

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 16 May 2021



We have cause to be thankful as the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccine continues across the UK and for the gradual opening up of aspects of wider society. The on-going need to act with care continues, in particular as our church buildings open up within both government and church guidelines. The situation is currently not so promising in other areas of the world, and across our church families there are many who are anxious about family and friends overseas including the Philippines and in India, which has been in the headlines over the past weeks. Horfield members will remember the visit of Saheb and Rita Borgall (parents of Shirin) a couple of years ago, and I would like to share a recent update from them about the situation in Bangalore. I invite you to pray for all areas of the world where the infection rate is still a matter of concern.

'The Covid situation here is terrifying, crematoriums are overburdened, dead bodies for cremation have stood in the queues for long hours maybe sometimes overnights (in some places for 3 days!). The plight of poor and helpless people is heart wrenching, though people would love to help but Covid keeps everyone away. As Christians we continuously intercede in His presence, at the same time trying to see some opportunities of serving our people. This time the pandemic situation is not managed well by authorities and reluctance of some private hospitals to help the poor and vulnerable is added to this plight. People are also reluctant to follow the Covid rule and not ready to take the jab. We as an organisation are in touch with a government official to provide oxygen cylinders. Hoping to hear from them soon. Each cylinder would cost between Pounds 50 to 80. If the Lord leads, we want to provide 100 cylinders to the most needy ones. This can be done only through the concerned government officials.

Pray with us. We three are well and safe. Took our two shots of vaccine, and hope it will provide some help to us. We are conducting Sunday services online and confined to the four walls. Thanks for your concern, may the Lord keep you all in good health and strength.

*Lastly, by His grace, we got the approval letter from the Home Department here to receive foreign contributions. Hope in a week or two everything will be streamlined as before. Thanks for your prayers.
Saheb and Rita'*

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Joint Service on 16 May at 10.00 at Horfield Methodist Church and on Zoom led by Rev Patrick Stonehewer

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 07552 780740 between 9am on Monday and 5pm on Friday for the coming Sunday. (If you book a place but subsequently need to change your mind please do let the steward know). 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.

Joint Service on 23 May at 10.00 at Horfield Methodist Church and on Zoom led by David Bainbridge.

St Peter's Pilning on 16 May at 10.00 will be morning prayers at the Church.

St Peter's Pilning on 23 May at 10.00 will be led by Rev Patrick Stonehewer.

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

All Age devotions for everyone, available via www.rootsontheweb.com.

Bible Study. 19 May, 7.45pm - 9.15pm. Please see Zoom details at the end of the Notices.

Bristol District Testimony Service. Sunday 16 May at 4pm. You are invited to join us online as Rev Leigh Maydew shares his faith journey as he goes forward to ordination. Preacher Rev Dr Jonathan Pye, Chair of District. www.facebook.com/YateMethodistChurch

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

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS

Sunday Worship - BBC Radio 4 on 16 May at 8.10. A Name above all Names - a reflection on the Ascension of Christ.

Sunday Morning Stories - BBC1 on 16 May at 10.30.

Songs of Praise - BBC1 on 16 May at 1.15. Programme from Exeter Cathedral with Aled Jones. Yolanda Brown meets a woman helping people with dementia to remain active.

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

Open Church Cafe, 17 May, 10.00 onwards, hosted by St Peter's, Pilning. Please contact churchwardenpilning@gmail.com for the joining details.

Evening Prayer 17 May, 4.00pm 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>. Zoom details on last page

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

GENERAL NOTICES

Christians Against Poverty-We're here to serve and equip your church to reach out to the poor and hurting of your community. By partnering with CAP, your church has the opportunity to demonstrate God's love in action. Whether you choose to help people become debt free, find employment, break free from life controlling habits or gain vital life skills your church will bring hope and good news to some of the most marginalised people in your community.

Is anyone interested in helping with starting up a branch in Horfield, linked with other churches in the area? Please contact Patrick, Eurfron or David B.

Eco-Tip. Recycling cardboard. Recycling one tonne of cardboard saves 17 trees, 7000 gallons of water and 4000 kw of electricity.

Ethical Investment. The Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, and its subsidiary Epworth Investment Management Limited, have sold their remaining company holdings in the oil and gas sector, including Royal Dutch Shell. This follows advice received from the Methodist Church's Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment ("JACEI") in April 2021.

Horfield. If you are concerned about the future of this beautiful planet, why not join with the eco-group as we examine ways in which we can address the balance within our community and worldwide. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 15 June at 7.30 p.m. via Zoom.

