



## 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](http://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 3 October 2021



#### Giving thanks for our Harvest

Jesus refers to God as "the Lord of the harvest" (Matthew 9:38). ...

In all of this transition of the seasons, celebration of harvest and preparing for a season of familial celebrations that is around this time of year, I realise that the harvest is a wider concept than I had thought. Harvest is God's provision for us and God's blessing for others. While we celebrate a harvest season just once a year, we experience the spirit of harvest all the time.

Each day that we go to a job and earn a pay cheque, we experience harvest. Each time we receive love from our family and those in our lives, we experience harvest. Each time we experience the closeness of God in a way that fills us spiritually, we experience harvest. Any time we are fulfilled, we experience harvest.

Harvest then isn't something that we experience once a year, but something that we experience on a daily basis. We recognize that He is the one who gave us hands to work, that He is the one who supplies our provisions, We recognize the Lord of the harvest for who He is in our lives, we also embrace the fact that our harvest is something He gives to meet our needs, it's also something He wants us to use to bless others.

All those wonderful things in our lives that we give thanks for - dancing, music, sport, creative arts, writing and poetry, cooking, enjoying the company of others. Those things exist, in large part, to be a blessing to the world around us.

That's why it was a joy to see the fruits of our skills and talents on display on each window of the church at Horfield and to give thanks for the different kinds of harvest that God provides.

*Give us, O Lord, the perception we need to look within ourselves and discover the beauty and gifts we possess. Give us the courage to show others the talents they have. Help us serve others in the community and in so doing build up your kingdom. We ask this through Jesus, our Lord. Amen.*

(Inspired by the writing of Benjamin L. Corey)

#### FORTHCOMING SERVICES on 3 October

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

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. P. Luxon.

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

**All Age devotions** for everyone, available via [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com)

### **OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 3 October**

**Sunday Worship.** Radio 4 at 8.10. Renewed and Eternal Hope, from Croydon Seventh Day Adventist Church.

**Songs of Praise.** BBC 1 at 2.45. 60th Anniversary at Westminster Abbey, with special guests and presenters from the past and present.

**Daily Service** at 09.45 each weekday, BBC Radio 4 LW

**Open Café Church** on 4 October from 10.00 onwards hosted by St Peter's, Pilning. Please contact [churchwardenpilning@gmail.com](mailto: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

### **WORSHIP DETAILS FOR 10 October**

**Joint Service at Horfield with Shirehampton** at 10.00 led by D. Bolton.

**Shirehampton** at 4.45. Local Arrangement at the Cotswold Centre.

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

**St Peter's Pilning with Easter Compton** at 10.00 led by Adam Biddlestone.

**WEEKLY NOTICES.** Please send items to Eurfron by Tuesday, [eurfron@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:eurfron@blueyonder.co.uk) or 0117 969 1908.

**HORFIELD ROOM BOOKINGS.** Please contact Heather on [bookings@horfieldmethodist.org.uk](mailto:bookings@horfieldmethodist.org.uk)

### **GENERAL NOTICES**

**North Bristol Advice** continues to provide free and independent welfare benefits and debt advice in North Bristol and South Gloucestershire. Advice is offered by telephone, online and at face-to-face appointments in Lockleaze, Patchway, Shirehampton & Kingswood. Contact 0117 951 5751 or visit [www.northbristoladvice.org.uk](http://www.northbristoladvice.org.uk)

**North Bristol's Advice Centre's Get Online drop-in** will restart from early October in a new and bigger venue. The popular sessions, which support people to develop their digital skills and confidence, will be held in the shopfront space at 6 Gainsborough Square, Lockleaze. 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. No appointment is needed. Desks will be well-spaced and if we reach capacity, we may have to ask attendees to limit their stay to 1 hour maximum.

The drop-in will run Tuesdays 10.00 - 12.30 and Wednesday 1.30 - 4.00 at 6 Gainsborough Square.

<http://www.northbristoladvice.org.uk/our-services/getonline>

**Eco-tips.** Resist the temptation to clear up your garden; allow vegetation to die back naturally and leave seed heads, especially on plants such as teasels, thistles and sunflowers. This provides food and shelter for birds through the coldest months.

Many supermarkets now have containers for recycling soft plastic.

**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](http://www.1625ip.co.uk)

**Horfield.** We're delighted to mark a further significant occasion amongst members and friends - John and Rachel Gowin were married on 7 October 1961 and will be celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary this coming week. We're richly blessed by their presence amongst us, and congratulate them both!

