



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, 11th October, 2020.

Who is your neighbour? Who are the people you see every day? On your street, at the supermarket, at the doctors' surgery, on the school run, on a video call? Over the last months our network of people and how we interact with them has changed. For some of us, we may no longer see our family and close friends as often as we used to. Our working culture may have changed too – now conducted online, or at a distance, with safety measures now making things feel very different.

Yet we still have these people in our lives. And it is right now that we and the people around us need good news. Our world continues to be unsettled and uncertain, but we have the opportunity to be those who “bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation”: a kind word, a smile (albeit behind a mask), a listening ear, and patience, understanding, and compassion for those around us as we negotiate a troubling present and uncertain future.

For those of us who follow Jesus we have an opportunity to follow what Paul tells us. To “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer” to “share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality” (Romans 12:12–13). The world can feel like a dark, uncertain place, but we have a message of hope and peace to offer people.

Let us hope and pray that we are able to appreciate this message for ourselves but our neighbours, wherever they are.

(Adapted from material provided by Lifewords www.lifewords.global)

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.

Sunday, 25th October at 10.30am.

Easter Compton. Next service to be confirmed.

Horfield.

Sunday, 11th October at 10.00am using a recorded service.

Sunday, 18th October at 10.00am led by Rev Patrick Stonehewer (Holy Communion).

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. You cannot get through on the dedicated number, please ring David Bainbridge on 0117 985 7179.

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, 11th October at 10.00am led by Ken Luxon.

Sunday, 18th October at 10.00am led by Rev Philip Rowe.

Shirehampton.

Sunday 11th October at 11.00am led by Rev David Bolton.

Sunday, 18th October at 11.00am led by members of the congregation.

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. Clare McCollum visits the Clink restaurant in the grounds of Styal women's prison.

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, **21st October**. 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).

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.

CHURCH NOTICES.

All churches.

Feeding Bristol Conference. Something that no-one ever thought would happen.... happened – and it has affected each and every one of us. The question is “What did the Covid-19 crisis teach us about our food systems, and how can we use those lessons to create a positive and sustainable food future?” The cracks in the UK food system were exposed; the responses were phenomenal, but we have to do more. A conference will look at the short and medium term responses. Come and join us to create that better food future. There is a conference on Wednesday, 11th November on four themes:

- a) The initial situation and response from lockdown on 23 March 2020 to mid-April.
- b) The mid-term response and how the City responded from the period mid-April to June.
- a) c) Moving on from the crisis, from June to the latter half of 2020; what happened next.
- b) d) Lessons learnt and how Bristol is moving forward as a food resilient city towards 2030.

The conference will be physically held at Ashton Gate Stadium but with audiences attending via our live streaming, allowing people to participate from wherever they wish. The content and timing of sessions is such that people can pick and choose the sessions they are interested in, whether that is just one or all four. We are planning breaks between the sessions to allow those participating remotely to have time away from their device. If you register to attend the event, we will send out the link for the conference online 48 hours before the event. Please register to attend via feedingbristolconference.eventbrite.com.

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

Horfield.

During the summer, I was able to visit Ada Gilbert in her new home in Cornwall. She was in good spirits and had settled in well and was very happy there. Ada would love to keep in touch with her friends from Horfield. If you would like to do so, please let Cherry or me know. Helen Wallbridge.

If you have been to church or walked past it recently, you will have noticed that weeds seem to have thrived during the past few months, growing in the cracks of the concreted areas near the side entrances, the courtyard, and the paved area in front and to the side of the front steps to the church. Could you volunteer to tackle one or more of these areas to make the church premises look cared for? If so, please speak to Helen Wallbridge.

We're looking for someone who could help deliver printed copies of the notices each weekend to eight church members who all live very close to the church itself (post codes BS7 8/9). If you are able to do this, that would be great - please contact Maureen Hyde or Rev Patrick.

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.

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:- Unda, Akomaning, Marion Andrews, and Cherry Arnal.

Shirehampton.

They've done it! You've done it! The team at the Cafe on the Square have raised an amazing £8,000 towards the cost of new awnings and heaters to help the Cafe remain open and follow COVID-19 procedures. Thank you to everyone who contributed whether it was your last pennies before pay day or a bigger chunk from your savings it all has the same value. Everyone has been blown away by the generosity and the cafe team hope to pay you back a little by keeping you warm and dry through the winter months. THANK YOU, Thank you, Thank you!

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, **NOT** notices@horfieldmethodist.org.uk). To be added to, or deleted from, the electronic circulation, please email John Hopper.

This week's lectionary readings are:

Exodus 32: 1- 14; Psalm 106: 1 – 6 & 19 - 23; Philippians 4: 1- 9; and Matthew 22: 1- 14.

Reflection by Local Preacher and Summerhill Local Church Pastor, Kevin Marshall (Hanham).



Our reflection this week focusses on the Old Testament Reading. This is an incredible story of a man in his senior years going up and down a 7,497ft mountain. The only mountain that I have been up is Mount Snowdon (above) at a height of just 3,560 feet. On reaching the summit of Mount Snowdon it was very cold, windy, and the top of the mountain was covered with cloud and mist. The weather was so inclement at the summit that within 30 minutes of peering through the clouds to admire what little view there was, it was a hasty retreat back into the warmth of the little mountain top cafe. Moses had waited six days at the top of the cloud covered mountain for God to reveal Himself! In fact Moses remained on the mountain for forty days and forty nights. There were no North Face jackets or climbing gear in Moses's day! All this time the Israelite folk were waiting at the bottom of the mountain for Moses to return. After waiting an inordinate amount of time they grew anxious and impatient and took it upon themselves to try to enforce a positive outcome. But in their error they broke one of God's laws they had previously agreed to obey by making an idol to worship God.

At the moment we are all anxiously waiting for a time when we can resume what we perceive as a normal way of life without worrying about all the Covid-19 restrictions. Moses was standing waiting for the presence of God, the Israelites were standing waiting for the return of Moses. We are not told what Moses did in his 6 days of waiting, but the circumstances could not have been pleasant. The Israelites took it upon themselves to try to enforce a positive outcome. What do we do when we're waiting for answers to prayers, or answers to particular situations? I am reminded of the old hymn "Standing on the promises of God my Saviour" written in 1866 by Russell Kelso Carter who struggled with his walk with God and was later healed of a life-threatening heart condition. When God conveyed His anger at the Israelites disobedience, Moses appealed for mercy and recalled the promises God had already made with His chosen people. As we grapple with all the effects that Covid-19 has rained down on us let us delve into the scriptures and recall all the promises that God through Jesus has made with us and stand firm on those promises.

Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Through eternal ages let His praises ring,
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.

*Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God my Saviour;
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.*

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises I now can see
Perfect, present cleansing in the blood for me;
Standing in the liberty where Christ makes free,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
Bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord,
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
List'ning every moment to the Spirit's call,
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God.

"Then Sings my Soul – 150 of the World's Greatest Hymn Stories", Robert J Morgan 2003