

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 18 April 2021



The Cross outside Horfield Methodist Church

Over the past week, the country has been remembering Prince Philip, who died on April 9th aged 99. This weekend his funeral will take place in Windsor. On one level, Britain and the Commonwealth will be uniting to say goodbye to a member of the Royal Family, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Queen's consort who has been by her side for more than 70 years. On another level, a family will gather to give thanks for a man who was a much-loved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. His death, like so many other bereavements this year, will leave an empty chair, yet a whole lifetime of memories.

I wanted to share with you a reflection which was published by the Methodist Church in Britain this week, written and recorded by the Rev Ruth Gee, Assistant Secretary of Conference: She writes: "We were deeply saddened to hear of the death of Prince Philip and he's going to be remembered by very many people for the contributions he made, both through his support for the Queen and his own commitments to voluntary work. There are many millions who we know will have taken part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme for young people, (I remember taking part in that myself), and the opportunities that opened up for many of them were very important.

I remember the Queen, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary, said that Prince Philip had been her 'strength and stay', and that this country and others owe him a debt greater than he would discuss or we would ever know. In this way he's like so many others whose whole story is known only to God. Prince Philip was a public figure, who was sometimes forthright, but was also charming and who always wanted to be supportive of the Queen and his family. Many people have been bereaved in these times and the necessary restrictions have meant that the process of mourning and funeral services are not what we have normally expected or hoped for. This is true as well for the Royal Family and the wider community, because this funeral won't be as was planned. We will of course, pray for the Queen and the family, both in our personal prayers and in our public worship. We will give thanks for Prince Philip's life and we will pray for those who mourn.

When I heard of his death I was reminded immediately of words written by the Venerable Bede, one of our Northern saints: I've read these words often and find comfort and hope in them. He writes: "*Christ is the morning star, who when the night of this world is past, gives to his saints the promise of the light of life and opens everlasting day.*"

Thank you to Ruth for sharing this reflection. It is also featured in a video - 'Remembering Prince Philip' by our superintendent David, which can be found on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-ozkTNtb7M&t=10s>

In this Easter season, may we hold fast to the promise of the risen Jesus that love is stronger than death. May this love help us to find hope, even when there is an empty chair.

With best wishes and prayers, Rev Mandy Briggs

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 18 April at 10.00 led by Rev Patrick Stonehewer.

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.

St Peter's, Pilning on 18 April at 10.00 Service held at the Church.

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

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 - 21 April at 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.

Following the death of HRH Prince Philip guidance has been issued about how churches may join in with the National Days of Mourning.

https://mcusercontent.com/bcf1bde8bc4a29dae7362b02a/files/ccb805ee-6c5f-4f57-8a2c-d65e5511a243/Remembering_HRH_Prince_Philip.pdf

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS

Sunday Worship - BBC Radio 4, on 18 April at 08.10. A Service of Thanksgiving from Westminster Abbey

Sunday Morning Stories - BBC1 on 18 April at 10.30. 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 - BBC1 on 18 April at 13.15 - Katherine Jenkins talks to the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell and comedian Frank Skinner reflects on his relationship with God.

Open Church Cafe, 19 April, 10.00 onwards hosted by St Peter's Pilning. Please contact churchwardenpilning@gmail.com for the joining details.

Evening Prayer 19 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

'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>

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 We are hoping to raise £2,000 across the Circuit.

The North Bristol and South Gloucestershire Food Bank-

A gift full of Easter Eggs, gifts and treats, the Easter Story & HOPE magazine were delivered to over 120 families in the communities. SO FAR IN 2021: North Bristol Foodbank has given out 1243 Essential Food Parcels to 3468 people, including 1519 children. We have had 41,453kg of food donated –which is the equivalent of two fire engines. The following items would be welcomed. – Instant Mashed Potatoes Dried Noodles, Sponge Puddings, Rice, Small boxes of Washing Powder, UHT / Long Life Milk, Jams & Spreads, Savoury Treats. www.northbristol.foodbank.org.uk ; 0117 979 1399; Office based at Ebenezer Church, 286 Filton Avenue, Horfield BS7 0BA

Dementia Friendly Churches Webinar - 'Love and Loss' - A Zoom Webinar exploring questions around dementia, bereavement and grief. Tuesday 20th April 11.00 - 12.30
<https://mcusercontent.com/bcf1bde8bc4a29dae7362b02a/images/94cad93a-bcf6-4449-97b6-dc8b9125fed3.jpg>

