



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>

God's table is open to all

Sunday 25 July 2021 - Bible Month (4)



There has been a varied response to the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions across England at the start of the past week. One email I received said the restrictions might have gone, but the effects of the pandemic haven't. Amidst the fears and uncertainty which prevail, making the right decisions as God's signs of love and care in the world continues to need prayerful judgment and wisdom. Jesus command 'Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.' is just one piece of scripture which might help because many of the steps we are asked to take help us protect others, not just ourselves.

Our Church Councils and leadership teams have considered how to respond to the latest government announcements, alongside the advice provided by church governing bodies. Following those discussions, we will continue to follow the current arrangements when meeting in each of our church buildings: that includes holding 'track and trace' information, asking you to wear a face covering in the building (unless medically exempt), sanitising your hands on arrival and maintaining social distancing whilst inside. However, I am sure that many of you will be pleased to hear that we will be able to sing behind our face coverings! All these arrangements will be kept under close review in each church and further information will be shared when that is appropriate.

We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed.

(2Corinthians 4:8)

May God bless you, Rev Patrick

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Joint Service on 25 July at 10.00 at Horfield with Bishopston, Easter Compton, Shirehampton and on Zoom, led by Colin Blenkinsopp.

For those attending Horfield in person: please arrive in good time for the service so you can register your details for Covid-19 purposes. 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. Please 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.

St Peter's, Pilning at 10.00 on 25 July led by Rev Patrick Stonehewer at the Church.

Horfield. Junior Church sessions continue online every Sunday at 10.00. Please email Helen (treasurer@horfieldmethodist.org.uk) before Saturday midday for the Zoom access details.

All Age devotions for everyone, available via www.rootsontheweb.com

Open Church Cafe on 26 July from 10.00 onwards hosted by St Peter's, Pilning. Please contact 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-andworship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>.

Bible Study on 28 July, 7.45-9.15pm, held via Zoom, details below

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 25 July

Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10. Faithful- the theme of the Keswick Convention with reference to Psalm 78.

Songs of Praise. BBC 2 at 1.15. Generations of Faith- Rev Kate Bottley discovers the history of Boscobel House in Shropshire and Frank Skinner talks about prayer.

Daily Service at 09.45 each weekday - BBC Radio 4 LW.

WORSHIP DETAILS FOR SUNDAY 1 AUGUST

Joint Service. Bishopston and Horfield at 10.00 at the church and on Zoom led by Rev D. Hardy with Holy Communion.

St Peter's, Pilning with Easter Compton at 10.00 led by Rev Phillip Rowe, with Holy Communion, at the Church.
Shirehampton- at the church at 11.00 led by D. Head.

WEEKLY NOTICES. Please send items to Eurfron by Tuesday, eurfron@blueyonder.co.uk or 969 1908.

CHURCH LETTINGS. Please contact Heather on bookings@horfieldmethodist.org.uk

GENERAL NOTICES

Our Congratulations to Tim Bird- Assistant District Commissioner, Cubs, Cabot Scout Leader, 62nd. Bristol Seeonee (Monday) Pack for being granted the Award of Merit for ' Outstanding Services to Scouting '. Well done, Tim !





At The New Room

These activity days are being held in the museum upstairs and will feature crafts and activities based on the theme 'Made in Bristol'. Booking is by email and requires buying a family admission ticket to the museum which will enable free entry for a year. All details here: https://www.newroombristol.org.uk/event/back-in-time-days/?event_date=2021-08-04

The Vench Adventure Playground in Lockleaze

- FAMILY PLAY SESSIONS MON - FRI 10AM-2PM Free for children on Free School Meals thanks to the Holiday Activities Fund or £2 donation. 8-12 year olds welcome unaccompanied. Under 8s must be accompanied by an adult. Adventure play, craft & cooking activities, hot lunch provided.
- PLAY DAY Join us for a special celebration of play. Music, play, workshops, food, fun for all the family. Please ensure you have completed our Parent Consent Form to attend. COVID precautions in place. WEDNESDAY 4 AUGUST 10AM-6PM
- 11-16 YOUTH SESSIONS TUES & THURS 2:30-4:30PM Free for youth on Free School Meals or £1 donation, 11-16 year olds welcome. Music, craft, sports and play. Snacks & drinks provided. Funded by Julia & Hans Rausing Trust.

Shirehampton. Please offer a prayerful but heartfelt 'Hooray' with our friends from ALFACC, whose weekly Lunch Club started back this last week with guests in person. More will be able to come in the coming weeks. Well done to the whole team in serving a lovely meal and allowing everyone to be back together. The chefs have been providing meals on wheels for over a year!

