

Bishopston, Easter Compton, Horfield, Shirehampton Methodist Churches and St Peter's  
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We are part of the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit ([www.bsqc.org.uk](http://www.bsqc.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 4 July 2021 - Bible Month (2)**

The Revd Sonia Hicks has been elected and inducted as President of the Methodist Conference. The induction took place on Saturday 26 June at the National Conference Centre, Birmingham, during the Methodist Conference which took place in hybrid form this year. Sonia comes from a long line of Methodists as far back as her great-grandfather who was a Local Preacher in Jamaica, and has served as a Circuit Superintendent in three connexions: Britain, the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and Americas and the Methodist Church in Ireland (MCI). She is currently Superintendent Minister in Wembley, north London.



In her Conference address Sonia focused on her theme for the year, "God's Table: An Invitation for All", reflecting on the racism and marginalisation she and her family have experienced and how the Church can respond to injustice and division in society today. She recalled the experience of her Great Aunt Lize, who had arrived from Jamaica with her Methodist membership card only to be rejected from her local Methodist Church because she was black. Sonia and her family eventually found a Methodist home at Walworth Methodist Church in South London.

Sonia, who is the first black woman to be elected as President of the Methodist Conference, speaking about her theme, said: "In a world where people are excluded because of their ethnic background, their sexual orientation, their gender or simply because, like me, they were brought up on a council estate, I believe that we are called to show God's love for all people. It is a calling that Christian people have always struggled with, but we can and should be better at making God's love a reality in the British Methodist Church, overcoming the systemic discrimination that exists."

Sonia's commitment to oppose all forms of injustice began when she was a member of the Youth Exchange to Zimbabwe. She has since been Convenor of the World Relief and Development Committee for MCI, and has served as a Trustee for both All We Can and Christian Aid Ireland.

Looking to the future, the President said: "As Christians we are to mirror the grace and the mercy of God. We are to find ways of issuing God's invitation of acceptance to those we meet on a daily basis. No ifs, no buts. "I believe that there is a place for all in the presence of God, at God's Table. But, as we acknowledge that everyone has a place, we also must acknowledge that we will therefore live with the tension of not all thinking the same. We will also have to recognise that living with such tension is never the easy option."

## FORTHCOMING SERVICES

**Joint Service at Horfield with Bishopston on 4 July at 10.00** in person and on Zoom led by Rev P. Stonehewer. We extend a warm welcome to Mia Reid who will be baptised during this service, along with her parents Chrissy and Philip, and her family and friends.

**Arrangements for Worship in the building at Horfield this Sunday.** The main church building will mostly be taken up with the baptismal party, so we will also be using the hall. Please come in to the brown door (up the ramp) in Churchways Avenue, or to the red side door if you require level access. Please 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 two metres social distancing at all times. Do not attend worship in person if you have any symptoms of Covid 19. For a trial period we are continuing to 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 understand that if the building is full (70 people) then we will not be able to let you in. You will continue to be able to join the service via Zoom.

**Joint Service at St. Peter's, Pilning with Easter Compton on 4 July at 10.00** led by Rev. P. Rowe with Holy Communion

**Shirehampton at the Church on 4 July at 11.00** led by Clare Campion Smith.

**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)

**Open Church Cafe on 5 July from 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 4.00pm 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 7 July**, 7.45 to 9.15pm. Zoom details below.

## SERVICES ON 11 JULY

**Joint Service at Horfield with Shirehampton and on Zoom on June 11 at 10.00** led by Rev. R Sharples - Eco Church Service

**Bishopston July 11 at 10.30** led by Rev David Alderman with Holy Communion

**Joint Service at St Peter's, Pilning with Easter Compton July 11 at 10.00** led by Christine Jones.

## OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS

**Sunday Worship** - BBC Radio 4 on 4 July at 8.10.. Tokyo Olympics - Stretching every sinew. The Rt. Revd. Libby Lane (Lead Bishop for Sports) looks ahead at the Olympics.

**Songs of Praise** - BBC 1 on 4 July at 1.15 Brenda Edwards explores Chatsworth House.

**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 969 1908

## GENERAL NOTICES

**Circuit farewell service Sunday 18 July 4.00pm** for Rev David Alderman, Alex Grand (Ark Team) and for Circuit Stewards and others stepping down from Circuit roles. You are all invited to join this online - see Zoom link below.

**Horfield: Graham Franklin** as we receive the news of Graham's recent death, I invite you to join the whole church family as we offer prayers for Graham, his wife Betty and their family, and for all of those Graham influenced in the many aspects of his life. Graham's funeral service will take place on Monday 12 July at Canford Crematorium followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at 1pm at Horfield Methodist Church. You are all invited to join this online (Zoom details at the end of the notice sheet), with attendance at the crematorium and church by personal invitation only.

