

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 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 26 September 2021



Much of our news agenda is focused on domestic matters, and whilst that is important, some significant events in other parts of the world have dropped from the agenda. Just over a month ago, on the morning of 14 August (local time) a devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti. A few days later, Tropical Depression Grace made landfall in Haiti, causing further damage and destruction. The Haitian Civil Protection have recently reported that an estimated 2,189 people are known to have died, over 12,200 people are injured, and at least 129,000 homes have been either damaged or completely destroyed.

The outpouring of generosity in response to an appeal by All We Can and the global Methodist family has enabled humanitarian aid partners in the region to begin meeting the urgent needs of those most impacted by the earthquake. Many families in affected regions have left their homes and are sleeping outside, fearing the collapse of buildings. Water cisterns were also damaged in the quake, interrupting vital access to clean drinking water. Similarly, with many families now living out in the open, there are fears that a deadly cholera outbreak - like the one that spread following the 2010 earthquake - may further complicate the already difficult situation many families find themselves in.

To help meet these critical needs, emergency food supplies (including rice, oil and beans), water purification tablets, sanitary equipment and temporary shelter materials are already reaching 2600 of the most impacted households in the Grand Anse and Nippes regions. To ensure that farming households can quickly revive production, seeds and tools will be distributed for the winter agriculture season in the near future. Once immediate humanitarian needs have been met, families will need support to regain their livelihoods and focus on long-term recovery - and so efforts are already underway to plan for recovery and rehabilitation.

As we pray, let us remember those in Haiti who have recently lost their lives in Haiti. We pray for those who still battle with grief and loss from previous natural disasters there, even years later. We pray for children growing up having lost parents, siblings or grandparents. We pray for all who still lack permanent shelter, and for God's provision and protection for the next generation of Haitian children. Amen

SERVICES on 26 September

Joint Service at Horfield and on Zoom at 10.00. *Harvest Festival and All Age Worship*

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

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

Bishopston at 10.30 led by Tim Lansdown

Shirehampton at 11.00 led by Jo Hill

St. Peter's, Pilning with Easter Compton at 10.00 led by Rev. Patrick Stonehewer with Holy Communion

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

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 26 September

Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10. All Good Gifts. Harvest Festival live from Holy Trinity Church, Westbury-On-Trym, Bristol. Preacher: The Revd Canon Dr Martin Gainsborough.

Songs of Praise. BBC 1 at 1.15. Where Songs of Praise began. Aled Jones introduces memorable moments from 60 years of Songs of Praise. **Daily Service** at 09.45 each weekday - BBC Radio 4 L

Open Café Church on 27 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/joinuservice-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

WORSHIP DETAILS FOR 3 October

Joint Service at Horfield with Bishopston at 10.00 led by Rev. Patrick Stonehewer with Holy Communion.

Shirehampton at 11.00 led by Rev. P. Luxon.

St Peter's Pilning with Easter Compton at 10.00 led by Rev. P Rowe with Holy Communion.

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

Sunday 26th September 2pm - 6.30pm: Pearl and Ken Luxon are having a long-awaited/ long-promised House warming drop-in open house. To which all are welcome. To avoid a crush given the caution we should have for Covid-19 please phone or email beforehand with an approximate time you will come. We hope the weather will be fine however and the garden and a gazebo will be available and the house will also be well ventilated. The side passage to the garden is more accessible than the front door, but there are a few steps. Phone 0117 907 5933 or email pearlluxon@gmail.com 32 Park Road, Shirehampton BS11 0EF Thank you, Pearl and Ken

Eden- A Creation Story- A Jonathan Crow Original Musical Performance on Saturday 25 September 2021 at 4pm Horfield Parish Church, 43 Wellington Hill, Bristol BS7 8SP

