

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 13 June 2021



As the restrictions around us continue to ease, my day-to-day ministry is in a period of transition from the routines established over the past months, not least because I've started to meet people in-person where possible, and as of this month will return to leading worship in nearly all the buildings of churches where I have oversight. After over a year of online meetings, mostly joined from my desk, I am having to get used to allowing for travel time and my diary is under a little more pressure than of late. But the travel allows for other encounters, including a conversation I had with a fellow cyclist a few days ago, who remarked that she didn't often see a cyclist wearing a clerical shirt and collar!

In a recent reflection*, Barbara Glasson, a past President of the Methodist Conference wondered whether Jesus kept a diary. She continued by commenting that the gospel accounts seem to reference him subverting any sort of organised plan to keep an appointment, and that he appears to spend his life bumping into people, or being summoned when he is in the middle of something. To help open up Barbara's thoughts for you, which encounters are helping you see God's spirit at work? Rev Patrick

[* theologyeverywhere.org/2021/05/31/serendipitous-encounters-when-whats-happening-isnt-what-you-are-doing/]

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Joint Service - Easter Compton, Shirehampton and Horfield on June 13 at 10.00 led by P and M Culshaw, on Zoom and in person. 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.

Bishopston on June 13 at 10.30 led by Rev Patrick Stonehewer in the Church with Holy Communion.

St Peter's Pilning on June 13 at 10.00 led by Stephen Holliday at the Church.

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.

Open Church Cafe, 14 June, 10.00 onwards, hosted by St Peter's, Pilning. Please contact churchwardenpilning@gmail.com for the joining details.

Evening Prayer, every Wednesday, 4.00 for 35 minutes 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>. Currently still on Zoom, details on last page.

Bible Study on 16 June, 7.45 to 9.15. Zoom details below.

Services on Sunday 20 June

Joint Service - Horfield, Bishopston, Easter Compton at Horfield and on Zoom led by J. Gardner.

Shirehampton at the church at 1100 - led by Rev. Patrick Stonehewer with Holy Communion.

St Peter's Pilning at the church led by T. Cook with Holy Communion.

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS

Sunday Worship - BBC Radio 4 on 13 June at 8.10. The Rev Michaela Youngson leads a service on 'Storytelling'.

Songs of Praise - BBC 2 on 13 June at 13.15. Kate Bottley joins pilgrims en route to Durham Cathedral.

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

This Sunday, why not join the launch of the **Walking with Micah project**? Former PM Gordon Brown will be speaking about the importance of hope, justice, and the role of faith communities. All are welcome for an evening of ideas, hope and action, as we mark the launch of the two year project, Walking with Micah: Methodist Principles for Social Justice. Find out more and register your free ticket: bit.ly/gordonbrownhope

Have Your Say. You are invited to join Climate Justice for All for their 'Have Your Say' events on either June 9th, June 12th or July 13th, each consisting of a 45-minute consultation hosted by CJ4A

(www.worldmethodistcouncil.org/cj4a) in partnership with Green Agents of Change (methodist.org.uk/greenagentsofchange). They want to send a 'call to action' from Methodists to the UK government's COP Ambassadors. Local Methodist churches and groups will be asked to add their names to this call to action but, before taking that step, they want to hear from Methodists across Britain. What does climate justice look like for you? What should Britain be doing to ensure climate justice for all? Please do join CJ4A for one of these events, which are open to people of all ages (those under 18 will need a parent to book their ticket and give permission). Register via <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/climate-justice-for-all-have-your-say-tickets-152826206297>

Why Pray? How can I pray? The Cotswold Christian Community will be meeting on the second Sunday of the month from 13 June, at the Cotswold Community Centre, Dursley Road from 4.45 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Watch a 20 minute video, chat before refreshments. For more information- Tel: 0117 9825455

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

Horfield. Readers required. We are looking for people to join the readers rota for Sunday worship. If you are already on the list of readers and are prepared to continue, or wish to join, please let Hazel Thorne know. Tel. 0117 9829631

Eco-Tip. A common misconception is that aluminium foil cannot be recycled. In Bristol, aluminium foil can definitely go in your green recycling box with other metals. However, small bits of metal can often get stuck or lost through the recycling processor.

