



## 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 14 November 2021



*But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, (Matthew 5:44, NRSV)*

This weekend includes Remembrance Sunday, a moment in time when we offer thanks for lives lost in conflict, whether on a large or small scale. It is equally a time to continue to remember our desire for peace across the world as we embody our call to reflect God's likeness and light.

Aware of times when nations have faced division leading to conflict and war in tragic circumstances, we are called to pray for and stand with those once considered enemies, then call them friends. That enables us to build bridges across seemingly impossible divides, to be beacons of peace and reconciliation, and allows light to shine even in the darkest of places. That challenging task is costly, as we seek to echo Christ, who was not selective about those whom he chose to love, forgive and bless.

As we remember dark and broken moments in the world in the past, that makes us aware of similar moments now, but in the words of a prayer of Desmond Tutu, may we find peace and hope:

*Good is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate; light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.*

*Victory is ours, through him who loves us. Amen*

With best wishes- Patrick

### **FORTHCOMING SERVICES on 14 November**

**Joint Service at Horfield at 10.00** led by members of Horfield Congregation.

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** conducted by Rev Patrick Stonehewer with Holy Communion.

**Easter Compton at 3.00.** A short Act of Remembrance conducted by Patrick Stonehewer.

**Shirehampton at 10.50.** All Age Worship led by Jo Hill.

**St. Peter's Pilning at 10.00** conducted by the Anglican Team.

## **OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 14 November**

**Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10.** Remembering Well- Rev Dr Rosa Hunt and Rev Jamie Washam lead a transatlantic service of remembrance.

**Songs of Praise. BBC 1 at 1.15.** Sean Fletcher meets Christian veterans at the Imperial War Museum North in Manchester. Pam Rhodes marks 100 years of the Royal British Legion.

**Daily Service at 09.45.** BBC Radio 4 Long Wave.

**Open Café Church** on 15 November 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. Zoom link details on last page

## **WORSHIP DETAILS for 21 November**

**Joint Service at Horfield at 10.00 with Bishopston** led by C. Leese, available on Zoom.

**Shirehampton at 11.00** led by Rev Patrick Stonehewer with Holy Communion.

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

## **GENERAL NOTICES**

**ALFA Christian Community:** Drop-ins (for tea/coffee/cake and chat) continue on Mondays 2.30-4.30 at Fulligrove House, Woodwell Road, BS11 9UG. There will be a coffee morning here on Saturday 20 November, 10.00-12noon. All welcome.

**Cotswold Christian Community.** The prayer course continues on Sunday 14th November at 4.45 in the Cotswold Community Centre, Dursley Road, Shirehampton. We watch a 20 minute video, have a brief discussion and time of prayer and then have refreshments together. On Sunday 12 December at 5.0 we will be holding a Christingle Service in the Community Centre.

**The Jobs, Training and Enterprise Hub at Shirehampton Methodist Church** will be opening soon! A team from the church has worked hard over the past three years to make this happen, and the first event will be taking place very soon. If you or you know anyone in Shirehampton or surrounding area who is out of work, or interested in getting a different job, or setting up their own business, or training for a new career/job, or that might want to help hosting the event (making people feel welcome and making them a cuppa) please come along or send a message to [shirejtehub@gmail.com](mailto:shirejtehub@gmail.com)! Please share and spread the word, and continue to pray for this important step in the church's mission as a place of encouragement and compassion.

**Bishopston and Horfield - Update from Church Council:** following discussions with both churches earlier in the year, Bishopston Methodist Church has now 'become a class' of Horfield. This terminology reflects part of the underlying practice of Methodism, dating back to the earliest days of the movement, when members met regularly in small groups or classes to explore their faith and to engage in discussion, study and prayer. For today, this change means that there is now just one Church Council for both Bishopston and Horfield, which will meet together, with representation from both congregations. The newly constituted Church Council met together for the first time at the end of October.

Two items of particular interest were agreed: firstly, that we will register both locations to be members of Inclusive Church, a network of churches, groups and individuals uniting together around a shared vision which believes in a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate (see [www.inclusive-church.org](http://www.inclusive-church.org) for more details). This step sits alongside the Methodist Church's approach to Justice, Dignity and Solidarity, agreed at the Conference in Summer 2021, and will underpin work to establish a new mission statement for both church locations as we seek to serve God through them on Gloucester Road and beyond. Alongside this decision, it was agreed to register our premises at Horfield to conduct same-sex marriages, following the recent Conference decision to allow this where local Church Councils agree to do so. Church Council acknowledged the discussions which had taken place locally as part of the wider process of consultation across the whole of the Methodist Church which contributed to the Conference decision. There was strong support for this decision amongst Church Council members, who equally acknowledged that there are a range of opinions on this subject, and that we should continue to be sensitive to one another on this and other topics where there are deeply held convictions.

