



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 12 September 2021



The situation in Afghanistan continues to change rapidly and the future for her people remains very uncertain. Many are offering help and support to charities and aid agencies who are working within the country and also to the Afghan people who are being resettled in the UK. In addition to our prayers, there are some ways that we can help those remaining in Afghanistan, where poverty and food insecurity is still likely to be very high within the country. A significant amount of humanitarian aid has already been paused in the country, but despite difficult conditions, a number of agencies are still seeking to distribute essential items when they are able. If you are able to support their work financially, as well as remembering them in prayer, here are some suggestions:

Christian Aid have been working with partners to distribute food and hygiene kits to people who have been internally displaced due to the conflict. They're using funds from their Global Hunger Emergency appeal:
<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/news/afghanistan-our-response>

The British Red Cross are also fundraising for their work across Afghanistan:
<https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/afghanistan-crisis-appeal>.

UNHCR remains on the ground in Afghanistan wherever safe to do so, distributing core relief items:
<https://www.unrefugees.org.uk/where-help-is-needed/afghanistan-situation/>.

Gracious and holy God,

We come to you with the situation in Afghanistan heavy on our hearts. It is a situation so complicated, and so fast moving, that it is difficult for us to know what to say or how to think.

We hold before you the people of the country, those who stay and those who flee; those living with terror and afraid for the future; those who, because of this latest turn of events, will never be able to live the fullness of life that is your purpose. We hold all this before you.

We hold open to you the future: the world leaders with a role in shaping what happens next; the many who are becoming refugees and the people who will be called upon to offer them safety and a future; the impact of these local events on our world story. We hold all this open to you.

We hold in your love all those known to us whose lives have been bound up in the recent story of Afghanistan. We think of all those who have served there in our Armed Forces, those who were injured and those who did not return. We hold in our hearts all those for whom this is a time of special grieving and confusion, and those who minister to them. We hold all these in your love.

Rock of ages, at this difficult time we lean into your timelessness.

Turn us, and all people, to your good purposes for your world. Grant courage and wisdom, hope and a future.

Amen

Michael Gibson, a long standing member of our church family at Horfield died on 4 September. As we receive this news with sadness, let us hold Michael before God, with thanks for all that we shared together and that he is now at peace in God's eternal presence. In this time of loss and pain, we pray for his wife Elaine, their wider family, neighbours and friends, and all who knew and loved Michael. May all of us know the peace of God's presence today and in the days to come. Details of Michael's funeral will be shared when arrangements have been made. *Rev Patrick*

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Joint Service at Horfield and on Zoom with Easter Compton & Shirehampton at 10.00 led by Rev. D. Edwards. 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.

Bishopston at 10.30 led by Rev Patrick Stonehewer, with Holy Communion.

St. Peter's Pilning at 10.00 led by C. Leese.

Horfield Junior Church. Meeting at church.

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

Open Café Church on 13 September from 10.00 onwards hosted by St Peter's, Pilning. Please contact churchwardenpilning@gmail.com for the joining details.

Evening Prayer every Wednesday at 4.00 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. You are all invited to join our weekly Bible Study on Zoom, which starts again on Wednesday 15 September, 7.45-9.15pm including some time for prayer. We will be continuing to look at Mark's Gospel, using the material provided for Bible Month. Zoom links below

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 12 September

Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10. No advertised theme

Songs of Praise. BBC 1 at 1.45. Sean Fletcher discovers how Pendle in Lancashire has inspired radical Christians.

Daily Service at 09.45 each weekday - BBC Radio 4 LW

WORSHIP DETAILS FOR 19 September

Joint Service at Horfield and on Zoom with Easter Compton and Bishopston at 10.00. A Local Arrangement.

Shirehampton at 11.00 led by Rev. Patrick Stonehewer with Holy Communion.

St. Peter's, Pilning at 10.00 led by the Anglican Team.

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

GENERAL NOTICES

Great Big Green week. 18 - 26 September is a national week of events celebrating action on climate change. Find out about events in your area, set-up your own and *explore the resources on offer*.

Bishopston. We have to elect a representative from the Church meeting to the unified Church Council with Horfield. If you are interested in this post, please contact Rev. Patrick Stonehewer. This appointment will be confirmed by Sunday 10 October.

Faith in Action: Partnership in Mission on the road to COP26. Monday September 13, 7.30pm

Last year a group of young people from around the world were employed to work together on a campaign for COP26 Climate talks. Then the pandemic hit! What has it been like to work in a global team? Across cultures? Never having met each other physically? And what on earth is COP26? How does a climate campaign fit in to ideas of mission and partnership?