TIP: Bristol Waste recommend saving up little bits of aluminium foil and keeping them scrunched together at least 5cm across - ideally the size of a tennis ball 🎾 Once you have a decent-sized ball of foil, put it in your green box for kerbside recycling.

EXTRA TIP: using a foil case from a pie or quiche can be handy to keep those little bits together inside.

REMEMBER: the aluminium foil needs to be clean of food residue before you put it out for collection.

Learn which metals can be recycled here: <https://bristolwastecompany.co.uk/metal-matter>

Horfield. Thank you to Rachael Tan who recently offered to serve as a Church Steward. That appointment has now been confirmed with effect from 1 June. Welcome to the role, Rachael, and know that you are held in prayer by the whole church.

Stephen Holliday has taken on more responsibilities as Circuit Steward and so has decided to stand down from being a Vestry Steward. We thank Stephen for his loyal support over the years that he has filled this position. We would be pleased to receive more offers of anyone wishing to be a Vestry Steward. Please talk to Patrick or Asmin.

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; Lou and Carolina Carlos, Rachel Canning, Sarah Chard, Nicholas Chivers, Joshua Cottam.

Horfield. Future dates for your Diary

Eco Group, Tuesday 15 June

Circuit Meeting, Wednesday 16 June

Stewards + Meeting, Thursday 24 June

Eco Quote "The fruits are forming, the vegetables are growing, the sun is shining more and for longer everyday. May you be blessed with busy pollinators bringing forth abundance in the world.



Reflection on the Lectionary Sunday 13 June

Psalm 20; 1 Samuel 15 : 34 - 16 : 13; 2 Corinthians 5 : 6- 17; Mark 4 : 26 - 34.

This week's reflection is provided by Local Preacher and Church Pastor, Kevin Marshall.

1 Samuel 15 : 34 - 16 : 13

We all sometimes have our ideal candidate or person for a job and think that person would be the best and only person for the job. The person is well suited with brains or brawn or a combination of both. Or perhaps the person has the most experience or experience of a particular type. This can lead to us thinking that there is only one possibility but sometimes we do not see deep enough or properly. We perhaps only see the outward signs or only the experience that we think is needed. Yet, in reality there is often a need to see deeper and weigh up more options. This is what we are going to read about today.

The story of choosing a King to replace Saul is a famous story of the Old Testament. Saul had let God down; he had not obeyed God and had not destroyed all the animals of the Amalekites and He had not killed the King of the Amalekites, Agag and had saved the best of the animals for himself. This means that God tells Samuel that He no longer trusts Saul and wants him as King. God wants Samuel to anoint a new king whom God will choose and show Samuel who it is. God asks Samuel to go to the House of Jesse in Bethlehem and there he will find the one whom God wants him to anoint as the new King. Samuel questions God as to how he is going to be able to travel for if Saul hears of it, he will kill Samuel. But God tells him that if he takes a heifer(cow) and says he is going to use it as a sacrifice he can go to the House of Jesse in safety. So, Samuel does as God commands him and goes to the House of Jesse in Bethlehem.

When Samuel arrives the people are scared and ask him why he has come, so he tells them that he has come to make a sacrifice and to meet Jesse and his sons and to consecrate with the sacrifice of the heifer. Then we read the familiar story of the seven sons in the house being brought before Samuel one at a time and Samuel expecting God to tell him to anoint one of them as they stand before him. But God doesn't tell Samuel to anoint any of them. So, Samuel is confused, so asks Jesse is this all of his sons and Jesse replies that there is still the youngest who is looking after the sheep. So, Samuel asks for the youngest to be brought before him and he sees he is glowing with health, has a fine appearance and handsome features. God immediately tells Samuel to rise and anoint him for he is the one. Samuel takes his horn of oil and anoints David and from that day the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon Him whose name was David (1 Samuel 16 v12-13).

The story ends there for Samuel moves on to Ramah. So, this story shows us that we must look deeper and ask God's guidance and pray that He will show us the correct choice and option. AMEN.

Our thanks to Kevin for this reflection.