



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 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 21 November 2021



Since the start of September, we have been praying for the COP26 Summit which finished last weekend. Significant new statements were made at the summit in Glasgow. Most government delegations accept that the sense of urgency is greater than it was six years ago at Paris. But ultimately the summit has not delivered. All governments must agree on the necessary actions to avoid 1.5 degrees of warming. The failure of all parties at COP26 to unequivocally support this higher ambition with funding and emission reductions is an injustice towards those whose livelihoods have already been devastated by climate change.

We are deeply disappointed that the language on phasing out coal was weakened at the last moment however the summit has called for the phasing out of 'inefficient' subsidies for fossil fuels. COP26 has also initiated a process to create a fund to help communities recover from loss and damage resulting from severe climatic events. These developments are crucial and welcome, but we cannot wait for pledges to be reviewed and turned into action every five years. Action must be taken now. The pace and intensity of action must keep up with the science and with the realities experienced by an increasing number of people whose flourishing - now and in the future - depends on the actions that we all take today.

Many of our church partners in developing countries are already experiencing the dire impact of changing weather patterns on livelihoods and food security. Revd James Bhagwan, General Secretary of the Pacific Council of Churches said as he arrived as a delegate at COP26 that for many in the Pacific Islands, Psalm 137 with its reference to being "By the rivers of Babylon..." has particular resonance. As these communities face exile they experience a sense of loss of identity, loss of sovereignty, and loss of future. At COP26 our churches have listened to and sought to amplify the voices of those in the global South who are critically affected by loss through changing climates.

Our Churches acknowledge that while we live in an age of individuality and immediacy, this is a journey not of individuals but of a community: the people of God and the people of the earth. Whilst individual actions are important, this is a journey that requires us to work together to build a safe and healthy future for all. The involvement of so many sectors of society in COP26 was an inspiration. Sadly, the response of governments is not yet adequate and we call for further actions that respond meaningfully to the magnitude of the emergency that we face. (Statement from the Baptist Union of Great Britain, The Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church on the conclusion of the Glasgow COP26 summit - 14 November 2021)

Creator God, who placed this planet and all its resources into our care, encourage those who now remind us of our responsibilities, both to you and future generations, to do all that is necessary, whatever the cost, to save

this world that we call home, so our children and theirs might not look back, both in shame and anger, at what we, in denial, have failed to do. Amen

FORTHCOMING SERVICES on 21 November

Joint Service at Horfield at 10.00 with Bishopston is our Church Gift Service led by C. Leese, available on Zoom. 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 - Church Anniversary.

St Peter's Pilning with Easter Compton at 10.00 led by the Anglican Team.

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 21 November

Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10. "Hope in the Winter Garden", with Baptist Minister, the Revd Richard Littledale.

Songs of Praise. BBC 1 at 1.15. The Young Chorister of the Year. Aled Jones presents the Girls' Semi-Final.

Daily Service at 09.45. BBC Radio 4 Long Wave.

Open Café Church on 22 November 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/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 28 November

Joint Service at Horfield with Shirehampton and Easter Compton at 10.00. Local Arrangement.

Bishopston at 10.30 led by C. Jones

St Peter's Pilning at 10.00 conducted by Rev Patrick Stonehewer with Holy Communion

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

GENERAL NOTICES

Eco Tip- Do you want to help in balancing the World's climate? You can find your personal carbon footprint by logging in to the WWF Website at: <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/> or *climate hero* at : <https://climatehero.typeform.com/to/f0eN5k>

Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter. The Shelter is now open and will remain so throughout the winter months, with eight bedrooms available, a precious gift in light of the drastic reduction in available accommodation due to Covid restrictions. At a recent Prayer Launch, the owner of the B&B showed a video highlighting the facilities ready to welcome the guests. Previously they might have been sleeping in tents or cars, but are now familiarising themselves with having a room of their own. For most of them their stay is intended to be temporary as St Mungo's are already working on a "move-on" plan for each one. The launch also

heard from Carol, who with her husband, has been volunteering at the Shelter in all its various morphs over the years. Pray for good relationships between guests and volunteers as they get to know each other. Pray that any unexpected hiccups can be overcome and that the shelter can soon settle into its own routine. Continue to pray for Amanda & Jo as they deal with all the logistics and for Amanda as she recovers from Covid. *"Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty."* (Psalm 91.1)

Bristol Methodist Centre. 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 and support for those affected by homelessness in Bristol. We are looking for volunteers to help with IT, Finance, Fundraising and 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 To find out more please email Janet George: george_janet@hotmail.com

A webinar entitled "Making Our Churches More Dementia-Friendly" for Tuesday 30 November from 11 - 12:30. Register in advance for this webinar: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9uRme4ukTHCOZxKQLjuq3A The webinar will be going up on the Safeguarding pages of our Methodist Church website after the event for anyone to watch.

