

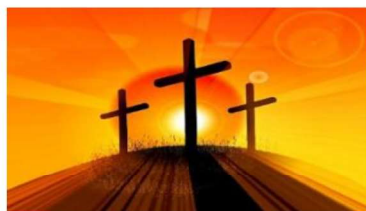
# The Methodist Church

**Bishopston, Easter Compton, Horfield, Shirehampton Methodist Churches and St Peter's Pilning.**  
Minister: Rev Patrick Stonehewer T: 0117 924 8407, E: [patrick.stonehewer@methodist.org.uk](mailto:patrick.stonehewer@methodist.org.uk)

We are part of the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit ([www.bsgc.org.uk](http://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>

**"The best of all - God is with us." (John Wesley).**

**Sunday 4th April 2021**



**Easter Sunday - Halleluiah, He is risen indeed**

It's quite possible you will be reading this before Easter Sunday, perhaps even on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday, days on which our focus is the last days of Jesus' earthly life. It seems premature to wish you a Happy Easter with that in mind, but drawing on the testimony of those at Jesus' tomb, I pray that we can share the transforming experience of death becoming new life, the centre of God's story in Jesus.

It's happened. The worst. We've lost our Jesus. He warned us, but when he was there with us, we couldn't believe what he was saying. Death - taking Jesus? It seemed impossible.

And yet, here we are, by his tomb ... waiting to anoint his body and say goodbye. I can't bear to look Peter or John in the eye, there's so much suffering and loss - and guilt. Judas is dead, too, but it doesn't feel the same as losing Jesus. And yet... is it really the end? When he told us he'd die, he also said he would rise again. That was just as far-fetched as the idea of him leaving us. But I've seen him do so many impossible things, he's changed my life in so many inconceivable ways - could he really do it? Dare I hold onto the hope that I might see him again? Part of me wants to bury that memory away with his body, to forget he ever spoke those words. To hope and to be disappointed would be too much, I couldn't bear it. And yet, could he really come back to us? Might he really come and set things right? Is it possible to leave this sadness and bitterness behind and rebuild a new life with Jesus still at the centre? I feel like hope is there, just over the horizon, silent and still, but there ...

And yet...

...here we are, by his tomb...he said he would rise again...I've seen him do so many impossible things ...could he really do it...has he really come back...to set things right...hope is here...it's happened!

Happy Easter!

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

**Bishopston, Easter Compton, Horfield and Shirehampton.** During the current period of lockdown our services will be held on Zoom only. Please see the last page of these notices for details of Zoom, including how to dial in. If you would like support with accessing these services online or via the phone, please make contact with a Church Steward or Rev Patrick.

**Joint Service on 4 April, Easter Sunday** led by Rev. Patrick Stonehewer and Dottie North.

**Joint Service on 11 April** - led by Rev Dr David Bolton

**St Peter's, Pilning** meeting in the church on Easter Sunday 4 April at 3.00 led by Rev Philip Rowe, with Holy Communion. Thereafter at 10.00 in the church each week.

**Junior Church** sessions continue online every Sunday at 10.00 after Easter Sunday. Email Helen before Saturday midday ([treasurer@horfieldmethodist.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@horfieldmethodist.org.uk)) for the Zoom access details.

**The Big Church Sing is back!** At 4pm on Easter Sunday, you can be part of [The Big Church Sing Easter Special](#) and raise your voices along with incredible Christian artists like Graham Kendrick, Noel Robinson, Celtic Worship and our very own National Methodist Choir. All performing to support All We Can's work with people in some of the world's most vulnerable communities. You will be able to watch on the day via [www.youtube.com/c/MethodistChurch/](http://www.youtube.com/c/MethodistChurch/)

**Bible Study** - 14 April at 7.45pm-9.15pm. You are all invited to join with colleagues across the circuit to study the book of Acts, looking at the whole book with companion passages from Luke's Gospel. This will journey into deeper discipleship through engaging with the Methodist Way of Life and alongside the contemporary mission and ministry of the Church today, with contributions from people across our Circuit. Please do consider joining this - for more details contact David Bainbridge or Rev Patrick.