Horfield. The funeral of Desmond Reid will take place at 1pm this coming Wednesday, 21 April. The church service will be by family invitation only, but will be available using the Zoom link below - you are encouraged to join online from 12.45pm onwards and appreciate some pictures of Desmond's life. The service will be recorded and available to view afterwards. 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. Are you a practical person, and IT literate? As Lorraine Richardson recently stood down as a Property Steward, we are looking for someone to join the Property and Finance Group to help care for our buildings, particularly with some of the supporting administration. If you think you are being called to do this, please talk to Chin Tan or Rev Patrick. A role description is available if you are interested.

Horfield. Volunteers to clean, please!

Some of the groups who rent rooms at Horfield Methodist will be returning from 12th April. Our cleaner is unavailable until after that date so we would be grateful for volunteers before then, either to offer to clean/freshen up a room/area of the premises, or to offer e.g. an hour of their time, and be told what is needed. Due to safer working practices, there should be two people on the premises. Please contact Helen (0117 9624257, treasurer@horfieldmethodist.org.uk). Thank you.

Horfield. Eco-Tips As we progress in making our church more," eco friendly", we encourage you to share your ideas on how we can practically protect the planet and its resources. Please let us know of any ideas you may have and we shall try to print them each week. Our tip for this week :- Your boiler is responsible for 55% of your yearly energy use. We crank up the boiler twice a day for around five months each year, so getting a full service helps it burn fuel as efficiently as possible to save on heating costs.

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; Our Minister Patrick, Chin, Rachael & Dylan Tan, Asmin Taylor, Beryl Thompson.

DEVOTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Reflection on the Lectionary Sunday 18 April, Psalm 4; Acts 3 : 12 - 19; 1 John 3 : 1 - 7; Luke 23 : 36b - 48

This week's reflection is provided by Local Preacher Tim Lansdown, from Hanham.

I imagine that all of us at some time in our lives (maybe not in the last 12 months) have had an experience which has led us to exclaim "It's too good to be true". It may be some stroke of good fortune that, although we want it to be true, seems unreal particularly if it follows a time of trouble and disappointment. Cleopas and his friend had just walked the 7 miles back to Jerusalem from their home in Emmaus, probably having walked there and back earlier in the day. Their expected physical tiredness would be overcome by the sheer exuberance of what they had experienced on that walk with the risen Jesus.

They arrive back in the city to tell the disciples of their wondrous encounter only to find this same Jesus appearing again among the group of disciples. Yet the gathered disciples don't seem to share the returnee's joy. They thought that what they saw was a ghost. For hadn't they only two days before seen Jesus' body removed from that cross and sealed in a garden tomb. No wonder that some of those assembled in that upper room were terrified, as I'm sure we would have been in those same circumstances. Jesus does two things to bring them back to reality.

Firstly, he asks why they are frightened and points to the scars on his body inflicted during his time on the cross. He is reminding them of the suffering he endured and suggests that without that suffering there would be no resurrection. I remember attending an ecumenical walk one Good Friday and one of the Clergy (not a Methodist) said something along the lines that "Today, Friday will soon pass and Sunday will be here" We cannot and should not downplay the importance of the cross or separate the two events. When, many years ago, studying to be a Local Preacher I read an article by Rupert Davies, one of Methodism's great theologians, he made the point that you might need a different sermon for Good Friday and Easter Day but that the message was a continuum.

Secondly, Jesus asks for something to eat. Food is very much part of the Easter story. Besides the upper room request for food, we read of Cleopas and his friend sharing a meal with the risen Lord in their Emmaus home and in Galilee alongside the lake Jesus prepares breakfast for Peter and the others as they return to their old occupation of fishing. Here, as in the feeding of the 5000, we are led to understand the importance of the sacrament to our everyday lives. In one sense there is nothing so ordinary as eating, we do it several times every day. Yet this very ordinary act can take on a significance far greater than itself and convey the divine presence to us. During the pandemic we have missed the opportunity to eat with family and friends. For those are valued occasions when even ordinary food can seem special because of who we share it with.

Equally through Christian fellowship, whether virtually or physically together the ordinary things of life can become extraordinary through the presence of the risen Lord;

*Soar we now where Christ has led, following our exalted head,
made like him, like him we rise, ours the cross the grave, the skies.* (STF 298 v 4)

Our thanks to Tim