



## 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 17 October 2021



Beavers have been locally extinct in the UK for many years but, recently, they have been reintroduced in just a few locations as an ecological experiment. Beavers work as a community, creating a lodge and dam that provides their family space and shelter. And in felling trees and making dams, they change the landscape, creating new wetland habitats for themselves, and for plants and other animals in the surrounding countryside. They bring new light and space and improve water quality.

Of course, not everyone wants their land flooded or trees cut down, so they have their detractors too. It will be interesting to see how the experiment works out in years to come. Leaving aside those ecological arguments and details, the broad description of beavers at work might be a helpful analogy for the church - a place to provide a community, somewhere to gather, and a place of shelter or sanctuary. Whatever our Christian experience, we are called to serve and transform the places where we live and move, flooding them with God's unconditional love, bringing the light of Christ into people's lives, and hoping to improve the quality of those lives.

In recent weeks, in the season of 'Creationtide,' we've been reflecting on our response to the forthcoming COP26 summit which begins on 31 October. As the summit approaches, can I invite you to spend some time offering that transforming love in prayer. You can do that individually, but there will also be a chance to join in with a circuit initiative to pray in the days running up to the start of the summit, including at Horfield Methodist Church on Saturday 23 October, 4-5pm which will also be shared online via Zoom (links below).

*Embrace this world, it is a fragile place in need of healing, where arrogance and self-interest seek to undermine your common good, and those in need take second place to those who have.*

*Embrace this world, wash it in your tears of mercy and love, and bring healing and restoration into its brokenness dear Lord, we pray.*

**Prayers for COP26 Summit** Rev Patrick will be leading prayers between 4-5pm on Saturday 23 October at Horfield Methodist Church. Please join in person or online (Zoom link below)

### FORTHCOMING SERVICES on 17 October

**Joint Service at Horfield at 10.00 with Bishopston** led by the Messy Church Team.



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 with Easter Compton** at 10.00 conducted by the Anglican Team.

### **OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 17 October**

**Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10.** A New Song. A celebration of women in church music from Ely Cathedral.  
**Songs of Praise. BBC 1 at 13.15.** Black History. Brenda Edwards celebrates the black community's influence on the faith and music of the UK.

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

**Open Café Church** on 18 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 24 October**

**Joint Service at Horfield** at 10.00 with **Shirehampton** led by the Churches together team.

**Bishopston** at 10.30 led by J Gardiner.

**St. Peter's Pilning with Easter Compton** at 10.00 conducted by Rev. M Briggs with Holy Communion.

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

### **GENERAL NOTICES**

**RIP Rev. Ann Parker** It is with great sadness that we have to announce the death of Rev. Ann Parker. Ann died peacefully on Sunday night following a short illness. Ann was for many years the Ecumenical Minister at St. Peter's, Pilning and Severn Beach and an Associate Methodist Minister. Ann made a huge contribution to the Circuit, attending Staff Meetings, Circuit Meetings and preaching regularly across the Circuit.

Ann's Funeral Service will be at All Saint's, Compton Greenfield (off Farm Lane BS35 5RZ) on Friday 22nd October at 2.00 pm. People attending need to be prepared to listen to the service from outside, due to the size of the building and the need to continue social distancing.

We give thanks to God for her life, faith and ministry and remember her family in our prayers. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

**Homes for All.** Thursday 21st October 9.00 - 1.00. How Bristol can provide a home for vulnerable people.

For more information and booking details, please follow the link;

[https://mcusercontent.com/bcf1bde8bc4a29dae7362b02a/files/fc0dcce9-c0c3-7482-9d38-ac667cacc77a/HOMES\\_FOR\\_ALL\\_211021.docx](https://mcusercontent.com/bcf1bde8bc4a29dae7362b02a/files/fc0dcce9-c0c3-7482-9d38-ac667cacc77a/HOMES_FOR_ALL_211021.docx)

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



Would you like to volunteer at the **Bristol International Students Centre**. They need help with Baking, Soup meals and clearing up on Wednesdays, help with pruning the bushes and other gardening work, DIY. The Baking is on Tuesday mornings. The Soup meals are three shifts, of which you can choose one or all. 9.30am-12pm is preparation and cooking the soups, 12-2pm is eating with, serving, welcoming the students and clearing tables. 2pm -4pm at the latest is clearing up, moving tables, washing up, loading and unloading the dishwasher and generally clearing up. **VOLUNTEERS GET A FREE LUNCH!!!**

**The New Room** recently hosted an event to mark National Poetry Day and Black History Month, 'Black Lives Matter: Readings and Conversation,' which featured a diverse range of poets who shared their contributions from the anthology 'Black Lives Matter: Poems for a New World' which can be found on Amazon. The keynote speaker was Bristol-based poet and historian Dr Edson Burton.