**Video reflections.** Our online worship videos will continue to be available via church websites. Thank you to those who have contributed to these.

**All Age devotions.** Free materials for everyone available via [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com).

#### **OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS**

**Sunday Worship** - BBC Radio 4, on 4 April at 08.10 - A celebration of the Eucharist with the Archbishop of Canterbury's Easter Message

**Sunday Lent Worship** - BBC1 on 4 April at 10.00 Easter Day Eucharist

**Songs of Praise** - BBC1 at 1.15 on April 4 - from Llandaff Cathedral with Katherine Jenkins

**Daily Service** - Each weekday on BBC Radio 4 LW at 09.45.

**Start the week with a coffee and chat** from 10.00 on Monday, by joining (virtual) Open Church Cafe, hosted by St Peter's Pilning. If you would like to join, please contact Jonathan and Olwen, Churchwardens St Peter's Pilning via [churchwardenpilning@gmail.com](mailto:churchwardenpilning@gmail.com) for the online link.

**Circuit.** Join our **Touching the Earth Lightly Facebook group**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/275195130693427> A resource pack, containing all these resources, is available through the Circuit website and by e-mail.

**Circuit Coronavirus Worship** resources and resources for reflection are available on the Circuit website, including a daily prayer, using the Methodist Prayer Handbook, for use at 12.00 noon.

**Dial-a-prayer.** A free phone service to hear prayers and news from the Methodist Church. This is updated each Thursday evening. Dial a prayer: 0808 281 2514, listen to news: 0808 281 2478.

**Methodist Church prayer meeting.** 12.45 to 1.00 each Tuesday. Available via;

[www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/evangelism-growth/year-of-prayer/](http://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/evangelism-growth/year-of-prayer/)

**WEEKLY NOTICES** - please send items to Eurfron Parry by Tuesday, [eurfron@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:eurfron@blueyonder.co.uk) or 0117 969 1908.

## GENERAL NOTICES

The Methodist Church is to start **a major new project to become a justice-seeking Church**. The Methodist Church is to commit to a two-year project looking at how the Church speaks out on social issues and challenges injustices. The project will be led by Rachel Lampard and aims to make the Church more effective in speaking and acting for justice and transformation. Read more at [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

**All We Can's partners** in the Rohingya camps have confirmed that the fire which engulfed part of the Kutupalong mega camp, is estimated to have displaced more than 45,000 people and left 429 people unaccounted for. Those wishing to support the work of All We Can's partners in addressing the aftermath of the Rohingya fire, are invited to donate to All We Can's Emergency Relief Fund. [www.allwecan.org.uk/rohingya-camp-fire-live-update/](http://www.allwecan.org.uk/rohingya-camp-fire-live-update/)

**'How can we work for peace in an angry world?'** A Zoom webinar taking place on April 19th at 7.30pm (lasts approx. 1 hour, including Q&A time) Tickets £5 - book online through Eventbrite - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wes-talks-online-how-can-we-work-for-peace-in-an-angry-world-tickets-146420865751> We live in a world which seems to be permanently angry, from full on conflicts between countries to aggressive trolling on social media. Is it possible to live and work for peace? Methodist minister and theologian Rev Inderjit Bhogal will be in conversation with John Cooper from the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

**The Noise** - run by churches across the city to support local outreach projects - will soon be looking for volunteers to support small outdoor activities over the May Bank Holiday weekend. We are hoping to join an outdoor community trail event at Horfield - if you would like to help with this please contact Jenny Cornell or Rev Patrick. Volunteer registration is now available via [bristolnoise.org.uk](http://bristolnoise.org.uk)

Working in partnership with **Christian Aid**, the Circuit is launching a campaign where you can donate as an expression of thanks for your vaccination. The money will be used by Christian Aid to fund clean water, hygiene kits and PPE facilities in communities to enable COVID vaccinations to be distributed safely. For more details and a fundraising link please visit [giving.tapsimple.org/online/christian-aid/giving-thanks-for-our-vaccines-across-bristol-south-gloucestershire-methodist-circuit](http://giving.tapsimple.org/online/christian-aid/giving-thanks-for-our-vaccines-across-bristol-south-gloucestershire-methodist-circuit) We are hoping to raise £2,000 across the Circuit.