This year the Circuit is journeying towards Christmas using **daily reflections** to explore connections between Advent and homelessness, and the wonder that God moved into our neighbourhood at Christmas (John 1:14, The Message). This theme will underpin the readings and prayers used at the start of worship each week with our Advent Candles. There will also be daily Facebook reflections posted on 'Journeying towards Christmas' which is available at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/275195130693427> If you would like to receive these daily on your phone etc. please do sign up. In response to feedback from a similar exercise in Lent 2021 (Touch the Earth Lightly), these reflections will also be made available as a daily e-mail. If you wish to receive these please e-mail your request to Adam Biddlestone circuitengagement@bsgc.org.uk

Volunteer Stewards are needed now to help at vaccination sites in Bristol - for more information visit <https://bit.ly/3seJv4r>

Horfield. Dear friends at Horfield- thank you to everyone who donated to Fight Bladder Cancer in memory of Michael ...a grand total of £1362.50 was raised. Love to you all - Elaine Gibson.

Horfield. Sunday 21 November is our **Church Gift Day**. A collection will be made to donate money to Parkway's project to give Christmas gift tokens to families experiencing difficulties and being helped by Social Services.

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: - Jean White, Kingsley White, Heather Wilcox, Pam Williams.

Local Eco Charity. Grow Wilder is part of Avon Wildlife Trust. It is in Stapleton. They grow and sell a very large number of wild flowers from seed, most of which is carried out by volunteers. As well as a small number of permanent staff they have trainees who are learning to be environmental leaders. They also grow vegetables, herbs and trees. There are demonstration beds to show people how to grow a mixture of wild and cultivated plants together. They are open 7 days a week and have a cafe at weekends. They also have family days when people can pick the vegetables and learn to cook with them and children can take part in environmental activities. Avon Wildlife Trust hold many of their wildlife and environmental courses on the site. Local businesses do corporate volunteering and learn to engage with the environment. Local groups and schools meet in the outdoor and indoor spaces. They are currently raising money towards a new building on site to be able to engage even more with the community. They need to raise 10% to get a £750,000 grant for this. Please remember this group in your prayers.

Horfield: Advent Service-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. The last one is on Thursday 25 November at the parish church from 7pm.

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.

Dates for your diary. Horfield and Bishopston

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

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

Tuesday 7 December. Eco Church at 7.30 on Zoom.

Special days this week. Sunday 21 November. World Television Day. Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims.

Thursday 25 November- International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Road Safety Week.

Reflection on the Lectionary, Sunday 21 November, (Sunday before Advent)

Psalm 132: 1 - 12; 2 Samuel 23 : 1 - 7; Revelation 1 : 4b - 8; John 18 : 33 - 37

This reflection is provided by Alison Smith, St. Andrew's

Revelation 1: 4b - 8

This passage written by John, although short, holds a lot of information and truth;

God is the source of the revelation.

God gave it to Jesus Christ, and Jesus made the revelation known by sending his angel to John.

John is writing to the seven churches where he venerates God and His timeless glory and Jesus as King.

Earthly kings reign for a time, but Jesus Christ reigns for eternity.

Earthly kings are mortal, but Jesus Christ is eternal.

Earthly kings are human, but Jesus is divine.

Not all earthly kings bow before Jesus' throne, but the day will come when they will be forced to acknowledge his pre-eminence.

Christ's identity as King directly shapes the identity of His followers.

Loved by and freed from their sins by Jesus, believers form his kingdom, in which they enjoy exalted status of priests, to witness to God's glory and majesty and power — to draw people from other nations into a saving relationship with God.

The kingdom of which we are part, is the kingdom of God.

His people serve within this 'kingdom' where Jesus enjoys glory and dominion forever.

Glory is characteristic of God and refers to God's awe-inspiring majesty.

Dominion involves applied power and might — put to use to rule over others.

Dominion belongs to God, who created heaven and earth — and who therefore rules over them.

God shares this dominion with Jesus Christ.

"Behold, he is coming with the clouds." (v. 7a)

Behold alerts us that something important follows - Jesus' Second Coming.

That day will bring judgment on the wicked and redemption to the faithful.

Clouds are associated with the presence of the Lord in both Testaments.

When Israel left Egypt, Yahweh guided them as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Later, a cloud covered the tabernacle, symbolizing the presence of God.

At the Transfiguration, God spoke from a cloud

"and every eye will see him, including those who pierced him. All the tribes of the earth will mourn over him."
(v. 7b)

A Roman soldier pierced Jesus' side initially, but each of us pierces his side when we live unfaithfully. When Jesus comes again, everyone will see him—both the faithful and the unfaithful—both those who believe and those who don't. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth among the unfaithful and the unbelievers

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God." (v. 8a)

This is the first of three attributes of God that John mentions in this verse. Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. God is saying, "I am A to Z—first and last—beginning and the end."

Alpha and Omega represent completeness.

"*who is and who was and who is to come.*" (v. 8b) This is the second of three attributes of God that John mentions in this verse.

"*the Almighty.*" (v. 8c) This is the third of three attributes of God mentioned. God is sovereign overall and Jesus as His Son, is Christ the King! Amen

Our thanks to Alison for this reflection.