



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, 18th October, 2020.

We are all walking a tightrope – trying to stay informed about developments with COVID-19, but without becoming overwhelmed; protecting ourselves from the virus without jeopardising our mental health; looking for the strength to take action where we can, and live with uncertainty where we cannot. The advice for finding a balance can be deceptively simple: stay in the present moment, taking one thing at a time; look after your body and exercise regularly in some way; allow feelings to come and go; enjoy the natural world, listen to music, or read poetry. None of these requires religious belief; but Christianity, in common with other faith traditions, also has wisdom to offer.

One image of prayer is as ‘the eye of the storm’ – the calm centre amid swirling winds. Prayer at its best is a time to let down our defences and be truly ourselves. A time to be held in all our vulnerability, uncertainty, and fear from which a new hope can emerge. Whilst conducting a funeral recently, I came to appreciate this more deeply: the day had started with heavy rain and strong winds, and I was glad that the service was to be held completely inside. During the service, as we prepared to hear the soothing words of Psalm 23, breaks appeared in the darkened sky and the sun came through, a sign of hope and joy.

As a whole, the psalms encompass a whole range of emotions, and as such they valuable writings for us, not least at this moment. Even when we feel the need to pour out fear, rage and grief, or even dare to question God, can then a note of joy enter in.

“He leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul.”

Rev Patrick (taken from some material drawn from Roots)

SERVICES, DEVOTIONS, ETC.

Bishopston.

Sunday, 25th October at 10.30am led by Jen Gardiner.

Sunday, 8th November at 10.30am led by Revd Patrick Stonehewer (including Holy Communion).

Easter Compton. Next service to be confirmed.

Horfield.

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

Sunday, 25th October led by Howard Wilson.

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

Sunday, 25th October at 10.00am led by Revd Patrick Stonehewer (including Holy Communion)

Shirehampton.

Sunday, 25th October at 11.00am led by members of the congregation.

Sunday, 1st November at 11.00am.

Sunday Morning Live. BBC1 at 10.30am. 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 Cheddar Gorge to hear the origins of the hymn Rock of Ages.

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, then 11th November. 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. This conference will look at the short and medium term ways to create that better food culture for the future. It is Wednesday, 11th November and is on four themes:

- a) The initial situation and response from lockdown on 23rd 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.mydona.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:- Art Club, Audrey and David nn and David Baverstock, and Beavers.

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 33: 12 – 23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1: 1 – 10 and Matthew 22: 15 – 22.

Reflection by Alison Smith (St. Andrew's).

Our reflection this week focusses on 1 Thessalonians 1 v 1-10. In the letters and in Acts we hear that Paul, Silas and Timothy, mistreated at Philippi where they established the first Christian community in Europe, travelled westward along the Via Egnatia to Thessalonica.

Acts 17 tells us they preached in the synagogue, persuading Jews and their Greek adherents, but the letters suggest the community established was entirely Gentile.

The Thessalonians turned from idols (1 Thessalonians 1:9), and there is neither quotation of Jewish Scripture nor discussion of issues, such as the place of the Law, that concerned Christian Jews.

You will have heard the saying "A picture paints a thousand words" and here is a practical example of that. The way we act, the way we respond to situations and people shows what kind of person we are. At school, do you remember there were always those we called 'geeks' and those we thought of as 'cool kids?' Most of us wanted to be in with the cool kids for some reason! Either we thought they were the most attractive or the best at something, they were always popular. We admired them, what they did and said and we wanted to be part of that.

The past 6 months have shown us things about ourselves and other people. We have seen folk come together to look after those less fortunate and to make a difference. You may have done something you never thought possible. We have had to think outside the box to stay relevant, and perhaps we have envied someone who found a way to help others in a way that we would like to have thought of ourselves. In lots of different ways there have been examples set.

In our reading, we hear how Paul's teaching had been received with reverence, and Paul responds with encouragement and blessings, in the knowledge that the Thessalonians had not only heard his words, but they had felt them too. Through the Holy Spirit, God had His hand on them.

Paul and his team had set examples in the way they lived, spoke to and interacted with people, all of which had been watched, taken on board and copied by the Thessalonians who had been addressed. Paul compliments them for their attentiveness and tells them that in imitating him and his team they are also imitating Jesus. He then encourages them further by telling them that now, they too are an example to others. News of what they have done, how they have lived and how they have treated others has reached faraway places.

The Thessalonians are now the example to others. How they embrace and serve God, how they live and treat others; spreading the love, grace and forgiveness of Jesus to all, in the way they walk the walk. They do not just talk about the gospel; they act it out for all to see and for many to want to imitate. As we have seen others set examples through this COVID pandemic. As we have heard that through Paul and his team how the Thessalonians set examples for others. May we now pray for guidance to follow them and be an example to others through the way we live, interact and treat those around us.

May others see God through us.

All That I Am (Taken from 'The Insanity of Obedience' by Nik Ripken/Barry Stricker).

Abba Father,
all that I am,
all that I do,
all that I'll ever have I now offer to you.

All that I dream,
all that I pray,
all that I'll ever make I give to you today.

Take and sanctify these gifts for your honour, Lord
knowing that I love and serve you is enough reward

All that I am,
all that I do,
all that I'll ever have I offer now to you. AMEN.

Don't forget - Hands. Face. Space.