**Easter Offering.** The money raised through the Easter Offering goes to the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain for work in our partner Churches around the world. It is used to fund work such as: the training of women in nursing and midwifery, work with vulnerable women and children and developing women's leadership roles. To donate please make cheques out to Horfield Methodist Church with a note to say it is for the Easter Offering and if you wish it to be Gift Aided. To be sent to: Helen Wallbridge, The Treasurer, 20 Cransley Crescent, Henleaze BS9 4PG. You can also donate via the Church website. Just scroll down the Home page until you see Offering on the right-hand side. Below there is a link to make a card payment. Click on the Charity you wish to donate to, then enter amount and follow instructions on the screen.

**Bristol Remembers.** The last twelve months have been so very difficult for all of us. We have faced challenges, and sadly, many of us have lost loved ones, opportunities, jobs, and many other things that are important to us. A new short film '**Bristol Remembers**' marks the anniversary of the first lockdown. Featuring reflections from leaders and key workers from across the city, it's a chance to come together and remember those who have died, to acknowledge and speak into grief and loss, and to share in the hope we have for the future. Visit [www.wearebristol.co.uk](http://www.wearebristol.co.uk) to watch

**Horfield.** The funeral of Desmond Reid will take place at 1pm on Wednesday 21 April. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the church service will be by family invitation only, but it will be available online (details nearer the

time). Please continue to pray for Desmond, and for Ruby and their wider family as they continue to mourn. 'You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.'

**Horfield.** 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; Donna Sharpe , Jehlani & Danikka, Mark Shipton, Chris & Shirin Sittther, Mollie Spry.

**Horfield.** There will be a meeting for "Stewards Plus" on 15 April at 7.30 at the Church.

## **DEVOTIONS FOR THIS WEEK**

This week's Lectionary readings are Isaiah 25: 6-9, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, Acts 10:34-43, Mark 16:1-8

Our reflection is provided by Local Preacher Christine Stones (Victoria).

The ending to Mark's gospel differs from the other gospels, there are no encounters with the risen Christ. Mark's original finishes with the words, 'for they were afraid.' Was there more which was lost? Was Mark unable to complete his task because of persecution and martyrdom? Yet this original apparent abrupt ending provides much to reflect on.

It starts with three women, Mary Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome approaching Jesus' tomb with spices. In the previous chapter, Mark has mentioned that there were women, including these three, among Jesus' followers. They'd looked after Jesus and travelled with him to Jerusalem. They are the only identified group of Jesus' followers watching the crucifixion.

The normal burial rite of anointing with spices had not been able to take place before the entombment and was delayed further until after the Sabbath. In practical terms such delayed anointing was pointless, but the women in their grief wanted to express their devotion to Jesus. The women worry about whether they will be able to move the heavy stone, informing the reader that the grave had been effectively sealed. They arrive to find the stone removed and to their alarm, the tomb containing not the dead body of Jesus but an angelic figure who gives them startling news: Jesus has been raised from the dead and has gone ahead to Galilee where they will see him. They are entrusted with this amazing message to give to the disciples and to Peter, emphasising that Peter is still counted as one of the disciples in spite of his denial. Do the women rush off rejoicing to share this wonderful news with the disciples? No! 'They fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid!'

At Jesus arrest it was the male disciples, named and written about in the earlier chapters of Mark that had, in terror, fled or denied any connection with him. They do not appear to be at the crucifixion. The women were not scared of being present at the crucifixion, perhaps their lives were less at risk. They were not afraid to stay with the suffering, the acute pain and grief of witnessing their beloved Jesus dying in agony. Yet they flee from the hope and promise of the empty tomb and the angelic message.

We know of course, that at some point, they did share the hope and joy of Easter. Sometimes we can become so overwhelmed with pain, death and distress that we cannot dare to hope. In the past twelve months we have seen countless images of suffering, death and destruction of people and of the planet. The good news of Easter Day is that God raised Jesus to new life, revealing self-giving love triumphs over evil, destruction and death. Jesus goes ahead, calling us to follow and share in his mission of love to transform broken humanity and creation into their God intended wholeness.

Our thanks to Christine