

# 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 10 October 2021



In the first week of October 1883, a volunteer army officer who was also a Sunday school teacher in a free church in Glasgow, called the first meeting of a Christian organisation for boys. (Later, Sir) William Alexander Smith started one of the first uniformed youth organisations, the Boys' Brigade, which offered a combination of physical activity (drill) and bible study to those who came. BB remains one of the biggest Christian youth organisations in the UK and the Republic of Ireland, still offering opportunities for children and young people to learn, grow and discover in a safe, fun and caring environment, rooted in the Christian faith.

Things have changed and developed in the 138 years since that first meeting, with a wide variety of activities for every young person who participates today, allowing them to develop skills, build confidence, make friends, take responsibility and be encouraged to make a real difference in their communities. Nonetheless, BB continues to share and live out Christian values in all its activities.

We've got plenty of contact with youth and all-age organisations, including those in uniform, our Messy Churches, Junior Church and KigGle, alongside others that use our sets of church premises. As they continue to adapt (not least during the period of the pandemic) to all around, so we as Jesus' disciples for October 2021 are called to do so, sensing God at work outside and within our buildings, encountering God for ourselves and in others.

*To God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Rev Patrick*

### **FORTHCOMING SERVICES on 10 October**

**Joint Service at Horfield with Shirehampton** at 10.00, led by Rev David Bolton.

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** with Easter Compton at 10.00 led by Adam Biddlestone.

Shirehampton at 4.45. Cotswold Christian Community at the Cotswold Centre.

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

## OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 10 October

**Sunday Worship.** Radio 4 at 8.10. "Search me O God and know my heart." A service for Mental Health Day.  
**Songs of Praise.** BBC 1 at 1.15. Claire McCollum is in Coventry, this year's UK City of Culture & host of Faith.  
**Daily Service** at 09.45 each weekday, BBC Radio 4 LW.

**Open Café Church** on 11 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>.

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 are looking at the book of Daniel at the moment, which includes some well-known stories, equally some interesting insights.

## WORSHIP DETAILS FOR 17 October

Joint Service at **Horfield** at 10.00 with Bishopston led by the Messy Church Team  
**Shirehampton** at 11.00 led by Rev. Patrick Stonehewer with Holy Communion.  
**St Peter's Pilning** with Easter Compton at 10.00 conducted by the Anglican Team.

**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

I have a live streaming of the service for Michael Gibson, as he had friends around the world. If you wish to join this way please email me on: [m.e.gibson@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:m.e.gibson@blueyonder.co.uk) I will forward you the link, Kind regards, Elaine

**Do you have a passion for social justice?** Are you aware of the increase in poverty and homelessness as a result of the Covid pandemic? The Bristol Methodist Centre provides sanctuary & support for those affected by homelessness in Bristol. We are now reviewing our service for the future & are looking for skilled volunteers to help with IT, Finance, Fundraising & Marketing as part of our management team. If you have the time and skills to offer, we would like to hear from you! [www.methodist-centre.org.uk](http://www.methodist-centre.org.uk). To find out more, please e-mail Janet George at [george\\_janet@hotmail.com](mailto:george_janet@hotmail.com)

**Enabler of Mission and Unity.** Are you inspired by the vision of Christians working together for the transformation of Bristol? Are you an effective networker, enabler and administrator? If so, this post may be for you. £8,000 - £10,000 per annum, depending on experience. Based in the Bristol region, 10 hours a week. For full details: [https://www.together4bristol.org.uk/Articles/619235/Enabler\\_of\\_Mission.aspx](https://www.together4bristol.org.uk/Articles/619235/Enabler_of_Mission.aspx) Closing date: 15 October 2021

**What has rewilding got to do with the climate crisis?** Rewilding - the large-scale restoration of nature - can help fix the climate crisis and the nature emergency through nature-based solutions, while building thriving

nature-based economies. Nature is our best ally in the fight against climate change. Trees, peatlands, salt marshes and other ecosystems all soak up carbon dioxide and store it.

**Horfield Afternoon Tea.** We shall be holding afternoon teas once a month instead of the monthly lunches, from 14.30 to 15.30 on the second Tuesday of the month. The first one will be on Tuesday, 12 October. Cost £2.50. This is open to anyone in the community. Please contact Eurfron if you intend coming. (0117 9691908).

**The Methodist Centre** would appreciate donations of men's medium- sized underpants.

**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: Kenneth Reid, Miriam Reid, Scrabble group, Scouts.

The first series of **Hope & Anchor**, the Methodist Church's new online spirituality chat show, started on Tuesday 28 September. The first guest was Chine McDonald, journalist, theologian, and author of *God is Not a White Man* and *Other Revelations*. If you missed it you can find it on YouTube or Facebook.

