

The Methodist Church

Bishopston, Easter Compton, Horfield, Shirehampton Methodist Churches and St Peter's 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>

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

Sunday 25 April 2021



Psalm 23 - "the Lord is my shepherd"

At the heart of our celebration of Easter is an event which also left its first witnesses standing in amazement and wonder at what had happened, not in the depths of space or some abstract spot but right in their midst. The group of women who went to care for Jesus' body in the days after his death discovered that it was missing from the tomb. Their encounter with Jesus that day showed them that he was alive again, a message they shared excitedly with their friends.

In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' Then they remembered his words. When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others." (Luke 24:5-9, NIV)

That message of resurrection and renewal is still central to our faith and that of 2.2 billion Christians around the globe. It is amazing that today's community of faith started with the conviction of those first visitors, each wanting to share their experience with their friends and others. As we continue to celebrate Jesus' resurrection, I pray that we all will continue to be amazed and full of wonder as we encounter Jesus and be inspired to share that message with those you know and meet, even in the places we least expect to do so. With my prayers Rev Patrick

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Joint Service on 25 April at 10.00 led by Rev Patrick Stonehewer. **Horfield** will be holding their Church General Meeting straight after the service using Zoom. Patrick has sent out an email to Church members offering topics for discussion so that people will be able to contribute to the discussion in some way either on the day or previously.

Joint Service on May 2 at 10.00 led by Rev Patrick Stonehewer.

Starting on Sunday 2 May, it will be possible to attend the joint morning service in person at Horfield Methodist Church or via Zoom using the link advertised below. If you would like to attend in person, please reserve a place by calling a steward on 07552780740 between 9am on Monday and 5pm on Friday for the coming Sunday. When attending, please enter via the left-hand doors from the Gloucester Road frontage, with the side (red) door in Churchways Avenue solely for those needing level access. On arrival, a steward will check that you are feeling well. You will need to wear a face covering whilst in the building (unless you have a medical exemption) and follow the other COVID-19 arrangements within the building including maintaining 2 metres

social distancing at all times.

St Peter's Pilning on 25 April at 10.00. Service at Church led by David Bainbridge.

St Peter's Pilning on 2 May at 10.00 will be led by Rev Philip Rowe.

Junior Church sessions continue online every Sunday at 10.00. Email Helen before Saturday midday (treasurer@horfieldmethodist.org.uk) for the Zoom access details.

Bible Study. 28 April, 7.45pm - 9.15pm. Please see Zoom details at the end of the Notices.

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.

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS

Sunday Worship - BBC Radio 4, on 25 April at 08.10. To Have and to Hold, the gift of relationships.

Sunday Morning Stories - BBC1 on 25 April at 10.45 . Rev Kate Bottley shares inspirational stories rooted in faith, hope and spirituality.

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

Songs of Praise - BBC2 on 25 April at 13.15 - Rev Kate Bottley visits the new Bridgewater Gardens in Salford.

Open Church Cafe, 26 April, 10.00 onwards hosted by St Peter's, Pilning. Please contact churchwardenpilning@gmail.com for the joining details.

Evening Prayer, 26 April 4pm hosted by St Peter's, Pilning, using the Church of England "Join us in Daily Prayer" resources <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>. Also Zoom details on last page

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/

WEEKLY NOTICES - please send items to Eurfron Parry by Tuesday, eurfron@blueyonder.co.uk or 0117 969 1908.

GENERAL NOTICES

North Bristol Advice Centre (NBAC) will begin a return to normal services from this week with limited face-to-face appointments for some services at their main office in Lockleaze.

Thanks to Covid funding, NBAC have been able to upgrade their phone system and refurbish their main office to make it "Covid safe" for face-to-face meetings. Going forward, we will continue to provide advice mainly by phone, and slowly resume face-to-face meetings on a priority basis.

Changes include :

- Return to our landline number 0117 951 5751. We are open Monday to Thursday 9.30-4.30. The mobile numbers used during lockdown will be diverted to this number.
- Appointments for Debt or Welfare Benefits advice. Priority will be for the digitally excluded and others who can't be supported using phone or online advice.
- EU Settlement Scheme appointments for EU nationals who need support to apply for settled status before the deadline of 30 June 2021.
- Home visits for older people needing income maximisation support, following a rigorous Covid risk assessment.
- Get Online appointments for those most in need of basic digital skills to enable them to access services which support their financial, physical and mental health needs. Clients will be offered telephone support once they've acquired sufficient digital skills and confidence.

With the **2021 Bristol Mayoral Elections** only a few weeks away, the new updated Bristol Faith Manifesto has been launched. Produced by representatives of different faiths in the City, including Christian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu and Jewish it highlights the significant role that faith has in Bristol's life and sets out five common aspirations for Bristol and its' people. To download a copy visit www.bristolfaithmanifesto.co.uk

Eco Church. CJ4A is a youth-led campaign which invites the global Methodist family to take climate action and declare 'we believe in climate justice for all' together in the run-up to the UN's COP26 later this year. The campaign is asking Methodist communities to do three things as we approach COP26: **Listen** – to stories of communities around the world, using videos and worship resources. **Call** – on our national ambassadors to the COP to strive for climate justice through a focus on **equipping** and **fairness**. **Commit** – to strive for climate justice in our own church communities. This will look different in each of the countries which are involved in the campaign, but the goals of equipping and fairness will remain at the heart of all commitments. (Joint Public Issues Team)

The Noise. 01 – 03 May, offering practical help and a step of safe reconnection to those in the community. Hosting free, small community events such as 'pop-up' takeaways and treasure hunts. Delivering cream teas to senior citizens at home. Tackling practical projects to transform gardens, public areas and community spaces for those who need a helping hand. Horfield and Lockleaze 'pop-up' takeaway cafés and treasure hunts on Saturday 1st May and Monday 3rd May. Cream tea delivery for senior citizens on Sunday 2nd May.