Join in the upcoming 'Faith in Action' Zoom event from Global Relationships, with Camila from Uruguay and James from Britain who are part of the Climate Justice for All Campaign. Find out more and ask your own questions at this event. You must register in advance - you will receive an email with the meeting details and link after registration. Register at <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUrce2prjMrGtKeoUWkj4U4KZjISxrorh1d>

Bishopston and Horfield. A message from John and Elaine Hopper. "We are settling in well and putting our stamp on our new bungalow. Life here is much quieter and less hectic than in Bristol, and being near Chris and Finn is lovely. We get to see them every few days which is great. Chris has become our assistant gardener and handy man. We are very glad we made the move when we did. Please pass on our best wishes to the folks at both Bishopston and Horfield".

Horfield. Harvest Festival on 26 September money donated to the Bristol Methodist Centre and produce for the Food Bank.

URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS FOR THE FOOD BANK.

LONG LIFE / UHT MILK - TINNED POTATOES - TINNED FRUIT - SPONGE PUDDINGS - WASHING-UP LIQUID - DEODORANT - CRISPS AND OTHER SAVOURY SNACKS - SWEET TREATS

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

Horfield. Good news. Little Fishes will be starting back on Friday 17 September, 10 - 11.30. Hooray!

Horfield. Congratulations to Isobel (nee Grady) and Luke Winchcombe and Naomi (nee Cornell) and Tommy Coltman on their weddings on 28 August. We wish them lots of happiness over their future years together.

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: Linnette Nelson, The Neighbourhood and Mission Group, Richard and Indira Norton, The Novel Group.

Shirehampton. There will be a short Church Council meeting in the church at 12noon on Sunday 19 September, following morning worship to deal with some items regarding the JTE Hub. The regular autumn Church Council will be on Sunday 17 October

Dates for your diary

Horfield

Sunday 26 September. Harvest Festival. Gifts for the Food bank and money for the Bristol Methodist Centre
Friday 1 October at 19.30. On Zoom, Eco-Church Group.

Tuesday 19 October at 19.30. Church Council.

Shirehampton.

Sunday 19 at 12 noon. A short Church Council Meeting following Morning Worship.

Sunday 17 October. Regular Church Council.

All Churches.

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

Special days this week

September 12. National Day of Encouragement.

September 13. Roald Dahl Day

September 15. Greenpeace Day

September 16. Mayflower Day

September 16. International Day for the preservation of the Ozone Layer.

Reflection on the Lectionary Sunday 12th September (Ordinary 24)

Psalm 19; Proverbs 1: 20 - 33; James 3 : 1 - 12; Mark 8 : 27 - 38

This reflection is provided by Local Preacher Naomi Sharp.

Reading: Mark 8.27-38

Who do you think you are? Seventeen series in, the television programme exploring family history remains hugely popular, mixing painstaking research, surprise, and poignancy as it uncovers the stories of the previous generations in the family of whichever celebrity is the topic of the programme. Many people make use of online genealogy websites to learn about their own families or, in a more haphazard fashion, get glimpses of personal history as relatives move house, clear the loft and pass on forgotten boxes of treasures. It seems that knowing about our past is an important part of understanding ourselves and where we belong.

This is where Peter also starts when Jesus asks, "Who do people say that I am?" (Verse 27). Understandably, people are comparing Jesus to prophets and leaders of the distant past (Elijah or one of the prophets) or near past (John the Baptist). This happens today also - we hear someone talked about like this: "They're the next Nelson Mandela/Florence Nightingale/Maradona," which is a compliment.

But back to Peter, Jesus then asks, "But who do you say that I am?" Instead of looking back and reaching for a great ancestor to describe who Jesus is, Peter looks into the future, saying, "You are the Messiah." Somehow, by faith, he sees that Jesus is more than any who have gone before, that he is God's chosen one in whom all God's promises find fulfilment. So far so good! But then Jesus begins to talk about what will come next, his suffering, death and resurrection. I feel sorry for Peter. He has stuck his neck out and made a great statement of faith in Jesus as Messiah, but he doesn't yet understand what that really means. The idea that God's chosen one should be humiliated seems completely out of keeping with his understanding of the Messiah but when he says so Jesus roundly ticks him off. It can't have cheered him up to hear Jesus say that not only he, but those who follow after him will walk a path marked by suffering.

I wonder if, like me, you ever find yourself questioning who you are? If so, perhaps this passage can remind us to be balanced in our thinking. We need to hold together understanding our past, seeing our God-given calling for the future with the eye of faith, and recognising that who we are is shaped by who Jesus is and the path he has trodden before us.

Jesus Christ, you are God's chosen one and Saviour of all.

You are our example and our companion.

We worship you.

Help us, we pray, in those times when we question who we are.

*Give us wisdom and insight to understand ourselves as you see us,
and courage to follow the path on which you guide us.*

Amen.

Our thanks to Naomi for this reflection.