

The Methodist Church

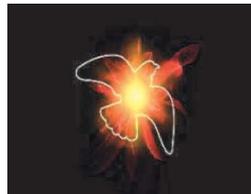
Bishopston, Easter Compton, Horfield, Shirehampton Methodist Churches and St Peter's Pilning
Minister: Rev Patrick Stonehewer T: 0117 924 8407, E: patrick.stonehewer@methodist.org.uk

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 30 May, 2021

Patrick's day off -with effect from 7 June onwards, Rev Patrick's weekly day off will revert to being Monday. If you need to make urgent contact with a minister on that day or other occasions when he is not available, please contact a church steward or Churchwarden in the first instance.



Trinity Sunday

Last Sunday I led worship at St Peter's in Pilning and the church was full! Well, full within the limits that social distancing have meant for the church building, but it was an uplifting experience to share the message of the coming of the Holy Spirit amongst the first disciples. In my reflections during that service and online, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEGBLAr_4Kw I talked about this period of the year often being quieter in the rhythm of the church year, because it's a while now before there's another significant festival in the church calendar.

In contrast, I imagine that the period after the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was anything but quiet. Afterwards we read Peter's address to the gathered group, then how the good news of God's love started to be lived out in practice. Acts 2:43 describes how 'Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles,' testament to those early church members starting to live and act as Jesus had.

But this wasn't a once in eternity experience, never to be repeated, but just one instance when the Holy Spirit was poured out. As we look for the Holy Spirit working in and through us today, let's be open to hearing the wind of God roar, bringing a promise of expectation of the Holy Spirit filling the places in which we live, move and have our being.

Lord, we pray that each day, each hour, each moment, we will be open to the presence of your Holy Spirit, empowering us in your world, bringing life and love. Amen

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Joint Service on 30 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.

St Peter's, Pilning on 30 May at 10.00 will be led by John Creech.

Open Church Cafe, 31 May, 10.00am onwards, hosted by St Peter's, Pilning. Please contact churchwardenpilning@gmail.com for the joining details.

Evening Prayer 31 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 6 June at 10.00 at Horfield Methodist Church and on Zoom led by Rev Patrick Stonehewer
St Peter's, Pilning on 6 June at 10.00 will be at the 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 30 May at 3.00. The Zoom link for the service is.

<https://zoom.us/j/91581975534?pwd=K2NTM05RZzlGYzF3MG5zVjF6OWIyUT09>
Meeting ID: 915 8197 5534 Passcode: 226587

Horfield - 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. 9 June . 7.45pm - 9.15pm. Please see Zoom details at the end of the Notices.

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS

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 Worship - BBC Radio 4 on 6 June at 8.10 - A Centenary of Note- At St. George's Chapel, Windsor, on the occasion of the centenary of the birth of the late Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Sunday Morning Stories - BBC1 on 30 May at 10.00 - People who have used their faith to make a fresh start in their lives.

Songs of Praise - BBC1 on 30 May at 13.15 - Aled Jones explores the fascinating history of Newstead Abbey in Nottinghamshire.

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 or 0117 969 1908

GENERAL NOTICES

A message from John and Elaine Hopper. 'Yes, it's finally happening. We are moving on Thursday (27th). We have a nice little 3-bed bungalow on the outskirts of Haverfordwest - a small cul-de-sac estate. So goodbye to front steps and hello off-road parking! We will be only about half a mile from our son and grandson. I've been in Bristol for 54 years, and Elaine for about 45 years, so it's going to be a big change. Can we say it's been good to know you all. Thank you for your help, support and friendship over the years. We shall miss you. But, it's time to close that book and move on to the next. Don't look back. Remember, yes, but with no regrets.
May God bless you all in your work. We wish you well for the future'

What does it mean to be a Christian? Perhaps you would like to explore this question and others like it over the coming months - I am hoping to repeat the Alpha course which led to four young adults becoming members of God's church a couple of years ago. If you are interested, please get in touch with me using the 'phone number or email details at the top of the notices. Thanks, Rev Patrick

Be aware: you may have seen reports in the media about scam emails apparently coming from church ministers. The sorts of things that are included might be 'Hi can you help me?' or 'I need to talk to you later, can you let me know when you are free?' The next email often asks for gift cards (e.g. Amazon) to give to an imaginary family member. It's potentially easy to be drawn into these requests because they seem genuine, as do the email addresses which can be set up to look as if they are real. So beware, and if in any doubt whatsoever about requests purporting to be from me, please check with me by 'phone or contact a church steward if I am not available. Rev Patrick

