

# 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](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 23 May, 2021**



**This week we celebrate Pentecost Sunday, Aldersgate Sunday and Wesley Day**

Alongside the difficult news from India which we shared last week, many will be shocked with the news from the Middle East in light of the hostilities which we have seen, heard and read about in the media. Here is a first hand account of life in the region from a Methodist local mission partner. With best wishes, Patrick

*I have travelled around the Holy Land over the last three years being a part of the chaos and beauty. Now I watch as Jerusalem, Gaza and the land around is on fire and tears fall like rain. The fire has been fuelled by injustice, human rights denied, occupation, oppression, a broken divided society, failed politics and failed leadership. All who live in this land are affected in one way or another. The fire has been stoked over many decades. Last Monday was Jerusalem Day, a national holiday, a day where hundreds of Israeli settlers marched celebrating control over the Holy City in the six-day war in 1967. Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> May is Nakba which means 'catastrophe' in Arabic, when Palestinians remember the day in 1948 when they fled or were expelled from their land, homes and over 400 villages were destroyed. For some it's a time to celebrate, for others to weep. Decades of history fuels the fire.*

*Things started to look up as a war was waged against a pandemic of Covid-19, with Israel's vaccination programme and it seemed a war against sickness, disease and loss of life from a virus was being won, as it became under control. Life started to go back to some form of normality. Then another pandemic raised its ugly head. Jerusalem is on fire, but it's a fire of hatred of division, disunity, injustice, pain, rage and suffering. And when things started to become normal the racism, distrust, anger and frustrations returned. Freedom of worship, equality and human dignity is not offered to all, as we have seen during Ramadan. Orthodox Christians are celebrating Easter, but many locals were barred from entering the Old City for the Holy fire ceremony in the Holy Sepulchre. Police barriers forbidding entry to both Muslim and Christians. Jerusalem is on fire, and tears fall like rain.*

*Jerusalem represents all the people of the land and as we hover on the brink of another war; there are no winners. There is civil unrest, towns are burning and people are being killed, injured, displaced and traumatised. They are tired from constant sirens and bombardments. Jerusalem is on fire and tears fall like rain as Jerusalem wages war against a new pandemic. As Gershon Gorenberg poignantly writes "The cracked bridge has collapsed, the frayed rope has snapped. Weep dam it, weep for us. Weep for this season of wildflowers, weep for the dead and the living, weep for God who can't get us to stop, weep for humanity. Somehow this will stop, we will see each other's face, each other's pain. We will realize this cannot go on. We will find each other.*

*It is what can come after anger and grief, what must come, I have to believe "I attended the recent installation of Jerusalem's new Archbishop Hosam Naoum at the Anglican Cathedral, where Christians travelled from all over the land to attend. An uplifting, moving service in dark times, brought some relief and joy as we celebrated, praising God. He reminded us of the importance of Christian unity, and unity that is needed in the world. Jerusalem is on fire and tears fall like rain. It can happen in any community where there are systems that rob people of dignity, hope and equality. May the church of Christ weep damn it and shine brightly speaking out and against injustice everywhere, praying for solutions for the rage and fires lit, praying for a just peace.*

*May the rage turn to hope in Jerusalem, in Gaza, in the West Bank, in all the land between the Jordan and the sea we call Holy and may the people find each other. Thank you for your continued lament and prayers for the peace of Jerusalem; may it stop burning and the tears stop so lives can be restored and all can freely enjoy the wildflowers." Angleena Keizer (Methodist Mission Partner in Jerusalem)*

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

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

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

**Circuit Pentecost Service - May 23rd 4.00 pm.** Our Circuit Service for Pentecost will be available on the Circuit YouTube Channel from 4.00 pm via <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjPdHk7wmFsEelpy2hRf6nw>

**Testimony Service - Rev. Stuart Reed**-Stuart is a former member at Speedwell and Circuit Local Preacher, now serving in the Brownhills and Willenhall Circuit. His Testimony Service, as he prepares for Ordination, will be launched on their Circuit's YouTube Channel from .00 pm on Sunday 23rd May. To view the service, use the link here: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIkg5FVXeppDHGFXvg\\_3LIQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIkg5FVXeppDHGFXvg_3LIQ)

**Open Church Cafe,** 24 May, 10.00am onwards, hosted by St Peter's, Pilning. Please contact [churchwardenpilning@gmail.com](mailto:churchwardenpilning@gmail.com) for the joining details.

**Evening Prayer** 24 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

**Joint Service on 30 May** at 10.00 at Horfield Methodist Church and on Zoom led by Rev Patrick Stonehewer  
**St Peter's Pilning on 30 May** at 10.00 will be led by John Creech

**Closure of Fishponds Methodist Church** Fishponds Church will sadly be closing at the end of May. The congregation invite you to join them for their final service on Sunday 30th May at 3.00 pm. Details of how to access the service will be available next week.

**Horfield - Junior Church** sessions continue online every Sunday at 10.00. Email Helen before Saturday midday ([treasurer@horfieldmethodist.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@horfieldmethodist.org.uk)) for the Zoom access details. **All Age devotions** for everyone, available via [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com).

