



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 22 August 2021



Momentum is building towards the COP26 summit which meets in Glasgow in less than 100 days, and the climate is a more critical issue than ever. This week, the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel On Climate Change) have said there's 'no time for delay and no room for excuse', calling on all Governments and stakeholders to make COP26 a success. That's why it's crucial that churches across Britain and Ireland have been taking action: spending time exploring the climate crisis, committing to action and speaking up for change.

The Methodist Prayer Handbook 'The Earth is the Lord's' has been a daily reminder over the past year that as God's people we each have a part to play in reflecting on how to care for creation, make a commitment to action on the environment, and tell politicians that we want a cleaner and greener future. Some of our recent services have focussed on this theme, and as we approach harvest time, some of the readings we will be sharing in worship focus on 'Creationtide'. The first Sunday in September has been marked as the Nations' Climate Sunday - more information is available at climatesunday.org, from which I share this prayer:

Ask God to refresh you if you are weary of the suffering in the world.

Ask God to replenish you with whatever you need to live faithfully with creation. Ask God to renew your resolve to take action in the face of climate breakdown.

God of all creation, we come, together or alone, longing to meet with you to be refreshed and restored, by the spring of living water, by the source of all life. In your mercy, meet with us here. Amen.

With best wishes

Patrick

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Joint Service at Horfield with Bishopston, Shirehampton and Easter Compton on 22 August at 10.00, led by P. Jones.

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.

St Peter's Pilning on 22 August at 10.00, led by Rev. P Stonehewer with Holy Communion.

Pre-Recording. Thank you to all those who have contributed to our pre-recorded YouTube services during August. This week's is prepared by Matt Forsyth from the Churches Team at All We Can, and is available via https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8Px_DD7Uzo

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 23 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.

Mark's Gospel. Following on from our exploration of Mark's Gospel in worship, you might be interested to listen to David Suchet, the well-known actor, read the whole of the Gospel: follow this link, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JjOgcMQXvSc> It is well worth listening to.

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 22 August

Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10. Church Adventures. Poet Jay Hume explores St. Nicholas church in Leicestershire.

Songs of Praise. BBC 1 at 1.15. Claire Mc Collum explores stories of fossils, faith and science along the Jurassic Coast.

Daily Service at 09.45 each weekday - BBC Radio 4 LW

WORSHIP DETAILS FOR 29 August

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

Shirehampton at 11.00. Local Arrangement. **St Peter's Pilning at 10.00.** Local Arrangement with Café Church.

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

Here's an update on the latest plans for the **Night Shelter** for this coming winter. A lot of preparation has already taken place, with churches now being asked to consider how to respond in practice. Please offer thanks for that which has already happened and pray for the right volunteers to come forward.

Dear Churches,

I just wanted to let you know that Joseph is unable to continue as deputy coordinator for this coming year due to other commitments. He was a tremendous support in the planning and implementation of the project this year and he will be sorely missed. We are currently recruiting for a new deputy project coordinator. More details of the vacancy can be found here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V7QkT7EFPcPj3FkyGojfw-VEoJbjuknP/view> I've been speaking already with many of you about this year's project and how you feel you can support the running of the BCWNS. If you haven't yet arranged a conversation with me, then it would be great to hear from you and to talk with you to gauge how much support there is and where the gaps might be.

Below is a reminder of the situation this year for BCWNS.

Winter 21/22: Public Health and Housing Justice have advised that no dormitory/communal style shelters should run during winter 2021/22. BCWNS has therefore applied to the Winter Transformation Fund to cover the costs of block booking 8 rooms at a centrally located B&B this winter (Nov 21-Mar 22). On September 6th, we will hear whether the application has been successful.

Project duration: Church representatives from across the city met in July to discuss whether to increase the duration of the project from 3 months to 5 months this winter. There was faith to run BCWNS for 5 months from November 2021 to March 2022 (subject to funding). Rationale for this was that BCWNS could help more guests and make more of a difference as well as being an opportunity for more churches to get involved. Amanda

Christmas in a Box. Bristol Schools Connection are hosting 'Christmas in a Box' training earlier this year! We hope to give churches and schools a bit longer to get equipped and put their boxes together. To find out more about the project, take a look at this: <https://bit.ly/32PjH54> and this: <https://bit.ly/3mkZqej>
Training dates are: Mon 27 Sept @ 1.30pm, Tues 28 Sept @ 7.30pm, Mon 4 Oct @ 7.30pm, Tues 5 Oct @ 10.30.
We'd love to see you, your team, or anyone you know who might be interested at one of these sessions! Just save the date or even sign up early here: <https://bit.ly/3j6QHwu>

