



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 15 August 2021



One notable event in the recent Olympic Games was when Simone Biles, one of the greatest gymnasts of all time, withdrew from parts of the competition. In a press conference she said, 'I have to focus on my mental health...we have to protect our minds and our bodies and not just go out and do what the world wants us to do.' This step was seen as a surprise by many, but other commentators supported her.

What do you think 'the world' wanted her to do? Some research about her background reveals that she has not had an easy life, suffering from childhood hunger, living for a time in foster care, being subjected to sexual abuse within the gymnastics world, and seeing her brother charged with and acquitted of murder. Commenting on Biles' decision, ex-gymnast Beth Tweddle said, 'She was strong enough to say: 'I'm just not right today', prioritising her own well-being and proving she was able to remove herself from the expectations and assumptions of what the world hoped she was capable of.

In John 6:35, Jesus declared himself to be 'the bread of life,' the one who sustains us, but his statement shattered assumptions and opinions about his background and family. Not everyone was happy about that, 'At this the Jews there began to grumble about him...' (John 6:41) but Jesus went on to explain what he meant in order to try and help develop a deeper understanding about him.

I wonder what assumptions people make when I say that I am a minister in the church - or when you tell others that you are a Christian - or when a newcomer crosses the threshold of the church, whether that's to attend worship or for another reason. How can we explain what it means for Jesus to be the one who sustains us and the world, and to share God's love in ways which bring well-being for all. With best wishes, Patrick

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Joint Service at Horfield with Bishopston and Easter Compton, at 10.00 on 15 August at the Church and on Zoom led by K. Luxon.

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 on 15 August at 11.00, at the Church, led by Rev Patrick Stonehewer with Holy Communion.

St Peter's Pilning on 15 August at 10.00, the Church, led by the Anglican Ministry.

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 Church Cafe on 16 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 15 August

Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10. Hail Queen of Heaven - Mass for the Feast of Assumption from Salford Cathedral with the Bishop of Salford, The Right Reverend John Arnold.

Songs of Praise. BBC 1 at 1.15. Faith and Marriage. In the heart of mid-Devon Claire McCollum finds out why church weddings are important to Christians.

Daily Service at 09.45 each weekday - BBC Radio 4 LW

WORSHIP DETAILS FOR 22 August

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

St Peter's Pilning led by Rev. P Stonehewer with Holy Communion.

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

Thank you to those who have asked about the work of beloved.org.uk following the contribution they made to a recent pre-recorded YouTube service. Beloved offers support to women working in the indoor sex industry in Bristol and the surrounding areas, and are affiliated with Beyond the Streets. If you would like more information, please visit their website or contact Julia Busfield (director@beloved.org.uk) or Beloved's volunteer coordinator, Anitam@beloved.org.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: Arthur and Chantal Lewis, Little Fishes, Sue Livall, Sandra Lloyd.

Shirehampton. All are welcome to come to a 'drop in' for tea, cakes and a chat on Monday 16 August at Fulligrove House, Woodwell Road, BS11 9UG - the home of the ALFA Christian Community. If you would like to come and sit quietly in the garden at any other time please contact us to check suitable times - 0117 982 6455. **The team over at Shelter** are recruiting for volunteers to help specifically in their Gloucester Road Shop on The Promenade. The staff in the shop are lovely and they are looking for additional help with various roles in the shop to cover either mornings or afternoons, however they can be flexible.

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

Horfield: news from one of the organisations which uses the premises. Hi, I am called Vicky and I run Pilates class at Horfield Methodist Church on a Tuesday morning. This is one of the four venues I teach my classes from. My business is called Pilates Active and I started back in 2012 after I had my first child. I was a Primary school teacher and felt I needed a better work/life balance so turned my hobby into my business. After doing my training I started running my classes in the evenings and gradually built it up through the years. I live locally and enjoy being part of the community. I love Pilates, it is beneficial to all ages, sizes and genders. It helps improve strength, mobility and posture. I have classes for beginners, advanced and 60+. I pride myself on being a friendly, approachable instructor that knows how to progress clients and keep my classes fun but challenging. Please email me via <pilatesactive@outlook.com> if you would like more information about Pilates and the classes I run at Horfield.

