

# 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 20 June 2021



### Bible Month, Father's Day and Sanctuary Sunday

Over the coming weeks, we have the opportunity to look at Mark's Gospel as we join with others across the country in Bible Month. Not every church will do this 'live' each week, so I plan to include something in these remarks each week and, if you are able, invite you to watch our pre-recorded worship on Youtube which will follow this theme. Do read Mark's Gospel for yourselves.

Each of the four gospels provides a portrait of Jesus, far from identical, but recognisably about Jesus with any number of well-loved stories. The whole Jesus story is not just an interesting tale; the gospel writers have a conviction about who Jesus is and what that means for their readers. As one put it, the gospels are written to tell us 'what was going on in what happened' (John Marsh, *The Gospel of St. John*, Penguin 1968, 20). Thus, each evangelist is an author, telling the story of Jesus conveying their profound convictions about Jesus' identity and mission, and the place of Jesus' followers in that mission.

To understand Mark, we need to be aware of two things about context. First, Jesus' ministry is conducted in an occupied land, subdued and pacified by the Romans. Mark's readers too, live under the shadow of the Empire. Second, for Jews the collective memory of exile and of a restoration that didn't turn out quite as expected, is rarely far from the surface. There are occasional signs of hope, but many are just getting on with life, and others long for the day when, once again, God would dwell in the midst of his people.

Mark's gospel seems deceptively simple. It starts at the beginning of Jesus' ministry: no birth stories as in Matthew and Luke, no 'in-the-beginning' line like John. It runs, at pace, through the ministry of Jesus, which, we would guess from this gospel, lasts about a year, before Jesus is caught up in the collaboration between the religious elite and the imperial power and ends up with Jesus hanging on a Roman cross. Of course, Mark doesn't end there - the empty tomb confirms Mark's conviction that Jesus has been raised from the dead - leaving a message of living hope.

Rev Patrick [adapted from material available via [www.preachweb.org/biblemonth](http://www.preachweb.org/biblemonth)]

### FORTHCOMING SERVICES

**Joint Service** - Easter Compton, Bishopston, and Horfield on June 20 at 10.00 led by J. Gardner, on Zoom and in person.

**Morning worship in person at Horfield Methodist Church**

We are pleased that we are now able to increase the number of worshippers in person on Sunday mornings to 40. For a trial period we will see whether we can dispense with the telephone booking line, so please arrive in good time for the service so you can register your details or scan the QR code for Covid 19 purposes. Please continue to 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, wear a face covering whilst in the building (unless you have a medical exemption) and follow other COVID-19 arrangements within the building including maintaining two metres social distancing at all times. Do not attend worship in person if you have any symptoms of Covid 19. Please understand that if 40 people have arrived before you then we will not be able to let you in. You will continue to be able to join the service via Zoom.

**Shirehampton on June 20 at 11.00** led by Rev Patrick Stonehewer, with Holy Communion.

**St Peter's Pilning on June 20 at 10.00** led by T.Cook.

**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)

**Local Preacher Accreditation Service** for Forward Maisokwadzo on Monday 21 June at 7.30 pm at Kingswood Methodist Church (in person attendance by invitation only). The Zoom link to join the service is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/510486395?pwd=RzdDczJkY0o5YWRRbDR4OThic2tLUT09>  
Meeting ID: 510 486 395 Password: 118357

**Open Church Cafe, 21 June, 10.00 onwards**, hosted by St Peter's, Pilning. Please contact [churchwardenpilning@gmail.com](mailto:churchwardenpilning@gmail.com) for the joining details.

**Evening Prayer, every Wednesday**, at 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 23 June**, 7.45 to 9.15. Zoom details below.

### **Services on Sunday 27 June**

**Joint Service - Horfield, Bishopston, Easter Compton and Shirehampton at Horfield and on Zoom at 10.00** led by Howard Wilson (Bible Month)

**St Peter's Pilning at 10.00 at the church** led by Rev Patrick Stonehewer with Holy Communion.

**Ordination Service for Rev. Leigh Maydew** on Sunday 27th June at 4.00 pm as part of Methodist Conference. [www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-conference/conference-2021/ordinations-2021/](http://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-conference/conference-2021/ordinations-2021/)

### **OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS**

**Sunday Worship - BBC Radio 4 on 20 June at 8.10.** The World's favourite Psalm

**Songs of Praise - BBC 2 on 20 June at 1.15.** Faith and fatherhood.

**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**

**Thank you** to all who donated so generously to the Circuit's appeal for Christian Aid to give thanks for COVID vaccinations: £6,191.50 has been raised with a further £997.50 through Gift Aid, taking the overall total to £7,189 which will be used to support overseas communities with equipment to allow vaccinations to take place in hygienic conditions.

**Please join us on a beautiful outing to the "costa de sol" of Severn Beach,** walks, views and history, travelling by train. See the connection with Methodism. Saturday 10 July, 11:10 Montpelier Station to Severn Beach. Severn Beach to Montpelier returning options. 13:50, 15:50, 17:50. *Just as You are Tea Cottage* open Tuesdays to Saturdays between 10.30am and 4.30pm

**Justice Lecture.** In the face of Covid 19, the climate emergency and global inequality, where are justice and hope to be found? Former Prime Minister Gordon Brown argues that change is possible, and that people of faith have a role to play.