North Bristol's Advice Centre's Get Online drop-in will restart from early October 2021 - in a new, and bigger venue. The popular sessions, which support people to develop their digital skills and confidence, will now be held in the shop-front space at No. 6 Gainsborough Square (formerly Buzz cafe). Our friendly, fully-trained, volunteers will be on hand to help with everything from the basics - such as setting up an email address - to filling in online forms, claiming Universal Credit, searching for jobs or finding best deals. You can bring your own laptop, phone or tablet, or use one of ours. The drop-in will run Tuesdays 10.00am - 12.30pm and Wednesday 1.30 pm - 4pm at No. 6 Gainsborough Square. No appointment is needed. Desks will be well-spaced and if we reach capacity, we may ask attendees to limit their stay to 1 hour maximum. For more information please contact NBAC 0117 9515751 / team@northbristoladvice.org.uk

At the beginning of October, the UK Government plans to cut **Universal Credit** by £20 per week. This move could push 2.3 million people into debt, and force over a million people to skip meals and switch the heating off in their homes. The Trussell Trust have produced a quick online action to email your MP, to ask them to urge the government to keep the lifeline.

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: The Pastoral Group, Chris & Anna Pawlik, Jim Pocock, Margaret Postlethwaite.

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: Church Lettings: please contact Heather on bookings@horfieldmethodist.org.uk

WEEKLY NOTICES. Please send items to Eurfron by Tuesday, eurfron@blueyonder.co.uk or 0117 969 1908.

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

Horfield: message from A Rocha

Dear Eco Church team at Horfield Methodist Church, Thank you for your application for a Bronze Eco Church Award. I have checked your survey scores and am delighted to confirm your award. Well done to everyone involved in reaching this milestone! Please do share this email with your church leaders and community as appropriate.



Horfield- A small group are starting a Gardening Team to help Jim maintain the grounds around the church. If you would like to join them, they will be meeting on Thursday at 2 p.m. Please bear in mind that this is gardening on a steeply sloping site with a big drop to the pavement. For further information please speak with Monique or Lou.

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.

Dates for your diary

Shirehampton.

Sunday 17 October. Regular Church Council.

Horfield & Bishopston

Friday 1 October at 19.30. On Zoom, Eco-Church Group.

Friday 15 October- Leadership Meeting on Zoom at 19.30

Tuesday 19 October at 19.30. Church Council

Thursday 21 October at 19.30. Stewards + at church

Special days this week

26 September- European Day of Languages. 29 September- World Heart Day. 1 October- Coffee Day.

Reflection on the Lectionary Sunday 26th September (Ordinary 26)

Psalm 124; Esther 7: 1 - 6, 9 - 10; James 5: 13 - 20; Mark 9: 38 - 50

This reflection is provided by Local Preacher Dottie North (Victoria).

The ancient world was full of stories in which the threatened hero or heroine is rescued at last, and the people who had almost overcome them are condemned instead. David kills Goliath. Homer's heroes - some of them anyway - defeat their rivals after tense battles. The Son of Man is exalted, the Beast destroyed. Plenty of plays and novels follow the same line. The story of the twentieth century is told in similar terms: think of Hitler, or Mussolini.

So why do we find Esther 7 so hard to take? The vengeance is stark and shocking. Haman is hanged on the gallows he'd prepared for Mordecai, Esther's uncle. Rough justice at best, we think, at worst a bad-tempered lynching. Haman had of course "asked for it." He had plotted a major pogrom against a large and widespread Jewish community. Not for nothing have twentieth century Jews felt history repeating itself, with Hitler partially succeeding where Haman failed. But what does the Gospel say?

Well, perhaps not exactly what we might think. Is the worm turning in our sensibilities, as some theologians remind us that being nice to everybody, seeking reconciliation at any price, has to be balanced by naming and dealing with evil? Events in South Africa, in Northern Ireland, in our lifetime, have shown us that the reconciliation process needed to include the recognition that evil had occurred before forgiveness and healing could take place.

James, in his letter, urges those in the early church to call out wrong-doing and to pray, as "the prayer of a godly person is powerful." And in Mark 9, with its tender care for "these little ones who believe in me," there are ominous and uncomfortable words about millstones around necks and unquenchable fire.

Often throughout history the awareness of God, or even of the people of God, brings out the worst in some people and they commit atrocities in the attempt to turn people away from their faith. We can think of many examples of this happening across the world just now, and we despair. Leaving vengeance to God, as Paul instructs in Romans 12: 19 - 21 was a revolutionary concept then and still remains so for us.....and yet we should