



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, 8th November, 2020.



In 2017 I was invited to spend a week in Flanders, the scene of some of the most devastating destruction of the First World War. More than a century on, its landscape still carries reminders of that war, including the many military cemeteries and memorials from both sides of the conflict. But it has also become a place where peace is valued, promoted and lived out. One example is at one of the sites of the 'Christmas Truce' of 1914, now home to a 'peace village', where young people from across the world come to explore what it means to work for peace today, and to share hopes for the future.

This weekend we pause to remember those who have lost their lives as a result of armed conflict, alongside which we continue our quest for a peaceful world. Remembrance does not always bring agreement in the community at large: there are those who want to give thanks for service given and lives lost, equally those who feel that acts of remembrance continue to glorify war, something which should not be encouraged. Wherever we stand in that discussion, significant tensions continue to exist in the world today: in the political situation surrounding Brexit, in the outcome of the presidential election in the USA, in the Middle East, and in the challenges faced by our public institutions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to name but a few. Whatever your views on any or all of these, God's message of peaceful hope, bringing lasting transformation, is one to be valued, promoted and lived out.

*Gracious God,
We pray for peace in our communities this day.
We commit to you all who work for peace and an end to tensions,
And those who work to uphold law and justice.
We pray for an end to fear,
For comfort and support to those who suffer.
For calm in our streets and cities,
That people may go about their lives in safety and peace.
In your mercy, hear our prayers,
now and always. Amen*

Rev Patrick

SERVICES, DEVOTIONS, ETC.

Please note that, in accordance with the current Government lockdown, all the churches for which Revd Patrick Stonehewer is responsible are now CLOSED for worship until further notice. We will keep you updated via the weekly notices.

Remembrance Sunday, 2020. BBC1 at 10.15am. Live coverage by David Dimbleby from the Cenotaph in Whitehall.

Songs of Praise for Remembrance Sunday. BBC1 at 1.15pm. Alen Jones visits the Brecon Beacons, a place of military training.

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.

The Circuit Office is now closed during the 4 week lockdown.

Please use the contact details below, e-mails and phone calls will still be taken and dealt with.

Revd David Alderman –
superintendent@bsgc.org.uk or 0117 969 3686.

Administration, Circuit Plan and property (Jayne Giltrow) - circuitproperty@bsgc.org.uk or 07769 646013

Communication and engagement (Adam Biddleston) - circuitengagement@bsgc.org.uk or 078096 20074

Finance will continue to be picked up at circuitfinance@bsgc.org.uk.

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.

Bristol 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.

Junior Church. Junior Church sessions will continue online every Sunday at 10:00am. Email Helen before Saturday midday, for each week's

Junior Church Zoom access details (treasurer@horfieldmethodist.org.uk).

"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 both the Horfield Methodist Church website and at www.horfieldmethodist.org.uk/fundraising, 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:- Rachel Canning, Sarah Chard, and Nicholas Chivers.

Shirehampton.

Jean Dodrell plans to offer a Music Appreciation Course and invites interested people to contact her on 0117 985 0846.

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:

Micah 4: 1 – 8; Revelation 22: 1 - 5, and Matthew 25: 1 – 13

Reflection by Chris Sledge (Potter's Wood).

"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6 v 8). Today, is Remembrance Sunday, when normally we pause to reflect, to commemorate and remember all those who in whatever part of the world, gave their lives in the cause of freedom, peace and justice. In the words of the liturgy, "They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."

The cause of justice is one that has been fought for in so many ways over the centuries and, sadly, still continues today. In the numerous marches and protest gatherings all over the world, the cry for justice is blazoned across placards and banners of all shapes and sizes. It is abundantly clear that injustice is rife in

all walks of life where people have been and are still being treated unfairly because of race, gender, religious and political beliefs, and much more.

All of this feeds the ongoing need for justice in all areas of life. We began with the words from the prophet Micah (6v8) – “What does God require of us but to do justice”. The centrality of justice was a recurring theme throughout Micah’s prophecy, and our Old Testament Lectionary reading for today underlines this in no uncertain manner. In this passage we are given three short samples of Micah’s preaching on this theme, highlighting key areas where injustice is rampant. In a speech to Parliament in 1852 Benjamin Disraeli said, “Justice is truth in action.” Micah saw clearly that injustice was ‘falsity in action’ in all strata of society which gave rise to the central theme in his preaching.

In the first of these three examples, the prophet refers to the administration of justice in the courts (v 1 - 4). Here one would expect to find true justice. But not so, and in Micah’s Jerusalem injustice had spread from the marketplace to the courtroom. Secondly, there was an absence of justice among the popular prophets (v 5-8). On being asked for guidance in their daily lives people only received placatory words, or if unable to meet the prophets’ desire for profit were met with angry and abusive words (v 5). So, Micah condemns the false prophets for abusing their prophetic vocation. Thirdly, the absence of justice in government was very clear among the rulers, judges and priests (v 9 – 11), and so Micah speaks out in no uncertain terms.

Doubtless we can all identify with these forms of injustice as they are still rife in our time and we are called, required even, to engage with the fight for justice. We are required not only to do justice, but also to love kindness and walk humbly with God.

In our Gospel reading Jesus too has strong words to say to the religious leaders who also were not walking humbly with their God, in fact the very opposite as they make a “show” of their religious practices. Jesus calls us to humble ourselves and in so doing we will be exalted. It is the daily walk with God that lies at the heart of doing justice and with the other two virtues form the foundation of our faith journey.

As part of our journey and on Remembrance Sunday let us continue to pray for justice and peace for people everywhere – in the name of Christ. Amen

Prayer (based on Micah 6:8).

*You have shown us, Lord, what is good.
Enable us we pray, to act justly,
To love mercy,
And to walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.*

Post script.



Arrival of the gun carriage bearing the body of the Unknown Warrior in Whitehall for the unveiling of the Cenotaph, 11th November, 1920.