Shirehampton. All are welcome to join members and friends of Shirehampton church for coffee and cake on Saturday 7 August, 11.00am outside Cafe on the Square, Sea Mills BS9 2DY

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; Stephen & Gail Holliday, John & Elaine Hopper, Brenda How, Helen Humphreys, Janet Hunt.

Horfield. Thank you to Lou for clearing the path at the back of the church and to Monique who has catalogued all the plants around the building. This work was done as part of our care for the land section in the eco church questionnaire. They were mammoth jobs well done.

Horfield. Little Fishes is a very successful parents and toddlers group which met every Friday morning at Horfield Methodist from 10.00 to 11.30 before Covid-19. We are planning to open again in September, but, as with most successful groups, we need volunteer helpers. Ideally, we need about 7 helpers each week, to book people in, provide teas and coffee, as well as snacks and drinks for the children, to sit at the craft table, talk to the parents and make them feel welcome. We also have to clear away at the end of the session. You could work in a rota volunteering as much or as little as you wish. In our meeting on the Common last week there were new families showing interest. If you could help, please contact either Helen on 0117 9624257 or helencello@btopenworld.com or Eurfron (eurfron@blueyonder.co.uk) or 0117 9691908

Horfield. You may follow the online memorial service for Graham Franklin on (<https://youtu.be/G0qxRVuHgHs>)



Reflection on the Lectionary, Sunday 25th July (Ordinary 17)

Psalm 14; 2 Samuel 11 : 1 - 15; Ephesians 3 : 14 - 21; John 6 : 1 - 21

This reflection is provided by Local Preacher Christine Jones (United Church, Longwell Green)

John 6:1-21 The first part of this passage is very familiar, one of the few that occurs in all four Gospels. Its sequel occurs in Matthew and Mark, with more detail. Let us focus on the detail in the first part which isn't included in the other Gospels. All agree that it was a large crowd of people, that it was a lonely place, that Jesus challenged the disciples to feed the crowd, that he took five loaves and two fish, gave thanks to God, and there was more than enough for everyone.

Only John mentions how the named disciples came by the bread and fish. It was taken from an unnamed boy. We assume he gave it willingly, though there could have been an element of coercion. What does John want us to understand from this detail? What was his message to his first readers, and what is the message to us?

If all four accounts are taken literally, then Jesus performed a miracle of multiplying a small amount of food sufficiently to feed a large crowd of people. Certainly that's how the crowd saw it. John makes even more of the crowd's reaction than the other Gospel writers [verses 14 and 15]. They were convinced Jesus was the promised Prophet and they wanted to seize him and make him king by force. But as we continue with John's account over the next few weeks we'll see [verse 26] that Jesus suspects they only follow him to get what they want, not because they understand his miracles.

So how are we to understand this miracle? The boy shared his food, maybe after a certain amount of encouragement. Did his example prompt others in the crowd to share food they had? I suggest that getting people to share what they regard as theirs is as much of a miracle as literally multiplying crumbs of bread and morsels of fish. I suggest this is something that we are as reluctant as the crowd to learn and to practice.

Jesus challenged the disciples. Is he challenging us? Ah, we say, we give to the Food Bank. Yes, and they are going to need us to give all the more during the summer holidays when children who have free school meals in term time are dependent on their parents.

As individuals we can be generous, but are we generous as congregations? We are being asked to increase our circuit assessment by 2%. This is largely to pay the stipends of our current ministers, but what about the retired ministers who do so much for us? Can we be generous with our church reserves and make a voluntary contribution to the Connexional Pension Reserve Fund?

As a society are we generous? We've all had our first Covid vaccine, most of us have had a second, some of us are looking forward to a booster, but are we putting pressure on our Government to donate more vaccines to developing countries where the most vulnerable have not even had their first jab.

As a nation are we generous? The Government has cut the foreign aid budget from 0.7% to 0.5% of Gross National Income. Are we bothered? Are we willing to share - our food, our church reserves, our vaccines, our national wealth? Or are we hanging on tight, hoping Jesus will perform an even greater miracle by multiplying what we haven't given?

Part of a much longer meditation by John Bell of the Iona Community:

When I was a child, I gave him all I had. ... Now that I am an adult, I have much more to share. But ... I am reluctant to give him what I have. Lord, when today I see the face of those who long for food and justice, when I hear their cry, make me as generous as when I was a child.

Our thanks to Christine for this reflection.