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 9 at 10.30**. 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 <https://forms.gle/4HArhrxCmfDnv8sH6>

The Cotswold Christian Community. (Christians mostly living in Shirehampton south of the Portway but open to all!) will be restarting monthly meetings on 13 June at 4.45pm at the Cotswold Community Centre, Dursley Road. We will be watching videos of the Prayer course by Pete Greig - a really helpful, friendly guide to prayer. Refreshments will be served at the end.

ALFA Christian Community is restarting drop-ins on Mondays, 2.30-4.30, from 24 May, in the garden, weather permitting, at Fulligrove House, Woodwell Road, BS11 9UG. All would be welcome for a cup of tea, cake and a chat.

The Fulligrove House Garden is part of the Quiet Garden Movement (<https://quietgarden.org/>) and we would love people to come to sit in the garden, or summer house, for rest, reflection, prayer etc. Please contact us to check suitable times - training and other activities happen, when it is not always quiet! 0117 982 6455, info@alfacc.org.uk

Eco-tips. Cars and trucks get much better mileage when they're not loaded with unnecessary weight. Every 200 lbs. of additional weight trims one mile off fuel efficiency. Most drivers accumulate material in their vehicles.

Horfield. Are you interested in planning how the Church can reach out to the Community and support other countries? We shall be delighted to welcome you onto the Neighbourhood and Mission Group. Please speak to Patrick or Eurfron.

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 Brownies, Audrey and David Bainbridge, Ann and David Baverstock and Sandy Bowcock.

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

Reflection on the Lectionary Sunday 30 May (Trinity Sunday)

Psalm 29; Isaiah 6 : 1 - 8; Romans 8 : 12 - 17; John 3 : 1 - 17

This week's reflection is provided by Local Preacher and Circuit Steward, Stephen Holliday

You will know the expression: 'my head says one thing but my heart says another.' There will probably have been times when you have experienced that feeling, the sense that you ought to do something even though it made little sense at all. I think Nicodemus in today's Gospel reading was having one of those moments.

He was a Pharisee, one who kept the Law religiously; he was a member of the Sanhedrin, an aristocrat, clearly someone with wealth and considerable social standing. Yet, despite his self-confessed piety, he clearly felt that something was missing. His head said he was doing everything right by keeping the Law meticulously but his heart was telling him that there was more to knowing God than obeying a set of rules. So, he came to Jesus. Notice he came at night. That, no doubt was down to his social standing, he didn't want to be seen associating with the troublesome, itinerant preacher. Perhaps John is emphasising some symbolism here as well: Nicodemus came in darkness to meet with Jesus, the light of the world.

After the initial exchanges, there followed the rather comical conversation about being 'born again.' Nicodemus, despite his searching for something deeper, just didn't get it. He was clearly stuck in his ways, held back by the traditions and social setting that defined him. I hope the challenge for us in this story is becoming apparent: we are all, to a greater or lesser extent, products of our upbringing, even prisoners of the lifestyle we have created or which has been forced upon us. For some of us, we are steeped in the traditions of the church, consciously or not, bound by habits and traditions which have shaped our worship and nourished our relationship with God. The danger, of course, is that what once seemed meaningful can all too easily become just religion - pious habits - with the meaning and depth somehow lacking where once it seemed more profound. That was just the place Nicodemus found himself in, his heart was telling him to look for something more, even though breaking the habits of a lifetime made no sense to him.

It does all of us good from time to time to see whether our heart is searching for more, to ask whether we have diluted our relationship with God through relying on religious observance rather than listening to what God is really saying to us. Jesus tried to make Nicodemus see the need to have a fresh start, to see things differently. There are times when we are troubled with a sense of needing to change something even if it seems contrary to all we know or just seems too difficult to achieve. God's guidance comes in all sorts of ways but sometimes it comes simply when our head says one thing but our heart says another and we need to listen to that small voice inside which is prompting a change.

Prayer

*Dear Lord and Father of Mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives Thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.
Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and Thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire
speak though the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still small voice of calm!*

John Greenleaf Whittier 1807 - 1892

Our thanks to Stephen for this reflection.