across the world. There is also a special Harvest reflection on a season of change featuring Rev Richard Teal and Carolyn Lawrence, President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference.

Fostering Black and Minority Ethnic Children in Bristol.

We know that Black children are disproportionately represented in our care system. While Black ethnic groups make up 3% of the general population, they make up 7% of the looked-after child population. Home for Good is helping Bristol City Council find foster carers to care for Black and Minority Ethnic heritage children. Join this information session to hear from foster carers in Bristol and find out more

about fostering in the city. 19th October from 8.00pm by Zoom, details available at www.homeforgood.org.uk/events/fostering-19-oct-2020

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=IwAR0mDmX38OhCwqp8yKlIv5kXNQN3bO5rajOCwYYeBNCGW2npCVCX28tTQ_M Thank you. Revd Pearl Luxon.

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.

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:- Hannah and Sam Williamson, Pam Williams' Housegroup, Howard Wilson, and Alison Young.

Shirehampton.

Christians on the Cotswold met on 13th September and had an encouraging time including praying for our neighbours and various needs. Following a discussion around the group and with the Cotswold Centre, there will be a meeting on the second Sunday of each month, with appropriate Covid-19 measures in place, including sitting at appropriate social distances from each other and wearing masks, etc. The next meeting is on Sunday, 11th October at 4.45 - 5.30pm and will use the material from the Prayer Course (as agreed before lockdown) available from prayercourse.org. All are welcome to join, but if you are not able to do so, you could watch the first video in the series.

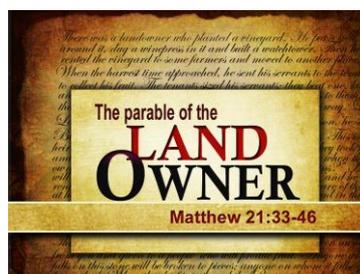
WEEKLY NOTICES, ETC.

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 20: 1 – 4, 7 – 9 & 12 - 20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3: 4b - 14; Matthew 21: 33 - 46.

Reflection on Matthew 21: 33 - 46 by Tim Lansdown (Hanham).



Early in lockdown I was discussing with a neighbour how our lives and the world at large had suddenly changed. I pondered how it could be that a virus, invisible to the eye, could affect the human race so dramatically. My neighbour suggested that it has taught us a lesson in that we are not the 'Masters of the

Universe' that we like to think we are. For all our technology, science, the strength of our armies and the hubris that we are unconquerable, Covid-19 has reminded us that we are just tenants of this planet, our home.

This week's gospel tells the parable, of the kindly landlord and the wicked tenants. Jesus reflects on the history of Israel and how God, in his love, still cared for his chosen people despite all their wrongdoing. The Lord had given them a wonderful world to share, but they disobeyed Him. But still loving them he sent his prophets to warn them of their folly. When they ignored the prophets, he sent his son who they decided to murder and claim the vineyard as their own. But this is not just a history lesson. There is a timeless side to the story as well. It speaks to us both as a church and as the whole of humanity.

If Jesus was addressing his 21st Century church the story might tell, not of mayhem and murder, but of making excuses as to why the harvest failed. Perhaps a key worker had moved away and no-one would take her job on. Or perhaps we decided to concentrate on maintaining the fabric of the vineyard and had no time to tend the fruit. Or maybe we had disagreed about the interpretation of the regulations that the master had laid down for running the operation. Anyone who has attended a Church Council will recognise the sort of issues that deflect from the task that the Lord has set us!

On a wider angle the story underlines to us that we are mere tenants of this wonderful planet, a gift from God. It is our home but we do not own it, but like good tenants we are charged with caring for it and handing it on to those who follow us. The media makes us all aware of the ecological dangers to planet Earth - melting icecaps, sea levels rising, carbon emissions and the pollution of the life-giving oceans with tons of plastic. We may feel helpless in the face of such a mammoth and life-threatening problem, but let us return to the parable.

The landlord sent his only son to the vineyard. The tenants knew who he was yet they deliberately killed him. Today, so many have heard of Jesus, but rather than murder him they choose to ignore him and his teaching by the lifestyles they adopt. We, who honour his name by calling ourselves Christian, must listen to him, heed his word and pray that His Kingdom of love, truth and justice will surely come.

Prayer.

Dear Lord,
Earth is world of water,
Earth is a special place,
Earth is a mind-blowing miracle,
Earth is truly ace.

Forgive us for our sins and let us rise, not fall.
Let us stand together and change for the good of all.
Please help us to save this beauty,
for there is only one.

Please help us save the planet,
Lord, help us change this wrong.
Amen.

(Prayer by Jimmy, pupil, Trinity and St. Michael's C.E. / Methodist Primary School, Croston Source : The Earth is the Lord's: Methodist Church Prayer Handbook 2020 / 2021. © Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, 2020)