*We thank you God for Graham whom we cherish and remember. He has changed us by things he has said and done and by the ways in which we have related to him. Thank you for all those special characteristics which made him different and unique. We are grateful for particular memories and moments that we have shared. Loving God, you promised that those who mourn shall be comforted so we pray for Betty and all members of their family. May we each know your calming presence in our time of grief. Amen*

**Horfield:** Heather Appleby started as our new church cleaner on Monday June 28. We welcome Heather as a new member of our community. Our thanks to those volunteers who have kept the premises clean over the last seven weeks.

**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 Eco Group, Oliver Fairman, Finance & Property, Betty Franklin, Pam Gannon, John Gard.

**Eco tip-Recycling is good for the land as well as the water.** It means less rubbish is dumped in landfills, and that less energy is used to make something from recycled products than to make something that's brand new. Everyone living in the UK produces 82,000 tonnes of rubbish every day - that's a lot of rubbish to get buried in a landfill! The more we can recycle, the less we have to throw in the bin.

**Horfield Dates:** Church Council, Thu 8 July, Graham Franklin's Funeral Mon 12 July, Leadership Team Tues 20 July.

**Lectionary Bible readings for Sunday 4 July 2022:  
Ezekiel 2.1-5; Psalm 123; 2 Corinthians 12.2-10; Mark 6.1-13**

**Read Psalm 123 as a prayer, concluding with** Loving God, we praise, worship and adore you; we thank you for your provision to the whole world in the past, in the present and in the future; we give our small gifts of money to be used for Your work here on earth; we confess that we sometimes get things wrong; thank You that we can rely on Your forgiveness. Amen

**Read Mark 6: 1-13 followed by this reflection, adapted from material provided © Copyright 2021 ROOTS for Churches Ltd**

At the beginning of the film *The Mission*, Father Gabriel enters the jungle to preach to the Guaraní community. Previously, it has been hostile to outsiders, but Father Gabriel goes alone and plays his oboe, hoping that the music will reach them. The Guaraní creep close, listening to the magical sound. One tribe member becomes angry and breaks the oboe in half. Another gestures for Father Gabriel to play it again. He gestures back to show that he cannot because it is broken. The man examines the oboe and beckons Gabriel to follow him to the village where he repairs it. This is the true start of the mission, when Father Gabriel is in need and the Guaraní people help him. It is like the moment that the disciples entered a village asking for hospitality.

To hold onto God is to loosen our hold on wealth, status or prestige. Life is full of choices and there is not enough time to pursue the unimportant ones. Our faith is not an added extra to our social standing, our education or our wealth - a kind of bolt-on spirituality that gives enhancement to an already rich life. Sometimes our privilege misleads us, making us feel richer than we truly are. Sometimes our calling from God will undermine our popularity. We need to choose.

By today's ultra-cautious standards, Jesus' instructions to his disciples in Mark 6:1-13 appeared cavalier at best, and reckless at worst. We live in a time when everyone is encouraged to plan and prepare for every eventuality. Not to do so is regarded as careless. Jesus' approach flies in the face of such materialistic convention; it is a 'less is more' concept - less reliance on ourselves (via what we have) and more on God and others. This involves an unburdening of oneself to the point where a person is no longer in control. The idea of being vulnerable and out of one's comfort zone is never a comfortable experience, but it is often during those times that we are most receptive to God and his plans for our lives.

How would you react to someone who said they were an evangelist and God had told them to stay at your house? In today's world, 'Of course' may not be the first or most obvious response that comes to mind! However, when Jesus sent out his disciples on their missionary activities, he knew the Hebrew (Old Testament) tradition of showing hospitality to the stranger or foreigner. And it is a practice that, as the New Testament shows, remains firmly within the Christian tradition too. How, then, should we respond to strangers? Do we take the issue of hospitality as seriously as Scripture encourages us to do? And if not, why not? Do we need to pray for a spirit of generosity and warmth towards those seeking the love and help that only Jesus can provide?

**Time of silence, before praying for the world**

Loving God who was and is and will be forever, we pray for the world and its people, for all who have struggled during the pandemic. For Your church, for people of faith, for those struggling with faith, for those with other faiths and for those with no faith. For all leaders that they may be fair and just and for victims of natural disasters or who are suffering because someone has ill-treated them.

For the sick, the lonely, the bereaved and for carers, health workers and emergency services

For those who taught us the truths and duties of the Christian faith. In a time of silence we bring our personnel concerns. Loving God who was and is and will be forever we ask these prayers in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

**Say the Lord's Prayer, and the following blessing**

As we end our time of worship may the love of God be above us to shield us, beneath us to uphold us and before us to lead us. Amen