



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>

God's table is open to all

Sunday 29 August 2021



What can we do in the face of the news from Afghanistan? The Taliban's recapture of Afghanistan following the withdrawal of US-led coalition armed forces has been a huge shock around the world; not least to members of the armed forces who have served there over the past two decades. In the face of such an overwhelming event and the feelings of helplessness and despair, it is both natural and right for people of good faith to ask, 'What can we do?'

So where, and how, can we start? The 'where' is (in one sense) easy: wherever we are right now: at home or work, at school or college, in the shops and streets, among our families, friends and neighbours. The 'how' is potentially more tricky: there are those who are called to work with aid and development agencies, political or diplomatic institutions, or refugee organisations directly involved in caring for those most at risk: women and girls, Afghans who worked with the allied forces, everyone whose social and online behaviour over the past 20 years may be unacceptable to their new rulers, and the refugees being driven from their homes by violence or fear. There is a sense of speed about the current evacuation from Kabul, but it may be some time before refugees arrive.

Nonetheless, some of us will inevitably encounter new Afghan immigrants to our own country, and their future physical and mental well-being will depend greatly on the warmth of the welcome they receive among us. In the mean-time we can all try to make sure that we are well-informed about the situation of God's Afghan sons and daughters, and pray both generally for all of them, and specifically for persons and groups or communities to whom our hearts are drawn. Simply, we must be as loving as we can to everyone whose lives we can influence, and trust God for the rest. Rev Patrick

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Joint Service at Horfield at 10.00, with Bishopston and Easter Compton led by Rev. P Stonehewer. 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 Gloucester Road, 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.

Shirehampton at 11.00. Local Arrangement.

St Peter's Pilning at 10.00. Local Arrangement with Café Church.

Our pre-recorded worship this week has been prepared by Howard Wilson. Please follow this link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8v_t1LOeFHY

Horfield. Junior Church will be taking a holiday during August. Hopefully, we will start again in the first week of September at the church, subject to a risk assessment.

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

Open Café Church on 30 August from 10.00 onwards hosted by St Peter's, Pilning. Please contact churchwardenpilning@gmail.com for the joining details.

Horfield. Over the last few months many of us have missed our chats with other members of our congregation and groups. You have the opportunity to catch up at a virtual meeting every Wednesday morning during August from 10.00 to 11.00 on Zoom. Please join us. Details below.

Evening Prayer every Wednesday at 4.00 hosted by St Peter's, Pilning, using the Church of England "Join us in Daily Prayer" <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-andworship/joinusservice-daily-prayer>

Bible Study. We are taking a summer break from the weekly Bible Study - please look out for an update nearer the end of August about re-starting.

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 29 August

Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10. Homecoming - a small gathering at Prospect Farm in place of the annual Greenbelt Festival.

Songs of Praise. BBC 1 at 1.15. Faith & Fun. Rev Kate Bottley visits a zoo in Bristol and recalls fun moments from the series.

Daily Service at 09.45 each weekday - BBC Radio 4 LW

WORSHIP DETAILS FOR 5 September

All Churches at 16.00 at Horfield Church and on Zoom. A Circuit Welcoming Service for our new Superintendent, Rev Novette Headley and Rev. Samuel Uwimana. (Booking only and numbers limited to 70)

Joint Service at Horfield and on Zoom at 10.00 with Bishopston, led by Rev Patrick Stonehewer, with Holy Communion

Shirehampton at 11.00 led by K. Luxon

Easter Compton at 10.00 led by H. Gray

St Peter's Pilning at 10.00. led by Rev. P Rowe with Holy Communion

WEEKLY NOTICES. Please send items to Eurfron by Tuesday, eurfron@blueyonder.co.uk or 0117 969 1908.

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

GENERAL NOTICES

Climate Change. It's an amazing testimony to show love for God and neighbour by caring for creation and acting on climate change. Churches across Britain and Ireland will be coming together on Sunday 5 September, to pray and to present pledges to Government to take steps to address climate change. It will be a time to share in worship, celebrate what churches are doing, and commit ourselves to further action.

A national service will be broadcast live at 4pm that afternoon from Glasgow Cathedral - at the heart of the city where the UN climate talks will take place in November - with contributions from Christians around the nations.

Join in! There will be music and inspirational videos from 3:30 and the service itself will begin at 4:00. Register via <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/nations-climate-sunday-service-churches-prepare-for-cop-26-tickets165258230817> to be sent the full details for joining online.

The Night Shelter. Here's an update on the latest plans for the Night Shelter for this coming winter - as you can read, a lot has already been put in place but your continuing prayers are welcomed.

Thank you for all your support thus far. Your prayer cover has reaped dividends for our Winter Shelter.

Now we have a bigger challenge for you. The next Shelter will run for five months starting this November 2021.

A venue has been found, Alleluia, and there's a grant application pending from the government's Winter Transformation Fund.

If this really is a movement of God then your ongoing prayers will make a massive difference as we steer through the next few months. Covid has reshaped what we can do but with God all things are still possible.

Give Thanks

For the provision of a suitable B&B and a sympathetic owner.

For the two guests who have remained in touch via the befriending scheme

Praying forward

For more churches to respond to the invitation to supply a team.

