



# 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 6 June 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.



On the edge of my desk is a barograph, a device which records the air pressure on a paper chart, a gift to me from colleagues several years ago. I usually glance at the chart each morning, which gives an idea about what the weather has in store. Changing air pressure usually means changing weather: for example, before last week's bank holiday it was slowly rising, bringing more settled weather following the wetter weather and stronger winds we mostly saw in April and May.

The story of the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus is just one place in scripture where the Holy Spirit is compared to a wind. In his conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus compares the Spirit of God to the wind (John 3.8), saying that while we cannot see the wind or predict how it will move, we can feel and hear its effects. Jesus was doing this to explain how the Holy Spirit moves in ways we cannot fully understand but which can change us and help us find new life in God.

As we continue to explore how our Christian lives might be in light of the pandemic, let's take a glance and see where God's Spirit is at work in ourselves and around us. Things appear to be looking better for us in general across the UK, but the spread of the variant first identified in India means that might not necessarily be easy. We've heard directly from India in recent weeks, and there are other hot-spots across the globe as well as those closer to home which have been in the news too. What does God have in store for you and us, even when it feels like God's presence is unusual or unexpected?

*Touch us, Holy Spirit, in all we are and do. Amen.* Rev Patrick

## FORTHCOMING SERVICES

**Joint Service - Horfield and Bishopston on 6 June 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.

**Shirehampton on 6 June at 11.00** led by Mr K. Luxon

**St Peter's, Pilning & Easter Compton on 6 June at 10.00** will be at St Peter's and led by Rev P. Rowe

### SERVICES ON 13 June

**Joint Service- Easter Compton, Horfield and Shirehampton at 10.00 at Horfield Methodist and on Zoom.**  
Eco Service led by P and M Culshaw.

**Bishopston at 10.30** led by Rev Patrick Stonehewer.

**St Peter's at 10.00** led by Mr S. Holiday.

**Open Church Cafe, 7 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, 7 June, 4.00** 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

**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 on 9 June at 19.45 to 21.15.** Zoom details below

## OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS

**Sunday Worship - BBC Radio 4 on 6 June at 8.10** - Marking the centenary of the birth of Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh.

**Songs of Praise - BBC1 on 6 June at 1.15** - Katherine Jenkins visits Salisbury Cathedral to explore the Harmony between music and faith

**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

**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

**BCWNS Night Shelter.** We would love you to join us on Zoom on Monday 7th June 7- 8pm for a celebration of BCWNS 2021. Zoom details

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89506885853?pwd=c0h5SOVBYXBvV0pwc0trMUJBMVoyZz09>

Meeting ID: 895 0688 5853      Passcode: 987128

**Future Plans for BCWNS.** Guidance from Housing Justice and Homeless Link is that communal night shelters will **not be able** to run during Winter 21/22. We will therefore be applying to the Winter Transformation Fund again for money to fund something similar to this year. This means we need to put a plan in place and prepare a bid in the next month!

**Circuit appeal for Christian Aid to give thanks for Covid vaccinations:** a massive £5,700 has been raised. This will be used by Christian Aid to fund clean water, hygiene kits and PPE facilities in communities to enable COVID vaccinations to be distributed safely. It's not too late to donate via <https://giving.tapsimple.org/online/christian-aid/giving-thanks-for-our-vaccines-across-bristol-south-gloucestershire-methodist-circuit> or by sending a cheque payable to 'Christian Aid' to Adam Biddlestone, Circuit Office, Horfield Methodist Church, Bristol BS7 8SN with a covering note.

**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

Our world faces many questions around where justice and hope are to be found. In the first **Methodist Justice Lecture**, former Prime Minister Gordon Brown will argue that real change is possible, and people of faith have a role to play. Get free tickets at; [www.methodist.org.uk/walking-with-micah/](http://www.methodist.org.uk/walking-with-micah/) on Sunday 13 June at 7pm.

#### **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

**Eco-Tip.** Remember to turn the tap off while you're scrubbing your teeth - because you'll save water AND money. Bonus!

**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 Beavers, Daphne Brennan/Wright, Monique Brocklesby, Jayne Brown, Richard Brown and Janet Browning.

**Horfield-** Thank you to all those who contributed to our community event on the Bank Holiday at the start of May. It was really great to open up the church hall for a short period and share some activities which were offered in partnership with Ebe Church and The Ark. The Noise team have made a short video reflection and invite you to watch it and pray along <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqgNchu1cC4>  
Reflection on the Lectionary, Sunday 6 June

Psalm 138; 1 Samuel 8 : 4 - 11, 16 - 20; 2 Corinthians 4 : 13 - 5 : 1; Mark 3 : 20 - 35

This week's reflection is provided by Local Preacher, Jenny Clark (Yate)

The concept of family means different things to different people. Big or small, blood relations, mixture of relatives through marriage and re-marriage and those who have no traditional family but are part of a community who have become their family. We are part of the Christian family with brothers and sisters who share our vision and our spiritual journey.

The family of Jesus in the Gospel reading are an important part of the lesson today. They come to see Him and show concern about the crowds who don't seem to allow Jesus and the disciples time to eat. The Jewish family is based on birth and tradition, representing the larger Jewish nation and the wider Jewish family of God and in the time of Jesus this meant monitoring all aspects of it. "The Crowd" is made up of Scribes from Jerusalem as well as local people and His family are there to restrain Him, or even rescue Him, as Jesus is accused of being possessed by demons.

Interestingly, Jesus is not accused of falsehood as no one would argue with the miracles (including the casting out of demons) they had seen themselves, but they try to discredit Him with claims that Beelzebul possessed Him. Jesus made a clear stand against this by using the argument that evil cannot cast out evil and it was God's Spirit that healed. This was an unforgivable sin, to not recognise the power of God's healing Spirit.

The brothers and mother of Jesus called Him outside from meeting what had become a supportive group. Jesus used their decision not to join Him as a way of showing what family should mean, a shared understanding and values of God, not rules and beliefs that wouldn't embrace the changes Jesus brought from God.

This passage opens up the difficulties of seeing Jesus too humanistically as His family may have done, in worrying about His welfare and reputation as a reflection of them. The family of God is only concerned about doing God's will which was always the example of Jesus. As members of the Christian family, we know it is the Spirit of God that empowers and enables us. We are commissioned to take the message of redemption to all, doing what we can for each other and the World at large. Any success is through the power of God's Spirit and what a celebration that is! Let us thank God for all He has achieved through recent difficult times.

As we seek to bring more people into the eternal Family of God, the resurrection power of Jesus will continue to be at work. The Spirit brings change so let us all be ready for anything and everything!

Prayer: *Lord, these are changing times and your call resounds loudest when we are forced to respond to Challenge. Help us see and feel your Spirit move within us as we seek to follow new direction and bring your love to our troubled world. Amen.*

Our thanks to Jenny for this week's devotions.



**JOIN US FOR FREE CRAFTS, A BIBLE  
STORY, A TREASURE HUNT & MORE!**

**SATURDAY 12TH JUNE  
11AM - 1PM**

**STARTING AT HORFIELD METHODIST CHURCH,  
CHURCHWAYS AVE, BS7 8SN**

**THEN FOLLOW THE TREASURE HUNT LEADING  
TO A PRAYER ACTIVITY & REFRESHMENTS AT**

**EBENEZER CHURCH, FILTON AVENUE, BS7 0BA**

ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.  
Activities have been planned in line with the latest COVID-19 Government  
guidance. Please bring a mask for indoor activities, unless you are exempt.



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Bristol & South Gloucestershire Circuit