



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, 25th October, 2020.

Two weekends ago, the District Synod (the regional body of the Methodist Church) met to discuss the recommendations of 'God In Love Unites Us', a significant report which focuses on the church's understanding of the topics of marriage and relationships. These have been under discussion over the past few years in local churches and circuits, ahead of further consideration at the Methodist Conference (the national body for Great Britain) in the summer of 2021.

The Synod supported the key recommendations of the report, which acknowledge the qualities of good relationships, develop the Methodist church's understanding of cohabitation and long term relationships, and propose in principle that same-sex marriages can be conducted on Methodist Church premises, subject to further local agreement. The role of the Synod was to give a steer to those who represent the District at next year's Conference, which will make the final decision about accepting the recommendations of the report (which is available at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/downloads/conf-2019-10-amended-marriage-and-relationships-report.pdf>)

Having observed the Synod discussions first-hand, I can say that all those who contributed to the debate spoke with honesty, integrity, passion and conviction, regardless of their position on these topics. Nonetheless, I recognise this area of our understanding of God's activity is a subject of deep personal conviction and one on which there are differing views. If you would like the opportunity for a pastoral conversation, in confidence, as a result of the Synod's recommendations, then please drop me an email or give me a call using the contact details above.

Grace and peace

Rev Patrick

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.

Sunday, 8th November at 3.00pm (short act of Remembrance) led by Revd Patrick Stonehewer

Horfield.

Sunday, 25th October at 10.00am led by Howard Wilson.

Sunday, 1st November at 10.00am led by Revd Mandy Briggs (including Holy Communion).

Sunday, 8th November at 10.00am led by David Bainbridge (Remembrance Sunday and Gift Service).

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

Sunday, 1st November at 10.00am led by Revd Philip Rowe (including Holy Communion)

Shirehampton.

Sunday, 1st November at 11.00am led by members of the congregation.

Sunday, 8th November at 11.00am led by Revd Dr John Emmett.

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. remembering Black History. For Black History Month, a visit to Liverpool's International Slavery Museum.

Bible Study. The next online Bible Study will be on Wednesday, 11th November at 7.45pm. Zoom Meeting details:- Meeting ID: 824 4060 4625, Passcode: 202692.

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.

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.

Churches' Winter Night Shelter. We are hoping to hear about how this will operate this winter, as communal shelters are not possible within the COVID-19 legislation. It is hoped that the project can take over a B&B in South Bristol during the key months of January, February and March. The volunteering and support arrangements will therefore be very different this year. More information to follow, but do continue to pray for God's wisdom and guidance over the whole project and those leading it.

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.

Horfield.

Our very best wishes to Hazel Thorne who celebrated being 80 years young recently. Congratulations!

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:- Sandy Bowcock, Josie Box, Daphne Brebba/Wright, and Monique Brocklesby.

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:

Deuteronomy 34: 1 – 12; Psalm 90: 1 – 6 & 13 – 17; 1 Thessalonians 2: 1 – 8, and Matthew 22: 34 – 46.

Reflection by Ros Sledge (Potters Wood).

In our New Testament reading we have these words: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.”

Throughout the Epistles there are various references to “Love thy neighbour as yourself”. In Galatians and Romans, we are reminded that the entire law; the Ten Commandments; the Torah are summed up in this one statement by Christ. In Hebrews we are reminded that by showing kindness to strangers some of us may have been showing kindness to angels without our knowing.

So – who is our neighbour? Or should we be asking – who are we willing to be a neighbour – to give love – to? What is this love that we should be giving?

This sort of love is to care; to cherish; to be concerned; to treat; to nurture; to nurse; to provide; to support; to be sensitive. This kind of love is helping; friendship; tenderness; feeling; devotion; caring.

My favourite book as a child was Charles Kingsley’s *Water Babies*, written by in 1863. It was a book of its time and as a result it has understandably fallen out of popularity. However, in it was “Mrs Bedonebyasyoudid” who appeared as different people to a nasty water baby named Tom. Over the course of time Tom became kinder and “Mrs Bedonebyasyoudid” became “Mrs Doasyouwouldbedoneby”. That is exactly the people we should be – love our neighbours in the way we would like to be loved. This is the benchmark of how to love others which Christ has shown us. He was certain we wouldn’t fail because he knows that we are quite able to look after ourselves!

Surely through loving God, we do everything else in the same way. In our daily lives, whatever we do we show our love for God to our neighbours. Nothing we have achieved at the end of the day will be greater than how we have loved God and how we have loved our neighbours.

These last seven months have been testing times and still are. We have been concerned about our family, our friends and our neighbours.

It seems to me that this love of our neighbour has been widespread during this time and indeed we are still loving our neighbour during extremely challenging times. We have seen and heard of many acts of kindness, acts of thoughtfulness; and acts of selflessness. We have witnessed there is a hopefulness in the world; there have been acts of solidarity and human spirit. People have been doing amazing things.

The government may have stepped up and helped considerably but they have been unable to supply individual acts of kindness and that is what every day folk have been supplying – loving our neighbour.

Yes, these challenging times have shown there is hope; have shown there is caring; and above all have shown our love of God through our love for our neighbour.

Prayer.

Lord Jesus, help us to walk with you all through this week.

Give us:

- something of the wisdom that was in your words;
- something of the love that was in your heart;
- something of the help that was in your hands;
- something of your patience with people;
- something of your ability to bear slights, insults and injuries without bitterness and resentment;
- something of your ability always to forgive.

Help us to live in such a way that others may know that we began each day with you and that we are walking with you, so that, however dimly, other may see you in us.

This we ask for your love's sake. Amen