The 10th annual conference on disability and church, 'Still Calling from the Edge', takes place online on Saturday, 16 October. The event is a space for disabled people to gather and resource each other and the Church through art, music, story and theology, in plenary talks, small groups, workshops and liturgy. Cost £30 or what you can afford. Book through: [Eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk)

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: Brian and Sheila Lomas, Maggie Lovell, Lunch club, Hortence Lukaso.

Horfield. 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.

The Prayer Handbooks for 2021/22 have arrived. Please contact Linnette on 0117 9514919 to reserve a copy. Price £4.50.

Activities for all the family will take place in The New Room Museum, including weaving, painting and graffiti art, on Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 August from 10.00 until 1.00.

More details can be found on The New Room Website, including cost and booking information

https://www.newroombristol.org.uk/event/back-in-time-days/?event_date=2021-08-0

Eco Tip. Plant a tree. Trees provide food and oxygen. They help save energy, clean the air and help combat climate change. Trees absorb carbon dioxide as they grow and the carbon that they store in their wood helps slow the rate of global warming. They reduce wind speeds and cool the air as they lose moisture and reflect heat upwards from their leaves.

Dates for your diary Horfield.

Friday 27 August. Eco Group Meeting

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.

24 August. International Dog Day.

24 August to 5 September. Summer Paralympics 2020 in Tokyo.

28 August. International Bat Night.

Reflection on the Lectionary Sunday 22nd August (Ordinary 21)

Psalms 84; 1 Kings 8 : 22 - 30, 41 - 43; Ephesians 6 : 10 - 20; John 6 : 56 - 59 This reflection is provided by Local Preacher David Bainbridge (Horfield).

"This teaching is difficult, who can accept it," asked many of Jesus disciples.

"Does this offend you" was Jesus' response. This was not the first time he had caused offence but now they must have been thinking that he had lost it completely when he spoke of the need to eat his flesh and drink his blood to have fullness of life. Two thousand years on when we hear these words we immediately think of the bread and wine of holy communion, but Jewish listeners may have had a more literal understanding and seen it as a violation of God's law against consuming blood. Yet even when we accept these words as metaphor they still pose a challenge, for Jesus goes on to say, "those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me and I in them." In other words make our home in him and he in us. It speaks of a relationship which gives real meaning and purpose to our lives, but also brings great challenges. For some, and for many today those challenges were, and are a step too far. As Jean Vanier puts it, "we so often want a Jesus who makes things right for the world; but Jesus wants us to make things right for the world," and we can only do this with the strength of the Spirit of Jesus, the bread of life.

I guess many of us don't always have that confidence of faith which may draw the question Jesus asked of that more intimate group of disciples, "Will you also go away?" Peter's answer, "where else can we go," may give us the impression of a strong secure faith. But we know that Peter also had his times of doubt, times when he lacked courage and that he went on to desert Jesus. There must have been times when he looked back and remembered how much simpler life was before he left his fishing nets to follow Jesus.

Have we not sometimes wondered if we have believed in vain? Perhaps, watching and praying by the bedside of a sick child in hospital or when we have seen the headlines, hear reports of earthquakes and tsunamis, of wars and horrible acts of terror, of the desperate plight of refugees and we cry God where are you, why don't you do something? I can only speak for myself but, difficult though at times this faith journey is, I have been on it

long enough to know that there is nowhere else I would want to go. Christian discipleship is not easy. No wonder St Paul encourages us to take up the whole armour of God, and as Jesus promised we do not face it alone, for he said, "I am with you always." Peter did not say where else can I go, he said, "where else can we go" and like Peter we have the support of a community of people who surround us with their love and support. They may well have some of the same doubts and struggles as we have but where else but the Gospel of Christ which speaks so eloquently of peace and forgiveness, of reconciliation can we find the answer to our broken world. Faith, hope, and love wrote St Paul but the greatest of these is love.

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the bread of life that sustains us and gives us strength for the journey to which you have called us. Help us when we face difficult challenges to persevere, knowing that you walk alongside us and to remember that your grace is sufficient for all our needs. Amen.

Our thanks to David for this week's reflection