**The Methodist Church Children and Youth Assembly** is taking place at the NEC Birmingham on 29-31 October and it's still not too late to book!

**The popular Wes talks** which look at contemporary issues through the lens of faith, are restarting in October with a consideration of climate change, particularly in light of COP26. Details from John Wesley's New Room.

**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

**Horfield.** Little Fishes for toddlers and parents (Friday morning) and the Art Group for any members of the community (Friday afternoon) are meeting on the premises again.

This Sunday, 10 October the **Cotswold Christian Community** will be meeting in the Community Centre, Shirehampton at 4.45pm to continue the Prayer Course (session 6). There will be video, a short discussion, time of prayer and refreshments.

**ALFA** (a Christian charity that seeks to value and develop skills especially for adults with learning difficulties) will be holding a Harvest Celebration at the Tithe Barn, Shirehampton on Saturday 16 October at 3pm for refreshments, informal worship and activities from 3.30-4.30pm. There will be honey tasting and lavender bags to fill plus some seeds from our garden to give away. All would be welcome. More information from [www.alfacc.org.uk](http://www.alfacc.org.uk) or email [info@alfacc.org.uk](mailto:info@alfacc.org.uk) or phone 0117 982 6455

### **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 in the church

Thursday 11 November at 19.30. Eco Church on Zoom. Speakers are Pauline & Mike Culshaw and Janet George.

### **Special days this week**

Black History Month. 10 October. World Mental Health Day and Seed gathering Sunday.

12 October. World Arthritis Day. 13 October. World Sight Day 16 October. World Food Day.

## Reflection on the Lectionary 10 October (Ordinary 28)

Psalm 90: 12 - 17; Amos 5: 6-7, 10-15; Hebrews 4: 12-16; Mark 10: 17 - 31

This reflection is provided by Local Preacher Chris Sledge (Potters Wood)

Amos 5: 6 - 7, 10 - 15

I must confess to a little self-indulgence in that 'Amos' is one of my favourite books of the Old Testament and I never tire of reading and reflecting upon its message.

The few verses given to us in our Lectionary reading are but a snippet of what Amos has to say and, therefore, can't be taken purely on their own and so need to be seen in the context of the whole prophecy.

Amos' name means "burden" or "burden bearer". He was a shepherd and farmer from the small town of Tekoa in the southern Kingdom of Judah. However, much of his ministry took place in the northern Kingdom of Israel. Under the reign of King Jeroboam II, Israel had reached a position of power and prosperity, but corruption, hypocrisy and oppression were rife.

Amos was not afraid to speak out and proclaimed his message in no uncertain terms and it didn't make for easy listening. In the opening chapters, he pans round to all of Israel's neighbours issuing words of doom and destruction. Then, just when they thought that they had escaped from such messages, in Chapter 5 Amos rounds on Israel and speaks out regarding social injustice (5 : 10 - 15), religious hypocrisy (5 : 21 - 27), vain worship; the rich getting richer at the expense of the poor, people were being short-changed in the market place, bribery was common-place.

A particular thought which occupied the minds of the people centred around "The Day of the Lord" - a time when it was thought all would be well, and there would be peace and harmony. However, there came another strong warning when Amos tells the people that "The Day" would be one of darkness and not light, a day of gloom with no brightness if they didn't live in God's way (5 : 18).

Amidst all of this, Amos pleads with his people Ch 5 v 4 "For thus says the Lord to the House of Israel, seek me and live..." don't get caught up with all the corruption and hypocrisy, despite all that goes against what God would have you do and "let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." (5: 24)

This is the core of the message that Amos was called to give. It is a message that is very much needed in our present situation and very much underlines its relevance for today. "Seek the Lord and live," comes three times (5 : 4, 6, 14) and involves the abandonment of moral and religious malpractice and within that call to return to God comes the threat of exile or destruction for the unrepentant. Amos insists on the moral conditions of spiritual blessing (5 : 14 - 15). God's presence is a reality for those who seek good and that hating evil and loving good they may establish "justice in the gate."

This call to "seek the Lord" is not just a once and for all exercise, but that in every situation we are to seek Him - His guidance, help and strength.

As we continue to follow Christ whose life, death and resurrection was a fulfilment of what Amos and many other of the prophets spoke. May we further seek the Lord, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, so that our faith is deepened and our actions more in tune with His will and purpose.

Prayer

*Help us Lord, to have a right relationship with you and with our neighbours so that we may always live justly.  
Amen*

We thank Chris for this reflection.