



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 8 August 2021



A letter from the Ark Bus Project

So, what do you do when everything feels up in the air and you wonder where on earth God is leading you? What do you do with that sense of bleakness or uncertainty? So much of the pioneering journey is about experiment and walking into unfamiliar territory and we know that the road less trodden is a harder route.

The Bible is full of stories of people who have walked with faith and sat with uncertainty, but knowing these things does not make our own sense of confusion or loss any easier to bear, does it? It is no wonder that we crave for certainty and familiarity in whatever form we can find it. I guess that is why the desire to return to 'normal' or 'go back' are familiar sentences and feelings.

I wanted to share some of a new book that we have been reading called Pioneer Practice written by Jonny Baker. It is an inspirational and easy to read book and we hope to be able to share this book with you all in some way later this year. But there is a short chapter in the book titled 'The Desert' and it seemed to speak into where we may find ourselves now. I wonder how this will speak to you.

"It goes by many names - darkness, chaos, desert, liminality, the wilderness, Gethsemane, the dark forest. But the journey to the new invariably seems to go through this place. It would be much easier all round if it were possible to jump from the old to the new in one sweet move with no pain. But rarely it is.

It's a place of being stripped of certainty, a place of insecurity. A place of unknowing.

A place where you have to let go of the old, but you can't see the way ahead.

A place of self-doubt. A place where your inner critic goes wild.

A place where you feel like giving up.

A place of wondering why on earth you embarked on this journey.

It can also be a creative place. A place for learning.

A place for deep questions about who you are and what you are about.

A place that shapes you. A place to be silent and listen.

A place you are alone with God. A place of prayer.

A place of new resolve.

If you find yourself in that place it's normal. Try not to run from it too quickly."

Warm wishes from Jenny, Heidi, Alex, and Niall

If you would like to contact the team: jenny.bourne@thearkbus.org.uk

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Joint Service- Shirehampton, Easter Compton and Horfield at 10.00 on 8 August at the church and on Zoom - Eco Church by Local Arrangement.

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

Bishopston on 8 August at 10.30 at the church led by H. Cook with Holy Communion
St.Peter's Pilning on 8 August at 10.00 at the church led by R.Shaw.

Our pre-recorded worship this week has been prepared by Rev Mandy Briggs, Education Officer at the New Room, and provides a reflection on the story of the Good Shepherd and how that relates to our care for the environment. Please follow this link <https://youtu.be/sQxmje3m00I>

Horfield. Junior Church will be taking a holiday during August. Hopefully they 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 9 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 Wednesday morning meeting during August from 10.00 to 11.00 on Zoom. Details below.

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/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

Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10 led by Rev. Richard Frazer of Greyfriars Kirk, Edinburgh at the start of the City's Festivals.

Songs of Praise. BBC 2 at 1.15. Generating Communities. Aled Jones visits the newly created Fountains Church in Bradford, to see how this former nightclub is bringing spiritual refreshment and regeneration to the community.

Daily Service at 09.45 each weekday - BBC Radio 4 LW

WORSHIP DETAILS FOR SUNDAY 15 AUGUST

Joint Service at Horfield with Bishopston and Easter Compton, led by K. Luxton

Shirehampton at the Church led by Rev Patrick Stonehewer with Holy Communion.

St Peter's Pilning at the Church led by the Anglican Ministry.

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

BRISTOL CHURCHES' WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

You might have heard about the successful Night Shelter run by Bristol Churches using a B&B during last winter. This was a follow-on from the church-based hosting in which Horfield Methodist Church participated.

The change was necessitated by Covid but actually had a lot of advantages for guests and the plan is to continue with the B&B arrangements later this year over Christmas and into 2022.

Church teams and individuals linked to churches provided the support for the project last winter and we have been invited to help again. This email is to check whether we could provide a support team from Horfield (including people from other related churches) or whether, as last year, some individuals from the churches will help but not as part of a 'Horfield team'.

Just for info: the project is hoping to run from November 1st through to the end of March - about 20 weeks in total. We could volunteer to run a week or a regular day for all or part of the programme. Duties would involve meal prep and / or supervision.

Lots of details are unclear at this stage, so all I am looking for are provisional expressions of interest in helping in some way. If we have enough to form a church team, we can then agree how we might be involved. If there aren't enough volunteers for a team, I can still pass on names of individuals willing to help.