*May the God who created a world of beautiful variety send us out on our journey of discovery, treasuring those things that are good and lovely.*

*May God stand with us as we struggle with the things that puzzle and bewilder us, gently cautioning us not to seek conclusions when there are no easy answers.*

*May God gift us with the grace to live with uncertainty, diversity and loose ends. May God bless us and all peoples with love. Amen.*

With best wishes- Patrick

**Horfield.** The Church Fair is planned for the 20 November from 10.30 to 12.30. Volunteers are urgently needed to help on the day. We shall be pleased to receive the following: - toys in good condition, books (Fiction only), cakes (with listed ingredients) and white elephant goods. We would also appreciate money or items for the raffle hampers. Please bring items to Church or contact Helen (0117 9624257) or Lorraine (0117 3738581).

**Horfield and Bishopston.** 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: - Helen Wallbridge, Amy Warren, Bob Walters, Harriet White, Christine Williams.

**Horfield:** Advent Sunday, 5 December. We have been invited to join our friends at Horfield Parish Church (Holy Trinity) at 6pm for an Advent service of music, reading and prayer. If you would like to sing in the choir, you are invited to join rehearsals beforehand. They are on Thursdays 11/18/25 November at the parish church from 7pm.

**Horfield-** Congratulations to Danikka and Jehlani Pratt, who celebrated their eighteenth birthday on 5 November. May God Bless you and keep you.

**Horfield.** The funeral of Ada Gilbert took place on Friday, 12 November, in Cornwall. Ada was a supportive, faithful member of our church, who we shall remember with great affection. Let us hold Ada before God and give thanks for all we have shared together.

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

#### **Post COP26**

Whatever the outcomes world leaders reach at COP, this doesn't change the fact that there will be continued need to act in our own churches and speak up for change in the years ahead if we are to head off catastrophic climate change. Look out for details of a special A Rocha UK webinar feeding back on COP26 and exploring the most effective action for us all to take next as churches and individuals.

## **Dates for your diary     Horfield and Bishopston**

Saturday 20 November from 10.30 to 12.30. Church Fair.

Thursday 25 November. Stewards + at 7.30 at the church.

Tuesday 30 November. A Special Church Council Meeting at 7.30 on Zoom.

## **Special days this week**

14 November-World Diabetes Day. 16 November-International Day of Tolerance. 19 Nov.-World Toilet Day

20 November-Universal Children's Day.     Enterprise Week.

## **Reflection on the Lectionary, Sunday 14 November, (Ordinary 33)**

Psalm 16; 1 Samuel 1 : 4 - 20; Hebrews 10 : 11 - 25; Mark 13 : 1 - 8

This reflection is provided by Local Preacher Stephen Holliday, Horfield.

This coming Sunday is Remembrance Sunday. What will you think about during the two minutes silence?

I must admit that I struggle with Remembrance events at this time of year, whether in church or elsewhere, simply because I do not directly remember. I have no personal memories of war, or of relatives killed or injured in war; my father served in the Second World War but didn't see 'action' so his war stories were interesting but not particularly brave or adventurous. For these reasons, I find it difficult to connect with 'war' and the sacrifice of life which is what the commemoration invites us to 'remember.' Others reading this might have more direct experiences on which to draw at this time of year and, for you, Remembrance Sunday will have a poignancy that others, like me, cannot easily feel.

So what do I think about in the two minutes' silence? As a former teacher of history, who led many trips to the battlefields of Europe, I bring to mind, the enormous memorials and vast cemeteries in France and Belgium that commemorate the many thousands who died last century fighting to preserve the values and freedoms which we take for granted today. I'm mindful that many of those brave soldiers had little choice - they were conscripted - and I'm grateful, in a rather selfish way, that I haven't been made to fight for my country in time of war.

I also bring to mind images on TV news which show that for many people war is not a memory but a daily experience. In Syria, Yemen and parts of Africa violence, or the threat of violence, is very real for many innocent people. This prompts me to pray, often quite generally I admit, for peace

I also reflect on the causes of war which, when reduced to the essential elements, usually involve a struggle for power, greed or a hatred of people who seem 'different.' That leads me to think how our seemingly 'peaceful' society is not free from such forces either, even though they do not result in all-out national or regional war.

Finally, I'm led to consider how free I am from such malevolent thoughts. Am I always willing to stand back and put others first? Are my thoughts and actions ever selfish? Do I treat all people with the same dignity and the respect they deserve? These questions really test whether the seed of conflict is within me. I ask you to consider the same question: do your thoughts, words or actions start, perpetuate or tolerate division or conflict?

As I said, I don't find Remembrance Sunday easy, particularly with the military ceremonial which is often the context for the public and even church services on this day but I do think it is important to keep the day and to use it as a way of reflecting on my own part in creating or, hopefully, resolving conflict,

By way of further reflection, the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, recorded by Matthew, speak strongly to me at this time of year: 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God' (Matthew 5 v 9)

## **A Prayer of St Francis:**

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace*

*Where there is hatred, let me sow love.*

*Where there is injury, pardon.*

*Where there is doubt, faith.*

*Where there is despair, hope.*

*Where there is darkness, light.*

*Where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master grant that I may not  
so much seek to be consoled as to console  
to be understood as to understand.*

*To be loved, as to love for it's in giving that we receive*

*and it is in pardoning that we are pardoned*

*and it's in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen*

(Our thanks to Stephen for this reflection)