Eco News. Food products such as packaged fruit and vegetables, crisp packets, plastic film and carrier bags have been unchanged for years, using masses of soft plastic considered to be 'hard-to-recycle'.

Kerbside recyclers in the UK are yet to offer the service, leaving the duty to the manufacturers and retailers. Headlines claim some retailers are now offering soft plastic recycling and have in-store collection points. But very little evidence has been given to customers that any of the plastic collected is ever made into something new. Innovative recyclers ReWorked are breaking through the mould, offering full-service recycling on a large scale for plastic waste considered 'non-recyclable' by most. Their forward-thinking technologies enable them to tackle even the most complex, hard-to-recycle plastic items.

Activities for all the family will take place in The New Room Museum, including weaving, painting and graffiti art, on the following dates during August from 10.00 until 1.00.

Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19

Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26

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=2021-08-04

Special days this week.

August 18. Never Give Up Day

August 19. World Humanitarian Day

August 19. World Photo Day

Horfield. Dates for your diary

Friday 27 August. Eco Group Meeting

Thursday 2 September. Stewards Plus

Sunday 5 September. Circuit Welcome Service

Thursday 9 September. Leadership Team

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

Reflection on the Lectionary Sunday 15th August

Psalm 111; 1 Kings 2 : 10 - 12, 3 : 3 - 14; Ephesians 5 : 25 - 20; John 6 : 51 - 58

This reflection is provided by Local Preacher Brenda Isherwood (Yate).



John 6 : 51-58. I wonder if some of the people deliberately misunderstood Jesus at that time because what he was teaching was too problematic. They spoke about things that were purely physical. Jesus was talking about himself because in Jesus, spirit and flesh are perfectly united, Jesus is fully human and fully divine and he was bringing the word of God which would feed their souls. There were two kinds of hunger being talked about, the physical hunger for food, and it is literally a matter of life and death, it is vital to life. Our bodies and our minds will not grow or develop properly unless we are properly fed, and then, there is spiritual hunger. In the same way in which food is essential to maintain life, our spiritual hunger needs to be fed.

Some may not even recognise they have a 'spiritual hunger,' but there are many people in this world who have all the material things they want, but still feel there is something missing in their life. They search for what is missing in all the wrong places. Some search for it on social media wanting 'likes,' and acclaim, the views of others being so very important to them. Some use alcohol, or drugs, sex, fame, power, possessions, more and more of them. If any of these goals are met it seems to make them content for a while, but it does not last. That emptiness, that feeling that something is still missing in their lives, is still there, and they go on searching, but that hunger is never fulfilled, because this hunger can only be fully satisfied by Jesus

As we need physical food every day, we also need spiritual food daily. We cannot just take in spiritual food on a Sunday as our day of worship, and forget it for the rest of the week. It is not enough. In order to sustain healthy spiritual lives, we need to be fed by his teachings daily. To remember Christ daily in our lives, as part of our lives, in each decision we take. Jesus says he is the bread of life, and it puts into context how important he is to us. When Jesus said drink my blood and eat my flesh, it was a very bold statement for Him to make at that time. Jesus is saying unless you take my life, my values into you, unless you feed on my teachings, you cannot have eternal life. It was a teaching too difficult for many at that time, but what about us? Unless we are prepared to fully submit to him, to take his teachings and values into our lives we will be unable to enter His kingdom. So let us, rejoicing in his love for us, ensure our spiritual lives are fully nourished by Him.

Prayer

*Father we thank you for Jesus, who came as our living bread,
who came for us that we might live eternal lives.
Heavenly Father may the way we live with one another,
proclaim the truth of your constant love for us. Amen.*

Our thanks to Brenda for this reflection.