



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 19 September 2021



A poster on my university bedroom wall proclaimed 'God so loved the world that he didn't send a committee,' a tongue-in-cheek comment about Methodism's love of meetings, something we are renowned for. They serve as places to work on any number of things: making arrangements for worship, managing our buildings and financial affairs, caring for one another, discerning how we develop our mission and so on, but they all represent places where we can and do encounter God together.

The Synod of the Bristol Methodist District met last weekend, in person for the first time in two years: it was good to reconnect with friends and colleagues, and to meet new ones. Our key speaker came from A Rocha, the Christian charity which works for the protection and restoration of the natural world, committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment. A Rocha leads the eco-church scheme which we are already working on in some churches, also as a Circuit and as a District. For me, there was a real sense of God's presence working in and through us, as we debated the right form of words and committed ourselves to embodying our care and concern for the environment within our working practice as a church. In our meeting and our conferring, God's love was at work for the world:

Everlasting God, whose Spirit broods everlastingly over the lands and the waters, and endows them with form and colour:

give us, we pray, the mind and heart to rejoice in the majesty of creation.

Teach us to be responsible stewards of this world and to seek the common good, that through your blessing all may flourish,

and creation sing your praise in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

FORTHCOMING SERVICES on 19 September

Joint Service at Horfield and on Zoom with Easter Compton and Bishopston at 10.00. A 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 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 led by Rev. Patrick Stonehewer with Holy Communion.

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

Horfield Junior Church will be meeting at church this week, starting at 10.00 along with everyone else.

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

Open Café Church on 20 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, on Wednesdays from 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 19 September

Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10. Lessons and Hope. The Right Rev. Dr. David Bruce reflects on faith when looking to the past and the future

Songs of Praise. BBC 1 at 1.45. Fruits of Creation. The Rev. Kate Bottley joins Christians in Hackney as churches plan for harvest festival.

Daily Service at 09.45 each weekday - BBC Radio 4 LW

WORSHIP DETAILS FOR 26 September

Joint Service at Horfield and on Zoom with Easter Compton at 10.00. Harvest Festival and All Age Worship

Bishopston at 10.30 led by Tim Lansdown

Shirehampton at 11.00 led by Jo Hill

St. Peter's, Pilning at 10.00 led by Rev. Patrick Stonehewer 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

Dear Friends at Horfield. My darling Michael had been on bed rest since 4 August 2020. He spent 20 hours of every day in bed due to a nasty pressure sore. In January we received the most devastating news. He had bladder cancer which they could not treat. Michael and I made a decision to only inform family and very close friends as we felt this was a very delicate and personal situation. I promised Michael, that I, and I alone would care for him and I feel rather proud to say I managed to do so until he passed peacefully away on 4 September. In the whole year, in which Michael spent the majority of his time in bed, he remained cheerful, he held his great faith very close and not once did he complain. Due to his MS he suffered no pain at all. Michael organised his own "Farewell and Thanksgiving Service". He made requests (via me) to individuals to support him and everyone without exception asked me to inform Michael they felt privileged to help. He was thrilled to know that the service would be just as he planned with people he held in high regard. Please attend if you can, the service is at 2pm on 27 September at Memorial Woodlands, Earthcott Green, Alveston BS35 3TA. Michael requested no black attire and no flowers. If people wished they could donate to Fight Bladder Cancer in his memory. Love to you all. **Elaine Gibson**

GENERAL NOTICES

Great Big Green week. September 18 - 26 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](#).

You may be interested in a new online gathering called "**Hope & Anchor**", which will launch on Tuesdays 12:45-1:15pm starting 28 September on the Methodist Church Facebook page and other digital channels.

Hope and Anchor - co-hosted by President of the Conference Sonia Hicks, members of the Evangelism and Growth Team, and other special guests - explores faith in an inclusive, fun, non-judgmental way. It features people from Britain and across the world who are taking faith outside of the box, addressing challenging questions and preconceptions with intelligence, loads of laughter, and interactive participation with an online audience.

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.