For approval for the grant from the government fund

For suitable candidates as Deputy Coordinator and for the Night Warden jobs

Wisdom for Amanda as she tries to complete the jigsaw of finding sufficient volunteers to cover all 150 days.

Lord God we ask that through your people there will be more than enough shelter in the months ahead. May Bristol remain a City of Hope.

And all the people said AMEN - Patrick

Accommodation. We have been approached by a youth worker who is looking for accommodation around the Horfield/Lockleaze/Filton/Ashley Down area to move in at the beginning of September for one year. He is starting a placement in Lockleaze alongside studying Applied Theology with Moorlands College and would like to move closer to the area. Just a room with a bed will suffice, if there is a desk that would be a bonus. Hopefully looking for lodgings, a room to rent, a family to live with, one or other of these possibilities. He has a car and a bicycle so if there is any space, parking and space for secure storage would be ideal. Happy to be a lodger or to self cater. If you would be interested in providing a home, please contact Rev Patrick.

To all interested people living in the area Would you like to help in reaching out to the community on Friday mornings? Little Fishes urgently need volunteers to help by serving coffee /tea and children's snacks, talking to parents and carers, and working alongside them on the craft table. This is a service which is greatly appreciated by the families and has been highly successful in the past. Please consider if you could help out once or twice a month or even an hour at the end of each session to help put things away. Contact Eurfron at eurfron@blueyonder.co.uk or 0117 969 1908.

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: Pauline Lush, Lucy Manners, Jim Marshall, Amanda McGlade.

Dates for your diary

Horfield

Thursday 2 September. Stewards Plus

Thursday 9 September. Leadership Team

All churches.

Sunday 5 September. Circuit Welcome Service at 16.00. Available on Zoom from Horfield.

Sunday 5 September. Nations' Climate Sunday Service in Glasgow prior to COP26. Saturday

11 September. Synod at Kingswood School, Bath.

Thursday 16 September. Circuit Meeting at Westbury Park (St Albans)

Special days this week.

29 August. National Sports Day

30 August. Small Industries Day

3 September. Doodle Day

4 September. Bacon Day 5

September. International Day of Charity.

Lectionary readings for Sunday 29 August (Ordinary 22)

Psalm 45 : 1-9; Song of Solomon 2 : 8-13; James 1: 17-27; Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

This reflection is provided by Local Preacher Tim Lansdown (Hanham).

Reflection on Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23. James 1: 17-27

How topical the opening verses of the gospel passage now seem. "Hands, face, space" has been the mantra for us all over the last 18 months and here we find a discussion between the Pharisees, the scribes and Jesus about hand washing. But the Pharisees insistence on hand washing was very different to what the Directors of Public Health were saying as the virus introduced itself to our shores. For the Pharisees hand washing was undertaken as an ancient ritual and required only half a cup of cold water. Compare that to the frequent warm soapy water and a 30 second rinse that was recommended at the start of the pandemic.

The Jews deep respect and adherence to the Law can be traced back to the Ten Commandments given to Moses on Mount Sinai. These were simple straightforward rules but it soon became clear that they needed interpretation. What did it mean, for example, to keep the Sabbath holy? In what exceptional circumstances could work be undertaken? So, a codification known as the Torah was written to cover all eventualities and is found in the books of Leviticus and Deuteronomy. This was further expanded under what is known as the Mishnah under the control of the scribes expanding the teaching with even greater detail.

The problem is that rather than becoming a helpful explanation it became cumbersome and a burden. For example, someone once asked the question as to how many words were found in the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address or Churchill's wartime broadcasts compared with, for example, the thousands and thousands of words in the EU directive just on the subject of bananas.

Jesus is not criticising his questioners for keeping the law but for not living by the spirit of the law. Following on from the hand washing question Jesus uses the example of food to make his point. The Jews were so concerned about what they ate and what might defile their bodies whereas Jesus was concerned about what might emanate from a person such as wicked thoughts and evil deeds (vs.21-23). Clearly it is how one lives out their life that is the sign of their religion.

If we turn to the letter of James chapter 1 vs.27-28 we find here a description of practical religion 'to care for orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself untarnished by the world' I remember hearing the Rev. Leslie Wollen, one time Chairman of the Bristol District, preaching on those words of James, realising the difficulty young people had, even in the 1960s, to know what they should and should not do. He suggested that if you could, at the end of the day, pray and thank God for all you have done that day then you were not far from the mark.

A story is told of a wise Jewish Rabbi who was challenged by a non-believer that if he, the Rabbi could recite the Torah while standing on one leg then he, the pagan, would convert to Judaism. The Rabbi, aware of the inordinate length of the Torah stood on one leg and simply said "What is hateful to yourself do not do to others." This, he called the Golden Rule believing it summarised the whole of the Torah. Jesus too, summarised the Law in a Golden Rule taken from the Torah, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all you mind and with all your strength' and secondly to love your neighbour as yourself. (Mark 12 29-31)

Love shall be our token, love
be yours and love be mine, love
to God and all the world, love
for plea and gift and sign.
(Christina Georgina Rosetti)

Our thanks to Tim for this reflection.