**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: Sue Pollard, Jamie and Mary Quilala, Lorraine Richardson, Ruby Reid.

**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 and Bishopston**

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 Horfield

#### **Special days this week**

Sunday 3 October. World Architecture Day

Monday 4 October. World Animal Day, World Habitat Day and World Space Week

Thursday 7 October. Jeans for Genes Day, National Poetry Day and World Smiles Day

Friday 8 October. World Hospice and Palliative Care Day

Saturday 9 October. World Post Day

#### **Reflection on the Lectionary Sunday 3rd October (Ordinary 27)**

Psalm 26; Job 1 : 1, 2 : 1 - 10; Hebrews 1 : 1 - 4, 2 : 5 - 12; Mark 10 : 2 - 16

This reflection is provided by Local Preacher Clare Campion - Smith (Victoria).

Psalm 131 - Song of Quiet Trust A Song of Ascents. Of David.

O Lord, my heart is not lifted up,  
my eyes are not raised too high;  
I do not occupy myself with things too great  
and too marvellous for me.  
But I have calmed and quieted my soul,  
like a weaned child with its mother;  
my soul is like the weaned child that is with me.

O Israel, hope in the Lord  
from this time on and for evermore.

#### Mark 10: 13-16. Jesus Blesses Little Children

On the wall of our church hangs the baptismal roll. Across the top are the words 'suffer the little children to come unto me.' The roll is a celebration of new life but also a reminder of the responsibility of the church to young children.

These few verses in Mark's gospel bring a vivid picture to mind. Jesus surrounded by children was probably a regular occurrence - their curiosity at a visitor to their village would be commonplace but this time we have parents bringing their children to be blessed. In Biblical times, children were no doubt loved and cared for by parents but valued for their potential as adults. They were brought to religious leaders for blessing for that reason. The odd thing was why the disciples turned them away. Were they tired, were they protecting Jesus who was tired, were they feeling rather pompous that day? Who knows? We do know that Jesus would have none of it. He was indignant at their actions and took the opportunity to expand their understanding of what being a disciple meant and the topsy-turvy nature of the kingdom of God. Jesus saw a spiritual significance in children and he wanted the disciples to see it as well and respect and emulate them. 'Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.'

We can only imagine how the disciples received this and whether they watched children more carefully after Jesus' challenge to their conventional thinking. And it is a challenge to us today to tease out what Jesus meant. The role of children in our society has changed considerably. We notice and comment on their curiosity, their freshness of vision, their spontaneity, their capacity to learn, their disregard of status, their acceptance of each new day and the way they live in the present, their ability to sink into deep and restful sleep etc. - I am sure you can fill in other qualities. All these are good things to note and bring to discipleship. But children can be difficult, challenging, demanding, they question authority, they doubt, they are complex humans. We bring all that into our discipleship as well but tempered with a humility and a trust in a God of love.

I feel blessed as I had a happy and stable childhood in a Methodist family. I am not ignoring the traumas that affect some families and some children and we will hold them in our prayers. A good childhood is one in which children can learn and grow, experience happy events, be touched by painful experiences and cope with problems with the support and wisdom of those who love and respect them. When we recognise a child in baptism then we, as a community of faith, take on that responsibility to nurture and support. When we become disciples, when we aspire to know the fullness of living in God's kingdom, then we are both child and adult - curious, learning, trusting, bringing fresh insight, providing nurture and the wisdom of lived experience. It is an exciting prospect. We must acknowledge, though, that this wholeness of relationships must be strived for and worked at. As a church we have not always safeguarded our young people and those adults who are vulnerable for a variety of reasons. This is a shame that is being addressed. The Methodist Conference considered a paper this year on the Theology of Safeguarding. I suspect few of us will read it fully, but it is good to know that we have that background of belief and scholarship and that we have structures in place to help churches facing a problem. There are also people skilled and trained to give compassionate and knowledgeable support to survivors of abuse. Safeguarding is more than doing the DBS checks - important as they are. It is about a mutual responsibility, it is about alertness, it is about understanding that great damage has been done and will still be done if we are not alert, it is a belief that God's kingdom is one of justice alongside mercy.

David's psalm reminds us of our hope and trust in God and is one of few references to a child in the Old Testament.

*"But I have calmed and quieted my soul,  
like a weaned child with its mother;  
my soul is like the weaned child that is with me  
We pray that this may be our experience." Amen*