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

Horfield. Harvest Festival on 26 September. Any money donated goes 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. 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: George Otoo, Philip Parr, Alima and Tom Parkes/Oyebanji John and Eurfron Parry and the Pilates Active Group.

Horfield. The Art Club will be starting up again on Friday 24 September from 14.00 to 16.00 in the Hall. Please bring your own equipment and a face mask (unless you have an exemption). This is open to anyone who wishes to come. No previous experience required.

Horfield. It has been decided to concentrate our efforts and our giving to fewer charities throughout the year, so, if you have a home missions, overseas missions or JMA collection box please hand it in to one of the stewards. Any money will be forwarded to those missions. We would like to thank all those members who have organised and collected for these organisations over the years and hope that you will continue to support the Church's chosen charities in the future.

Horfield. In case of fire or need of a quick evacuation from the premises, please keep calm and follow the directions of the stewards to exit the church. Congregate on the pavement at the junction of Gloucester Road and Wellington Hill. Please wait there until you are dismissed.

Charity 1625ip(1625 Independent People) is holding a Sleep Out at the Lloyds Amphitheatre on Thursday 21 October to raise funds to support young people. There will be food available, drinks, live performances and speeches before settling down for a cold winter's night. Further details from www.1625ip.co.uk.

Dates for your diary

Shirehampton.

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

Sunday 17 October. Regular Church Council.

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.

Special days this week

Tuesday 21 September. International Day of Peace Tuesday 21 September. World Alzheimer's Day.
Wednesday 22 September. World Car Free Day.

Reflection on the Lectionary Sunday 19 September (Ordinary 25)

Psalm 1; Proverbs 31 : 10 - 31; James 3 : 13 - 4 : 8a; Mark 9 : 30 - 37

This reflection is provided by Local Preacher Jenny Clark (Yate).

Mark 9: 30-37

Several years ago, I attended a naming ceremony. I don't know what I expected but it was effectively a wonderful party to celebrate the new arrival and rather like the Fairies in the story of Sleeping Beauty, several members of the family expressed their hopes for the baby's development, personality and general well-being. A family member who was a Christian, had been asked to say something but was told that it mustn't be religious so she said to the baby, 'You have a wonderful loving family so be confident, successful, kind, helpful and always be prepared to stand at the back of a queue.' People laughed but after putting a gift on the table, she said 'God bless.' Apart from a scowl from one of the parents, she was delighted when a couple of relatives said that it was nearly a Christening.

Many people these days don't feel the need for any religious belief, yet we can see its fruits in many aspects of ordinary life. Christianity is very much based on example and the disciples of Jesus often revelled in His popularity and the wonders He performed. The Gospel today reminds us that the essence of Christ on earth was to suffer, die and be raised up for our salvation but the disciples were too afraid to seek clarity.

It is so easy today to hide away the details and keep everything positive. Jesus, our Saviour, became humble, He washed feet, He served His fellow human beings and deserves to be recognised and celebrated. It can be quite difficult to proclaim our Saviour without putting people off!

I am sure many of us are amazed by the achievements of Paralympians. Greatness has come through really hard work and dedication. Several comment that they have had to stand in the shadows, bearing prejudice and ridicule. Despite various disabilities they perform feats that many able-bodied are in awe of. Over many years, systems have changed and we are now well aware of what ability means. There is something special about positivity and how it can inspire and show an inner spirit.

Jesus reminds us all that example is important and greatness comes from encouraging others to see the wonders of the kingdom, sometimes before we can see it ourselves. We believe that proclaiming Jesus, whether in words or actions is the witness God needs us to provide.

As we observe the World with all its divisions and problems, let us see how Christ can change the behaviour of many, through us. Let us celebrate the inroads regarding community and fellowship during the pandemic that have been made but remember the words of Jesus, 'Whoever welcomes a child in my name, welcomes me and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me'. I am sure that we all pray that whatever works for children will work for the whole human race, so let us be His faithful servants now and forever.

Prayer

Loving Lord, you know us better than we know ourselves, so help us recognise our strengths and weaknesses and be empowered to serve you with love and humility. Amen.

Our thanks to Jenny.