The New Plan for Immigration. The Government's recently published New Plan for Immigration gives details about a long-promised overhaul of the asylum system. The proposals are described as aiming to increase the fairness of the asylum system and deter illegal entry into the UK. However, many of the measures risk creating more injustices in the system which will increase the trauma and pain experienced by asylum seekers attempting to reach safety in the UK. As a Church which seeks to offer sanctuary, witness to God's love and stand for justice, we must speak up for human dignity and flourishing. We're engaging with the proposals, and encouraging you to do the same. (Joint Public Issues Team)

National Food Service Bristol. COMMUNITY DINING CLUB. A 'pay-what-you-can' community dining club at Lockleaze Sports Centre for everyone. Every Monday from 18.00 to 19.30. A new menu every week. Book your seat online. Volunteers also wanted. (Nationalfoodservice.uk)

Horfield. Jim Pocock has been a church steward for many years. Jim now thinks it is time for him to stand down. We wish to thank him for his long and faithful service and the many tasks he has fulfilled in his quiet and unassuming manner. This leaves a vacancy for a Church Steward, so, if you feel you can give a little time and fill this position please talk to Rev. Patrick or Asmin. Vestry stewards are also needed. Training is available for both positions.

Horfield. Dates for your diary.

Leadership Meeting - Thursday 6 May at 7.30 pm.

Eco Meeting - Monday 10 May at 7.30 pm.

Vestry and Church Stewards - hands on training at church on Tuesday 8 June 2021 at 7.30 pm

Neighbourhood and Mission - Friday, 11 June, at 7.30 pm.

Stewards+ Meeting - Thursday 24 June at 7.30 pm

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; Hazel Thorne, Marilyn Tighe, Trish Thompson, John Turkson.

DEVOTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Reflection on the Lectionary. Psalm 23; Acts 4 : 5 - 12; 1 John 3 : 16 - 24; John 10 : 11 - 18.

This week's reflection is provided by Local Preacher, Christine Jones (Longwell Green)

John 10:11-18 Let us reflect particularly on verses 15b, 17b and 18 - 'I lay down my life'

In John's Gospel, as early as chapter 3 Jesus predicts that he is to die. By chapter 10 he has stirred up the antagonism of the Jewish leaders to the extent that they want to kill him. At this point Jesus retreats from Jerusalem and lies low. His ministry is not finished yet. Let us look closely at what he says about dying. Verse 15b - 'I lay down my life for the sheep.' Jesus died to bring us life in all its fullness.

Verse 17b - 'I lay down my life only to take it up again.' Death and resurrection are both expressions of the love between the Father and the Son; and of the love between the Godhead and creation. Forget any ideas of a vengeful God demanding a ransom. It was sinful mankind that demanded that Jesus paid the price. God, the Father and the Son, loved us so much that he was willing to die to bring us back to him.

Verse 18a - 'No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.' Jesus claims that laying down his life is his own active decision. Jesus could have run away, even as late as in the Garden of Gethsemane but to have escaped death would not have shown us the extent of God's love for us; would not have brought us forgiveness, salvation, atonement. Jesus didn't want to die, but he was able to say to his Father, 'not my will but yours be done'. No one took life from him; he laid it down of his own accord, at the time of his choosing.

Verse 18b - 'I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again.' Some translations replace the word 'authority' with 'right' or 'power'. Have you had Power of Attorney for a relative or close friend? That is the sort of power/right/authority Jesus is speaking of; the ability and duty to act on behalf of another, with their best interests at heart.

I John 3:16-24 - The writer asserts, 'Jesus Christ laid down his life for us,' with the corollary being that 'we ought to lay down our lives for one another.' Instinctively we shudder, we say, 'Hang on a minute. Lay down our lives? Surely not.' It's with relief that we read on and discover that's not quite what John means. The example he gives is of sharing our possessions with the needy as our expression of love for God. Because of the death of Jesus we know God's love. Because God's love is in us we express it as love for others. Love is not a matter of words but of actions. Life is not a matter of obeying commands but of doing what pleases God; a matter of believing in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and of loving one another; a matter of living in Jesus, and Jesus living in us. We have laid down our lives and live his life. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit he has given us. If all that still sounds a bit abstract, turn to the third reading for today - Acts 4:5-12 - for a practical example of how that might work out.

Prayer - Lord Jesus, thank you for being willing to lay down your life for me and for having the power to take it up again. Give me the grace to lay down my life and to take up your life, live In me that I may live for you. Amen.

Our thanks to Christine for this devotion.