If you are interested in being involved, please respond by: Monday August 9 to Stephen.holliday@cantab.net

Advert - Project Coordinator - Jobs, Training and Enterprise Hub

(6-month part-time contract, 2.5 -3 days per week/ 20-24 hrs)

Located at Shirehampton Methodist Church in the Bristol and South Glos. Methodist Circuit, this is an exciting opportunity to help shape a new project together at Shirehampton Methodist Church.

We are seeking a self-starter, someone with special skills and abilities, working with the Management Team and others to enable this project to commence from end September.

Following a capital grant from the Port Community Resilience Fund we have been raising funds for running costs. The Church is now keen to take this project to the next level. More details and a recruitment pack available from: circuitfinance@bsgc.org.uk **Call to discuss the role - Rev'd Pearl Luxon on: 07905 677845**

Shirehampton. All are welcome to come to a 'drop in' for tea, cakes and a chat on Mondays 9 and 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.

Eco-Tip. On Your Bike. Recent statistics suggest the number of people cycling at least five times per week in Britain has reached almost 3 million, and it is increasing year on year. Ditching the regular four-wheel morning commute in favour of two-wheeled transport will cut your carbon emissions, burn through some extra calories and reduce your risk of cardiovascular disease by up to 46%. Try cycling instead of using your car or car share when possible.

A range of resources, including resources for discussion groups, all-age worship and hymns on the theme of creation can be found on the Singing The Faith Plus website.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/themes/climate-and-creation/climate-sunday-2021/>

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: Bertha Lakey, Ray Leamon, Winnie Leaning, Julie Leeming, Joan Lewis.

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 11th and Thursday 12th

Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th

Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th

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

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

Reflection on the Lectionary Sunday 8 August (Ordinary 19)

Psalm 130; 2 Samuel 18: 5 - 9, 15, 31 - 33; Ephesians 4: 25 - 5 : 2; John 6: 35, 41 - 51



This reflection is provided by Local Preacher Stephen Holliday (Horfield).

In our Gospel reading Jesus says: 'I am the bread of life'. In our household, we tend to disagree about bread. My wife likes what I call 'fancy bread': usually brown, strongly flavoured, with seeds of various kinds inside or sprinkled on top, which I dislike because they stick in my teeth! My bread of choice is plain white, no fancy stuff, out of a packet or to cut myself. Probably as a result of not agreeing, we find we are not big bread eaters and see a loaf as a bit of a treat rather than a regular part of our diet.

Those who heard Jesus would have viewed bread differently. There wouldn't have been much variety and it would have been an everyday food, something that was an essential part of their diet. So, when Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life,' that would have had a strong and immediate impact. Of course, bread was only an image; these verses are not about bread at all; they are about what is needed to live a full and fulfilled life

The point Jesus makes is that all of us need spiritual nourishment as well as physical food. Spiritual nourishment is what feeds that inner desire for peace, satisfaction and contentment; it is what fills the void inside each of us and quells those restless feelings that there has to be more to life than we are currently experiencing. Jesus is saying that he alone is the answer to our search for purpose and meaning in life. The words 'I' or 'me' - Jesus - occur more than thirty times in this short passage of John's Gospel. It is Jesus, and only Him, who can satisfy our spiritual hunger.

The flip side is that wherever else we look for security, peace, contentment or fulfilment we will not find it or we will discover that it only offers a temporary answer. Our money, our qualifications, our human relationships, our status in society, or position in the church might make us feel good at times but none of these will satisfy the inner craving that needs a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

The offer Jesus makes is some offer! He offers each of us a personal relationship with Him, not just for this life but forever (verses 51 and 54); if we put our faith in Him, we will 'never go hungry' and 'never go thirsty' (v 35) in a spiritual sense; he reminds us that through Him our sins are forgiven: 'this bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world' (v 51). When we celebrate Holy Communion we are celebrating these amazing promises and the transformational power of Jesus. Yet, just as bread is an everyday food for some, so remind us that Jesus' words are an everyday those who put their faith in Him.

St Augustine said: 'Lord our hearts are restless their rest in you'. Lord, may we find our rest in you Christ, the bread of life. Amen.'

Our thanks to Stephen for this reflection.



in our lives.
these verses
promise for

until they find
through Jesus