**Bible Study.** 26 May, 7.45pm - 9.15pm. Please see Zoom details at the end of the Notices.

## OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS

**Sunday Worship - BBC Radio 4 on 23 May at 8.10.** - "The Breath of Life". The Bishop and Archdeacon of Bangor lead a Service for Pentecost from St. Tudno's Church on the Great Orme Peninsular

**Sunday Worship - BBC Radio 4 on 30 May at 8.10** - "Doing Justice" - from NTCG Brixton Community Church, S. London. A reflection on the anniversary of the murder of George Floyd.

**Sunday Morning Stories - BBC1 on 23 May at 11.30.**

**Sunday Worship BBC1 on 23 May at 10.30** - A Celebration of Pentecost- live from All Saints' Church, Woodford Wells

**Songs of Praise - BBC1 on 23 May at 13.15**- Sean Fletcher learns about the monastic life in W. Yorkshire and Pam Rhodes meets a marathon runner.

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

**WEEKLY NOTICES** - please send items to Eurfron by Tuesday, [eurfron@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto: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 the north and north west of the city, linked with other churches in the area? Please contact Patrick, Eurfron or David B.**

**Southmead Development Trust** is running a new 6 month project called Virtual Consultation Group Project. They are offering online sessions (via zoom) on a variety of topics e.g. anxiety, PIP, housing. CAP is delivering the Debt and budgeting session. The first session is on **June 9th at 10.30am**. Anyone in the North Bristol area who is registered at a medical centre in the area can complete a self referral using the link below or emailing [colette.brown@nhs.net](mailto:colette.brown@nhs.net) <https://forms.gle/4HArhrxCmfDnv8sH6>

**Eco-Tip** - Being careful with what you're consuming is at the heart of being more eco-friendly, and cutting down on the amount of meat you eat can have a huge impact. Not having red meat - even if it's just for two or three days a week - can have quite a significant impact on reducing your carbon footprint.

**"God for All" (May edition)** - A monthly newsletter about evangelism and growth in the Methodist Church has an item on 5 core ways to pray with a menu of creative ideas to put into practice. If you would like to download a copy please contact Eurfron.

**Horfield - Church 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 - A B I G T H A N K Y O U** to Margaret Postlethwaite (currently our "one-armed gardener") and House Group members (Monique, Julie, Jane, Marilyn, and Pam G ) who have done an excellent job potting up all the orders for this spring's plant sale, exceeding the £1,000 target towards church funds. Margaret just has to dismantle all the mini greenhouses now and put them away until next year!

**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 The Art Group, Linda Akomaning, Marion Andrews, Cherry Arnal, Fred Asante, & Royston Attwell.

### **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  
Circuit Meeting- Wednesday 16 June  
Stewards + Meeting, Thursday 24 June

### **Reflections on the Lectionary Readings - Sunday May 23rd (Pentecost)**

**Acts 2: 1 - 2; Romans 8 : 22 - 27; John 15 : 26 - 27, 16 : 4b - 15**

**This week's reflection is prepared by Local Preacher, Dottie North (Victoria)**

I am always taken by surprise when I read a very familiar passage in the Bible and certain it that we hear, each of us in our own language?" has done just that as I began to prepare this Reflection. I was struck by the thought of how important the language we speak is in our interactions with the people we encounter. How often have you had a conversation with someone, who speaks your language, but it feels like they are talking a totally different language to you? I'm not talking about accents here, but rather about attitudes and understanding.

We sometimes meet Christians whose views are contradictory to ours. For example, we meet those who are Creationists and those who are not. We are encouraged to live with contrary convictions but when they are expressed in harsh, uncompromising language, it is difficult to have a meaningful discussion and the opportunity to learn and grow in understanding of each other is lost. I think this is something we need to also have in mind when we are speaking with people who are not Christians. Do we try to understand their language? Do we strive to speak in language they understand?

we are using language people don't understand, how can we hope to share the good news of Jesus Christ? Paul talks about creation groaning in labour pains. In many ways creation is still groaning today. In these days of pandemic and climate change crisis, so many people are searching for meaning.....do we have the will to listen, to find the language they can understand and walk beside them?

might take some learning on our part but quoting Paul again, "... the Spirit helps us in our weakness." Those of you who have been around young children and had to manage their constant questions will understand that sometimes it's wise to reveal only as much as their current level of understanding can take in...you're just laying the foundation for greater understanding later. It seems to me that this is just what God was doing in sending the Holy Spirit after Jesus had completed his earthly ministry. The disciples had been on a huge learning curve.

They had taken in as much as they were capable of doing for the moment but, after the resurrection, they would need more instruction and inspiration in their work to further God's kingdom. Jesus gives them this assurance - "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth." These words still hold good for us today as we seek to grow the Kingdom.

"Father God, at this time of Pentecost, after what has been a difficult and even re-defining year for so many of us, we pray that you will send your Spirit among us. Help us not merely to hear but to truly listen to the needs of the individuals and the communities we meet and try to serve in your name. Give us the will to find a common language so that we can really understand what people are telling us. Help us to respond to their needs in ways that show your unconditional love for every human being. Amen

**Our thanks to Dottie for these devotions**