The recent Methodist Justice Lecture marked the launch of the two year project, *Walking with Micah: Methodist Principles for Social Justice*, aimed at helping the Methodist Church to explore what it means to be a justice-seeking church. [www.facebook.com/MethodistChurchinBritain/videos/538247357553553/](https://www.facebook.com/MethodistChurchinBritain/videos/538247357553553/) (you don't need to be a Facebook user to watch this)

**Volunteers.** The COVID-19 Vaccination Programme is at another crucial stage as first doses are now being offered to those aged 25 and over. More than one million people booked the vaccine through the NHS website on Tuesday when they first opened to this cohort - which is a record high.

The programme urgently needs more Steward Volunteers to support at local vaccination sites in most areas of England to keep up with the increased demand.

Do you have any family or friends who can help out?

Any students who are home from University for the summer?

We need anyone who is fit and healthy and has some time to support the NHS with the vaccination drive. Reply to: Royal Voluntary Service <[re-6DPZ-8O2Q-2FZMK3-C16M9@nhsresponders.co.uk](mailto:re-6DPZ-8O2Q-2FZMK3-C16M9@nhsresponders.co.uk)>

**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.** Chances are that if you're thinking about taking on a more eco-friendly lifestyle then you'll already be recycling. But could you improve your recycling-ability? You can recycle almost everything, from batteries to paper to cars. Before you throw it away, take a minute to find out if you could recycle it instead.

**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; Keith and Jenny Cornell, Church Council, Linda Cox, Cubs.

#### **Horfield. Future Dates**

Stewards + Meeting, Thursday 24 June

Church Council , Thursday 8 July

#### **Safeguarding Training.**

**ONLINE: Advanced Module - Creating Safer Space**

Register by **19 July** Gathered Session **7 September** at 7:00pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-version-advanced-module-safeguarding-training-registration-159104450695>

Register by **2 February 2022** Gathered Session **2 March 2022** at 7:00pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-version-advanced-module-safeguarding-training-registration-159105702439>

**ONLINE: Foundation Module - Creating Safer Space**

**16 September 2021** at 7pm <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/methodist-foundation-module-safeguarding-creating-space-registration-159103369461>

**16 November 2021** at 9:30am <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/methodist-foundation-module-safeguarding-creating-space-registration-159103666349>

**8 February 2022** at 7pm <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/copy-of-methodist-foundation-module-safeguarding-creating-space-registration-159103780691>

**12 May 2022** at 9:30am <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/methodist-foundation-module-safeguarding-creating-space-registration-159103937159>

For all enquiries, please contact Bridget Down, Learning Network, at [downb@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:downb@methodistchurch.org.uk)

### Lectionary readings for Sunday 20 June

Psalm 133; 1 Samuel 17 : 32 - 49; 2 Corinthians 6 : 1 - 13; Mark 4 : 35 - 41

This week's reflection is provided by Local Preacher, Rachel Spencer (Knowle).



Mark 4:35-41 'Jesus is in the boat with us' Jesus has been teaching the crowds. As the evening comes Jesus suggests that he and his disciples go over to the other shore. While they are in the boat a storm arises. The disciples are terrified and wonder why Jesus seems not to care. Jesus says, 'Peace! Be still!' He calms the storm and then asks the disciples why they were afraid, "Have you still no faith".

The geography of the Sea of Galilee is such that the water can go from calm to stormy very quickly. Some of the disciples were fishermen so they would have been used to being on the water and would have come across this phenomenon before. This storm terrifies them, though, which suggests that it was no ordinary storm. The disciples ask why Jesus appears not to care and, while they might expect him to help bail out the water, he instead speaks to the wind and calms the sea. The disciples get a glimpse of who Jesus is. At the same time, they realise that their faith is still at its beginning.

There will be storms. There will be storms in our own lives. There have been and there will be storms in our communities. We have been going through a storm globally with the COVID-19 pandemic. You may have heard the expression 'We are all in the same storm, but we are not all in the same boat'. The effect of these circumstances is not the same for everyone. Some will have welcomed the rest from the busyness of life. For others that has meant loss of work. Some will have lost loved ones. Whatever we go through we can know that Jesus is in the boat with us. At all times.

When I read this passage, my sense is one of panic. That this is not the sort of trouble that rumbles on in the background but is a full-on life-threatening calamity. When we panic, we tend to become incapable of doing much to help ourselves. We often have to rely on others to make decisions and see the way ahead. The experience of the disciples reminds us to rely on Jesus. And just as the disciples learnt more about who Jesus is, so our own storm experiences bring us closer to Jesus. Our faith, however small, can be strengthened when we trust that God will be with us.

How can we be with others in their storms? Are there ways in which we can show God's love by getting into their boat? The disciples in the boat asked Jesus, "Do you not care that we are perishing?" Let it not be that those around us would ask the same of us, "Do you not care?" We need to show our care - proactively - by being alongside others, praying, listening, offering practical help. As we show God's love through the way we are, our relationships will be strengthened, our understanding improved, and our faith increased. Let's rejoice in our loving Lord, always in the boat with us.

**Prayer** *Loving Father, in the storms of life you are always there. Even when we cannot feel your presence, you are always there. As we seek to bring your love and peace to those around us, you are always there. In our joys and in our troubles may we know your peace and may our faith increase. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Thanks to Rachel for this reflection.