A recording of the event is now available on the New Room's YouTube channel for anyone who would like to watch again: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OcVSddOggvQ>

**Shire Craft exhibition 2021.** At The Public Hall Station Road BS11 9TX, Tuesday 26 to Saturday 30 October. Opening times 10.00 - 18.00 (Thursday until 20.00). This year's theme is Robots. Look out for them in the village shops • Handmade crafts and exhibits by local artists • Plenty for Christmas • Daily demonstrations • In house cafe for tea, coffee and cakes. Come and enjoy the atmosphere. Entrance fee £1.00, children free

**We have had two requests for help to support the 200 refugees who have arrived in Bristol:**

- a) [a one-off job] There are some children's toys currently at Westbury Park Church which need to be cleaned and sorted. It would be good to have a group of volunteers to do this in the next week or so - if you would like to help with this, please email me; ([patrick.stonehewer@methodist.org.uk](mailto:patrick.stonehewer@methodist.org.uk)) and I will pass your details to Emma Langley at WP.
- b) A request from the City Council for support for Afghan refugee children entering education in the coming weeks. If you have some experience of the education system and a current DBS check, please contact Ann James directly at BCC ([anne.james@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:anne.james@bristol.gov.uk)) with- a copy of your DBS - Name/Address/Email/Telephone - Preferred day for volunteering- a brief note about your educational experience. Thank you!

**Love Horfield** needs street champions to deliver posters in your street to highlight events and news of the area about 3/4 times a year. Contact: <https://tinyurl.com/lovehorfieldstreetchampions>

**Dial-a-Prayer.** FREEPHONE numbers for prayers, reflections and news from the Methodist Church

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

Listen to a pastoral message from the President and Vice President: 0808 281 2695

Listen to our Podcast: 0808 281 2478

Prayer updated every Thursday, Presidential message updated every Monday, Methodist Podcast updated fortnightly on Thursday.

**St. Peter's, Pilning.** Saturday 6 November at 2.30. Free lunchtime concert of Baroque music for organ and strings. John Cheer organ, David Lewis violin and Claudine Cassidy cello.

**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: Donna Sharpe, Jehlani and Danikka, Mark Shipton, Chris and Shirin Sitther, Mollie Spry.

**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**



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 17 October. Child Poverty Day. 17 - 24 October. Energy Saving Week.

22 October. International Stammering Awareness Day. 24 October. United Nations Day.

### **Reflection on the Lectionary 17 October (Ordinary 29)**

Psalm 104 : 1 - 9; Job 38 : 1 - 7, 34 - 41; Hebrews 5 : 1 - 10; Mark 10 : 35 - 45

This reflection is provided by Local Preacher Rachel Spencer (SBMC, Knowle)

#### **Mark 10:35-45**

This passage talks of the death and suffering that Jesus will face and of the example that Jesus sets for our day-to-day lives. It comes straight after Jesus has, for the third time, told his disciples that he was going to be put to death. James and John take this as a prompt to ask Jesus for a special place in God's kingdom. They ask to be given the seats of greatest honour. Perhaps they have misunderstood what the kingdom of God is really about!

The world hasn't changed a great deal in two thousand years. People still clamour for status and power. We want to be important. We might not like to admit it, but I expect we all sometimes behave like James and John. We sometimes want, and think we deserve, a special place.

Jesus explains that the way of life among the Gentiles, where the rulers are authoritarian, is not how it is among his disciples, in God's kingdom. Instead, those who wish to be great must serve. All are equal in God's kingdom. The only authority is God. In a society or community where people are individualistic and only seek their own advancement there is unlikely to ever be peace. Only one person can really be in charge, after all. If, instead, all seek to serve one another and recognise the equal value of everyone, there is no need to fight over position or power. In Jesus, we have the ultimate example of a servant. Despite being God, and having every right to assert authority, Jesus tells us that he came not to be served but to serve, even to the point of giving his life. What does it mean to be a servant? It sounds like an out-dated idea. I have been re-watching Downton Abbey recently, a drama about the lives of a wealthy family and their servants in the early twentieth century. Back then, it was common for working people to choose a life 'in service' - working as a maid, a cook, a footman for others. It comes across in the drama that, mostly, the servants understand their place and, far from feeling belittled by that, they are honoured to serve their family. So, how can we have an attitude of feeling honoured to serve one another?

I think it is about looking around us at the needs of our family, our friends, our colleagues, our community; asking ourselves what we can do to enable others to live life to the full. It is important to remember that being a servant is not the same as being a doormat. It does not mean we should look after others at the expense of looking after ourselves. If we are exhausted and uncared for then we will not be able to care for others. And it is also worth remembering that, in most cases, our serving will be small and will go unnoticed by most. As the saying goes, 'We cannot all do great things for the world, but we can all do small things with great love.' Let us look for opportunities to serve God and God's kingdom as we go into the days ahead, seeking not our own honour but the glory of the Lord.

#### **Prayer**

*Lord of all, servant king.*

*Thank you for your example of servanthood.*

*Thank you that, in your kingdom, all are equal.*

*All deserve the places of honour.*

*Help us to look for the ways we can serve one another, however small,  
that all may be included in your kingdom of love.*

*Amen*