Horfield. Church Offering Envelopes -Weekly offering envelopes are available for collection at church. As an increasing number of people are now donating via direct debit some of the envelopes distributed will not be required. Could you let me know if you no longer need an envelope for your weekly offering so that I can order fewer next year, which will be a saving to the church.
David Bainbridge

HORFIELD. Update on Church Stewards. I'd like to say thank you to Rachael Tan who has offered to serve as a Church Steward. We do need to make Rachael's appointment official in order for us to remain legal as a charitable body so this note acts as notification of the appointment of Rachael as Church Steward from 1 June 2021 onwards. If you have any questions or an objection about this, please let Maureen Hyde (Church Secretary) know before that date.

On behalf of us all, I'd also like to thank Andy Stevenson who has decided to step down as a Church Steward with immediate effect: if memory serves me correctly then Andy was the first steward to be appointed after my arrival in Bristol in 2015-6. I've appreciated many a discussion with him on a range of topics, but always supportive and helpful, and I know that others have also benefited from his friendship and listening ear, whether on duty on a Sunday, contributing to the church fair, setting up bedding for the night shelter and in many other ways. Thank you, Andy. Rev Patrick

Horfield. An important part of our discipleship is to pray for our community and one another. This week you are asked to pray for the following and their families. 4:12 Group, Hannah and Sam Williamson, Pam Williams' House Group, Howard Wilson, Alison Young.

Prayer requests and practical help.

inHope- Please pray for:

- Past and present volunteers at the "Wild Goose" and for suitable replacements when they reopen their premises.
- The life recovery team as they seek new premises.
- For the wider work of inHope as they partner with churches to provide new homes in their "Houses to Homes" Project.
- The preparation of Spring of Hope opening a new 24/7 service for vulnerable women living in vulnerable places.

Caring in Bristol- Please pray for them as they launch their Blueprint for Change, empowering the City to make changes for the Homeless, in the next 5 years.

Horfield. Future dates for your Diary

Vestry Stewards Training, Tuesday 8 June

Leadership Meeting, Thursday 10 June

Neighbourhood and Mission, Friday 11 June

Eco Group, Tuesday 15 June

Stewards + Meeting, Thursday 24 June

Reflection on the Lectionary for Sunday 16th May (Easter 7 and Christian Aid)

Psalm 1, Acts 1: 15 - 17, 21 - 26; 1 John 5: 9 - 13, John 17: 6 - 19

This week's reflection is provided by Local Preacher and Lay Pastor, Naomi Sharp.

How do you feel when someone offers to pray for you, or prays with you? It can be a powerful and affirming experience, especially when the person praying both understands you and is someone you particularly value, or whose faith you admire.

I wonder how the disciples felt on that evening of the Last Supper. I guess they didn't know how precious Jesus' time was, how little he had left among them but I'm sure they sensed something was up. Then the very last thing that Jesus does before he heads out to the place of his betrayal and arrest is he prays for his disciples, in their hearing. It must have been a powerful moment.

The prayer begins with affirmation of the relationship between Jesus the Son, and God the Father, into which the disciples are now drawn and belong. Jesus affirms how he has revealed the Father to the disciples, how they have believed, and how they are now both "mine" and "yours," being accepted into the divine community of Son and Father. Jesus then goes on to pray that the disciples might be protected, (v.11 & 15), that they may be full of joy (v.13) and that they may be set apart, or sanctified (v.17-18). Just as Jesus has been set apart by the Father and sent into the world, so Jesus sets apart and sends the disciples.

Jesus prays this prayer over the disciples, not directly over succeeding generations of disciples like us, however other passages of scripture reveal that this prayer is not a one-off. Since Jesus' ascension into heaven, one of his roles is to continue to pray for all believers, including us. Paul writes to the church in Rome that Christ Jesus is at the right hand of God interceding for us (Romans. 8.34), and the writer to the Hebrews describes at length how Jesus is a great High Priest who always lives to make intercession for people (7.25)

As you read this prayer that Jesus prayed over his disciples and reflect that Jesus is, even now, interceding for you, how does that make you feel? What might you want to say to Jesus? What might you want Jesus to say on your behalf to the Father? How might this impact your own praying, for yourself or others?

Lord Jesus Christ, I sometimes feel that my praying is inadequate.

Thank you that you are with me in my praying.

Jesus, you have sent me into the world, but I sometimes feel my service is inadequate; thank you that you are with me in my serving.

Jesus, although my desire is to be faithful, I know I let you down.

Thank you that you that through your intercession I am forgiven and set free. Amen.

As Christian Aid week ends, we give thanks for the work of Christian Aid, serving and witnessing to the love of God among the most vulnerable. May God provide for His work through Christian Aid. Amen.

Our thanks to Naomi for this reflection

