



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>

**God says "When they call to me, I will answer them;
when they are in trouble I will be with them." (Psalm 91).
"The best of all – God is with us." (John Wesley).**

Sunday, 1st November, 2020.

I am writing this earlier than usual because I am about to begin a week's leave, followed by some 'quarter days,' set aside for ministers to have some space to step back from day-to-day responsibilities. I often use these to spend some time reading, and once a year I usually spend time with a long-standing close friend and take the opportunity for some walking and deeper conversation with him about how I feel my ministry is unfolding. You might well imagine that this year has been very different, as I was not able to travel to meet up. In conversation recently we both realised that we had missed the time and the walking, but above all 'the space' which that usually gives us to relax, talk and (for me) to pray. All in all, time for refreshment, and to exercise some self care.

Building on that thought of having space to care for self, we might well build on Jesus' commandment to love our neighbour in the same way as we love ourselves, by finding space to do both. I hope that it is not too much of a leap of imagination from that to the current guidance of 'hands – face - space', a reminder that as we do wash our hands regularly, cover our faces, make space between each other we are caring for ourselves and others and allowing God to be at work.

Grace and peace.

Rev Patrick

SERVICES, DEVOTIONS, ETC.

Bishopston.

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

Sunday, 22nd November at 10.30am led by Mr Stephen Holliday.

Easter Compton.

Next service to be confirmed.

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

Horfield.

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). This year we are once again teaming up with our friends at Parkway Methodist to

provide gifts for disadvantaged families in the inner city. You are asked to note that in view of the current COVID-19 restrictions we are only able to accept **financial gifts**. If you are not able to be in church, please arrange with some one who will be to take your donation for you. This must be in an envelope and clearly marked GIFT SERVICE DONATION. Thank you in anticipation for your support.

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

Sunday, 8th November at 10.00am led by Damon Ujvarosy.

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. Clare McCollum, with performances by Barbara Dickson and Cliff Richard.

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.

Cards for Good Causes. Please be advised that unfortunately due to the current Coronavirus situation, Christmas Cards for Good Causes UK will not be trading at the New Room this year. They were unable to source enough volunteers to run their pop-up shop and much to their sadness, have decided not to return to us until next year. They do however have a shop in Tyndale Baptist Church on Whiteladies Road. In their absence, the New Room shop will be selling a selection of Leonard Smith Christmas cards from next week.

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 on 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.

Thank you. Harvest collection donations for the Methodist Centre totalled £177. We also know that people donated directly.

"Magnet". We will no longer be doing a church order for the "Magnet". Anyone wishing to receive this magazine is asked to make their own arrangements as individual subscribers.

Fundraising. The Fundraising Group has been working busily to create little Christmas crafts that are now ready to purchase. A full list of items is available on the Horfield Methodist Church website and can be ordered from there. The Christmas wreaths, in particular, are expected to sell out quickly so don't delay!

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:- Jayne Brown, Richard Brown, the Brownies, and Janet Browning.

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:

Revelation 7: 9 – 17; Psalm 34: 1- 10; 1 John 3: 1 – 3; and Matthew 5 : 1 – 12.
(All Saints' Day, 1st November)

Reflection by Adam Biddlestone (Zion, Frampton Cotterell).

I always enjoy leading worship on the 1st Sunday in November, All Saint's Sunday. At the heart of the worship I lead will always be a cross-shaped arrangement of T-light candles, an invitation and opportunity for those gathered to light candles in memory of 'their Saints' who have died. I always try to make sure this is announced on the previous Sunday, to help people prepare. In the simple act of lighting a candle all kinds of emotions will be stirred as worshippers remember.

I hope those lighting candles recognise their saints are now part of the 'great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb' (Revelation 7 : 9). Any such service should enable worshippers to remember close family members and friends, but also those who have had a significant impact on their Christian journey. Parents, grandparents, Sunday School and Junior Church teachers, Youth Group Leaders, Ministers, friends... could be among those for whom candles are lit.

Represented in each candle flame is a life, stories and treasured memories from the past which still have an impact today. The Beatitudes, the first of five major sections of teaching by Jesus recorded in Matthew's Gospel (Matthew 5: 1 to 7 : 29 – The Sermon on the Mount) are possibly the most studied of all his teachings. They offer a moral framework far beyond the list of those states, set for today's reading, through which we are blessed. To be blessed means to be in a state of well-being and happiness in our relationship with God.

The demands made in Jesus' words are significant; challenging our habits and way of life together with our attitudes and behaviour towards others. At the heart of his teachings are instructions about the practice of prayer and a model of words to use, 'Our father in heaven, hallowed be your name...' (Matthew 6: 5 – 13). To be fully in that state of well-being and happiness with God, we need also to be in that same state with those with whom we share this earthly life. Imagine that you are gathered for worship on Sunday and are invited to light a candle for your saint(s)? Who would you choose and why? How have their lives influenced the way you live your life because they modelled the Beatitudes of Jesus?

As you remember their lives, have confidence to proclaim, 'Amen! Praise and glory, wisdom and thanks, honour and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!' (Revelation 7: 12). They travelled this earthly life with Christ at the centre of who they were, inspired and encouraged us as fellow pilgrims, and through the death and resurrection of Jesus, dwell in eternal life, part of the church triumphant.

We look forward in hope to the time when we too enter the church triumphant and maybe somebody may even light a candle to remember our earthly lives and faith.

A Prayer.

Creator God, at this time of remembering the saints who have made their journeys of faith, we remember those whose lives and faith have deeply influenced us; for their lives, we thank you; for their example, we praise you; for their place in your eternal kingdom, we trust you.

God of time and change in this season of endings and new beginnings, we remember those whose lives and faith have deeply influenced us; for memories to re-live and stories to share, we thank you; for the presence and strength of your love at this time, we praise you; for our place in your eternal kingdom, we trust you. Amen.